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THE

STAMP-COLLECTOR'S MAGAZINE.

CONCERNING REPRINTS.

(*Continued from vol.* vi., *p.* 188.)

Bavaria.—Of this country's stamps no reprints are known, though for our own part, we feel much inclined to question the originality of the unused specimens of the 1 kr. black, which are offered at a low price by most dealers. It is now eighteen years ago since this stamp, after a currency of seven months only, was superseded; and we can hardly believe that the remainder over was so large as to permit of the sale of originals at this date at two or three shillings a piece. For ourselves, we should prefer a used specimen of this stamp as more valuable than an unused.

The second series remained in use for a considerable time, and of two of the lower values we have recently seen entire sheets, undoubtedly originals. That the necessity should not yet have arisen for reprinting either this, or the succeeding series, which went out in '67, is not surprising.

Belgium.—Accepting the dictum of Mr. Pemberton, we chronicle as in existence reprint copies of the first series, distinguished from the originals by the absence of the watermark of interlaced L.'s; adding, on the same authority, that they are so rare as to be almost equal in value to the originals. We could wish, in the interest of collectors generally, that these reprints were a little more plentiful, for the obliterated copies of this type, with which the majority of albums are furnished, are, as a rule, terribly unsightly.

Bergedorf.—The two ten-day stamps—the ½ and 3 schg. black imp.—have been reprinted; the copies came out about the middle of the year 1867. The 3 schg. is impressed on the paper of the (lately) current type, and both are easily distinguishable by the brightness of their colours and general newness of appearance.

Brunswick.—We know of no reprints of any of the stamps for this country; the earlier issues are of considerable rarity.

Bremen.—Denmark.—Of the stamps of these states also no reprints have been made.

Finland. — The stamps of this country furnish subjects for the most earnest study to collectors. They cannot appropriately be dismissed in a paragraph, and the limits of the present article forbid our enlarging upon them now; we therefore purpose shortly giving a detailed history of them, including therein an account of both originals and reprints. It will suffice for the present if we repeat Mr. Pemberton's recipe for distinguishing between the two classes, as given in *The Philatelist* for Dec., 1867:

"Original PORTO STEMPEL [envelopes] have 39 lines in shield, exclusive of the outer line of shield."

"Original oval (1856) have 26 lines, and the point of sword comes between the ninth and tenth lines."

"Reprint PORTO STEMPEL have 37 lines in shield."

"Reprint oval (1856) 26 lines at top, 25 at bottom of shield, and the point of sword comes between the eighth and ninth lines."

France.—All the values issued under the republic, the two presidency stamps, and the 25 c. and 1 fr. empire have been reprinted. The re-impressions took place in 1862, and were made by order of the government. Although the plates used were the same, there need be little fear of confounding the copies with the originals. The paper, in the first place, differs in tint; that of the old stamps is slightly toned, and some of the values, moreover, are a little tinged with the

colour of the impression; in short, it has what we may term a mellow look, in part, perhaps, due to age, whilst that of the reprints is white, with but a very faint tinge or tone. But the colours alone amply distinguish the reprints, they are all of them lighter, and less pure. The originals are as follows: 10 c., very dark yellowish-bistre; 15 c., deep rich green; 20 c., black; 25 c., deep bright blue; 40 c., bright rich vermilion; 1 fr., vermilion, dark red, red-brown, carmine; whilst the reprints are: 10 c. clear yellowish bistre; 15 c., bright green; 20 c., black (on very white paper); 25 c., sky-blue; 40 c., pale yellowish vermilion; 1 fr., carmine-red. In fact, the colours used were, as nearly as possible, those employed at the date of fabrication of the reprints, in the manufacture of the current stamps for the empire.

That no attempt was made to reprint the vermilion 1 franc, seems surprising; we are tempted to assume that the reprinters were, in their way, advocates for one of a value; but then we find they actually went out of their way to make a 20 c. blue republic, in addition to the black. This must have been purely by error, but how to account for this 20 c. blue, otherwise than by considering it an essay, has puzzled many collectors, and not a few may regret to hear that it is not entitled to range even with essays, but must be degraded to the pariah rank of a fancy stamp.

The presidency reprints are coloured respectively bright yellowish bistre (10 c.) and sky-blue (25 c.), and the 25 c. empire reprint is likewise sky-blue, the 1 fr. becoming, like its republican companion, carmine-red.

Mr. Pemberton states that the reprint 25 c. presidency is issued obliterated with square dots. We have in our own possession a copy heavily marked in this manner; its shade entirely agrees with that of our unperforated 20 c. empire.

HAMBURG.—As yet no reprints exist of the stamps for this city, but the want, if want it be, is likely, we imagine, to be supplied ere long, now that the entire series has passed into the region of the obsolete. As time goes on, the imperforate set will become of considerable rarity, and then, no doubt, through some mysterious agency, will the reprint series be launched on the market, to be followed by the perforated set, and the envelopes, in due sequence.

HANOVER.—The first two series have been reprinted, but the reprints have white gum on the back, in lieu of rose, as in the originals. The second series (1856) has also been reprinted on paper with a very fine network, as also the 3 pf. rose. The only original with this fine network is the 1-10th thaler, of which obliterated specimens are in existence, all the other values belong to the "fancy" class, and are worth nothing, except to such as take an interest in that class. The old Bestellgeld envelopes, design trefoil and posthorn, has also been copied, but here again gum turns detective, or rather becomes itself the faulty point. The reprinters have struck the impressions, not on envelopes, but on slips of paper, and with the same blindness to the proprieties which led to the emission of the old Guianas, perforated, have gummed the paper. Our Yankee friends, after noticing this peculiarity, would probably add, *nuf ced*, or in plain English, enough said, and our readers will appreciate the observation.

(*To be continued.*)

LIST OF STAMPS FIRST NOTICED IN *THE STAMP-COLLECTOR'S MAGAZINE* FOR 1868.

THIS list comprises only well-authenticated stamps issued under government sanction, in the various countries to which they belong.

Antigua.

Same design as issue of 1862. Col. imp.; rect. perf.

One penny vermilion.

The Azores.

Current series of Portugal, with the word ACORES surcharged in black ink, crossing the centre of the stamp. Col. imp.; rect.

5 reis black, perf.
10 „ yellow, perf.
20 „ yellow-ochre.
25 „ rose, perf.

50 reis green.
100 „ lilac.
120 „ blue, perf.

Baden.

Device of issue of 1862-4, but with both sides inscribed FREIMARKE, and the word KREUZER abbreviated to KR. Col. imp.; rect. perf.

1 kreuzer green.
7 „ dull blue.

Bavaria.

Design of issue of 1867. Col. imp.; rect.

6 kreuzer stone.
7 „ blue.

Bolivia.

Same design as 5 c. issued in 1867. Col. imp.; rect.

10 centavos brown.
15 „ blue (?)
20 „ red (?).
50 „ yellow, blue.
100 „ blue.
1 peso blue (?).

Arms (mountain scenery) in oval supported by flags and surmounted by eagle, in circle, with nine stars in lower margin. Inscription CORREOS DE BOLIVIA, and in upper corners the numeral of value. Col. imp.; rect. perf.

5 centavos green.
10 „ vermilion.
50 „ blue
100 „ yellow.
500 „ black.

British Columbia.

PROVISIONAL.

Design of the 3d. stamp of 1865, with new value surcharged in black ink across the lower margin. Col. imp.; rect., perf.

2 cents brown.

Brunswick.

(*Posthumous emission*).

Device of issue of 1867. Col. imp.; large rect. (four stamps in one frame).

4-4ths s. gr. stone.

Canada.

DOMINION OF CANADA.

Profile of Queen to right in circle, inscription CANADA POSTAGE above, value in words and numerals. Col. imp.; rect. perf.

½ cent black (small rect).
1 „ brick-red.
2 „ green.
3 „ vermilion.
6 „ brown.
12½ „ blue.
15 „ mauve.

Cashmere.

Value and date of issue in central oval, inscription in surrounding oval frame, with representation of lotus leaf above. Col. imp.; rect. Inscriptions partly in Persian and partly in a dialect variously entitled Gujrati, Kohistani, Pahari, and Dagree, signifying state [or government] of Jumnoo and Cashmere.

¼ anna black.
½ „ bright blue.
1 „ orange-red.
2 „ light yellow.
4 „ green.
8 „ deep vermilion.
½ „ blue } (for the town of
1 „ blue } Serinagur).

Corrected description of the circular series issued in 1866.*

Representation of lotus leaf, containing the figure of value in its centre, and surrounded by inscription in Persian and other characters. Circ.

½ anna black (three white strokes in centre of leaf).
1 anna blue (two white strokes, one straight, the other crescent-shaped).
4 annas blue, blue-black (a single stroke in centre).

Chili.

Same design as 2 centavos of 1867. Col. imp.; rect. perf.

1 centavo orange.
5 „ vermilion.
10 „ blue.
20 „ green.

* After Mr. Pemberton's list in *The Philatelist*.

Cuba.

Profile of Queen Isabella to left in lined circle, inscription in margin, ULTRAMAR, letters C. O. R. R. in four corners. Col. imp.; rect. perf.

5 centimos lilac.
10 „ blue.
20 „ green.
40 „ rose.

Design of 1864 variety. Col imp.; rect.

1 real plata f. blue on lilac.

Denmark.

Design of issue of 1865-66. Col. imp.; rect. perf.

8 skilling stone.

France.

Same device as issue of 1867 (head of Emperor laureated). Col. imp.; perf. rect.

10 centimes bistre.
40 „ vermilion.
80 „ carmine-rose.

Germany.

NORTH GERMAN CONFEDERATION.

groschen series.

Numeral in wreath in inscribed circle, winged wheels and post-horn at alternate angles; value in lower margin; inscription NORDDEUTSCHER POST-BEZIRK. Col. imp.; rect. perf.

$\frac{1}{4}$ groschen deep mauve.
$\frac{1}{3}$ „ green.
$\frac{1}{2}$ „ orange.
1 „ rose.
2 „ blue.
5 „ stone.

ENVELOPE.

Same design as adhesives, impressed on left upper corner of envelope, and crossed by two lines of print.

1 groschen rose.

NEWSPAPER BAND.

Same device as adhesives, impressed on strip of paper with a coloured border at each edge.

$\frac{1}{3}$ groschen green.

kreuzer series.

Numeral enclosed in oval wreath; inscription in surrounding frame, NORDDEUTSCHER POST BEZIRK, and value; winged wheel and post-horn at alternate angles. Col. imp.; rect. perf.

1 kreuzer green.
2 „ orange.
3 „ rose.
7 „ blue.
18 „ stone.

ENVELOPE.

Same design as adhesives impressed on left upper corner of envelope, and crossed by two lines of print.

3 kreuzer rose.

NEWSPAPER BAND.

Same device as adhesives, impressed on a strip of paper, with coloured border at each edge.

1 kreuzer green.

Stamp issued by the Confederation for use in the City of Hamburg.

Reticulated oval disc enclosed in wreath; inscription in surrounding frame, NORDDEUTSCHER POST-BEZIRK, STADT-POST BRIEF HAMBURG; winged wheel and post-horn at alternate angles. Col. imp.; rect. perf. No value indicated.

Lilac-brown [$\frac{1}{2}$ schilling].

Great Britain.

Same design as issue of 1865. Col. imp.; rect. perf.

Sixpence deep purple.

Holland.

Series of 1867 continued, same device. Col. imp.; rect.

5 cents blue.
10 „ carmine.
15 „ red-brown.

India.

Design of 1858-65 issue, but head of Queen with differently shaped crown (identical with that on the current four annas and the six annas and eight pies). Col. imp.; rect. perf.

8 annas rose.

SERVICE STAMPS.

Profile of Queen to left in circle, inscribed RECEIPT BILL OR DRAFT and value;

above and below the circle, GOVERNMENT OF INDIA; surcharged inscription in green, SERVICE POSTAGE. Col. imp.; large rect. perf.; watermark a crown.

Half-anna lilac and green.

Profile of Queen to left in circle; inscription SERVICE POSTAGE surcharged on the tesselated ground in green ink, value in curved labels. Col. imp.; large rect. perf.

Two annas lilac and green.

Profile of Queen to left in circle, interlaced loops at sides, rectangular discs with diaper ground above and below; the upper inscribed FOUR, the lower ANNAS; surcharged inscription in green ink, SERVICE POSTAGE. Col. imp.; large rect., perf. at sides.

4 annas lilac and green.

Profile of Queen to left in circle, enclosed in octagonal frame, tesselated groundwork, solid rectangular disc above and below, inscribed with value like the preceding, and in the upper edge FOREIGN, surcharged inscription in green ink SERVICE POSTAGE. Col. imp.; narrow rect., perf. at sides.

8 annas lilac and green.

Italy.

Same type as issue of 1867. Col. imp.; rect. perf.

20 centesimi lilac.

Jamaica.

Design of 1858. Col. imp.; rect. perf.

Fourpence deep red.

One shilling deep brown.

Levant,

(Or Russian Steam Navigation Company).

Large numeral of value, and denomination KOII, in centre of lined oval, frame inscribed with Russian characters, ground of interlaced lines. Col. imp.; rect. perf.

1 kop. dark brown on reddish ground.
3 „ green „ green „
5 „ blue „ blue „
10 „ carmine „ green „

Luxembourg.

Same device as issue of 1859. Col. imp.; rect. perf.

4 centimes yellow.
20 „ brown.

Madeira.

Current series for Portugal, with the word MADEIRA surcharged in black ink, crossing the centre of the stamp. Col. imp.

5 reis black (perf.).
10 „ yellow.
20 „ yellow-ochre.
25 „ rose (perf.).
50 „ green.
100 „ lilac.
120 „ blue (perf.).

(To be concluded in our next.)

A DAY AT DE LA RUE'S TWENTY YEARS AGO.

(From Chambers's Journal.)

ON being conducted into that department of Mr. De La Rue's establishment which is devoted to the making of post-office envelopes, I had before me a busy scene of machines and human labourers — pulleys whirling overhead, belts driving wheels below, and an incessant clank-clanking noise, which renders it necessary to speak somewhat louder than a whisper if one has any particular wish to be heard.

With respect to the material on which all this activity was exerted, I had seen it prepared some time ago at a mill in Hertfordshire. It is made, like any other ordinary paper, at a machine, and with a sufficiency of size in the pulp to prevent the ink from running. The introduction of the threads is a matter of extreme simplicity. From reels suspended over the pulpy substance as it goes below the first pair of cylinders, threads are let down, and inextricably crushed into the web. After being cut into sheets, the paper is taken in reams to the factory which I was now visiting.

When the paper comes into the hands of Mr. De La Rue, it is so far unfinished on the surface, that it requires to be milled, by being put through rollers. So much care

is taken to insure finish of surface, that each sheet is milled five or six times before it is considered perfect. When it has undergone this tedious process, the sheets are laid in handsful of about six inches thick beneath a cutting apparatus, which, for want of a better simile, I must describe as acting on the principle of the guillotine. A great broad knife is pressed by a powerful action down on the paper, and with the utmost ease severs the mass in twain. Having been cut into breadths, the paper is next, by the same instrument, formed into lozenge shapes, this producing the least possible waste of material. In this form, the paper is handed to the succeeding machine, where, coming under the action of descending angular chisels, small pieces are smartly notched from the corners, and the envelope is made, all except the stamping and folding.

Following a natural course of things, the envelope paper might now be expected to be carried to an adjacent apparatus for impressing the medallion stamp which is to give it currency through the post. Circumstances divert it from this direct course. The presumed necessity for keeping a careful watch over the dies, prevents government employing any but their own officers to impress the medallions, and the operation is accordingly performed at Somerset House, which, with a knowledge of this eccentricity of movement, I had visited the day previously. Conducted down to one of the lower floors of this large government office, I there found, in an apartment overlooking the Thames, a number of machines, of a very peculiar construction, engaged in stamping or printing the medallions. These machines, which, I believe, are the invention of Mr. Edwin Hill, superintendent of the stamping arrangements, may be considered as forming a combination of the printing press and die-stamping apparatus. All are moved by a steam engine of two-horse power. At each press are two lads: one placing the papers below the die, and the other removing them. The impressions being effected at the rate of sixty in the minute—an amazing celerity, considering that the die is inked at every impression; the laying down and taking up require a sharp eye, and no small expertness of fingers. In such processes, every little matter requires to be studied, in order to economise time and trouble. Were a boy to try to lay down sixty pieces of paper in a particular manner within the period of a minute, without once missing, he should certainly fail in the attempt, unless he arranged the papers in a way convenient for handling before he began. The spreading out of the papers into handsful, in the shape of a fan, is on this account an indispensable preliminary in the operation I am now describing; I was told that there is even a knack in rapidly forming the fans. After much experience, it has been found that it can be most expeditiously done by throwing the papers on a table covered with soft cloth, and passing a brush over them. Who, on using an envelope, could imagine that the mere mode of handling it has been the subject of so much solicitude?

In stamping, the die is suspended over the paper on which it is to be impressed, and consequently the inking is effected by rollers pressing upwards. Having thus to work contrary to gravity, the rollers require to be artificialy pressed upon the die; and Mr. Hill's device of springs acting on the rollers, to accomplish this object, is at once simple and ingenious. So also is their great merit in the method of shortening and lengthening, at each impression, the screw and bolt apparatus to which the die is suspended, in order to afford room and time for the action of the rollers. It consists in interjecting and withdrawing a piece of metal at every lift and descent of the screw over the bolt; in other words, the power acts, first, by means of a rapidly-working screw; second, the piece of metal which is pushed below it; and third, the bolt to which the die is attached—all three being kept in a vertical line by the supports of the apparatus. The number of papers stamped by each press is, as I have said, sixty per minute; at which rate several machines, with their attendants, work six hours daily; which, although little more than half the time occupied in ordinary printing-houses, is, all things considered, a fair amount for a government office.

Stamped and counted, the envelopes now retrace their steps to Mr. De La Rue's

establishment, to which I again invite attention. Greatly as I had been delighted with the operation of stamping, I was still more pleased with that which now came under my notice. In folding an envelope, six movements are necessary. First, the paper must be laid down; four flaps must next, one after the other, be turned over; and sixthly, the envelope must be withdrawn to make way for its successor. All these movements, except the laying down, are performed by a machine of the height and size of a small table, with some interesting apparatus arranged over its surface; the whole the united invention of Mr. Edwin Hill and Mr. Warren De La Rue. A boy having laid down a lozenge-shaped paper, a hammer falls, and knocks its square central part into a device; and on the hammer rising, we see the four corners standing erect—the envelope having taken the form of a box, with standing sides and ends. A broad iron thumb, as I may call it, now rises and presses down one of the ends; another thumb presses on the opposite end; and next, the two sides are similarly flattened. The envelope being now made, an iron arm comes forward with a rapid jerk, and with two fingers draws it away. It is not drawn aside into an indiscriminate heap, but is brought to a halt upon an endless piece of cloth, which, travelling over two rollers at a slow rate, gathers the mass of envelopes into regular bings, and thus obviates the necessity for shaking them even. The action of what I call the fingers is curious. Instead of drawing away the envelope, as if by hooked claws, the effect is produced merely by touch, the same as if you were to pull towards you a sheet of paper by the tips of two fingers. How two metal pointers could perform this delicate operation is the wonder. It is indeed a curiosity in art. The explanation is, that the pointers are tipped with india-rubber—a substance which will readily draw aside any light object by the touch, as an experiment with a morsel of rubber and sheet of paper will convincingly show. The interest attached to this apparatus is increased by observing that when the boy fails to place an envelope-paper on its appointed place, the two fingers are projected outwards, and do not dip down to draw the envelope aside—as if there was a consciousness in the machine that any effort on this occasion would be thrown away.

The whole of the process, of which this affords the scantiest outline, is a rapid evolution of parts, all acting in harmony to effect a particular end, and without any perceptible interval of repose. The rapidity may be judged from the fact, that two thousand envelopes are folded per hour, or twenty thousand in the day.

At a former visit, a year or two previously, I found that all the envelopes were folded by girls; and so active were they, that I could not have anticipated the invention of anything more smart or economical. The resul' shows how useless it is for an onlooker to speculate on such matters. But still more useless would be the sentimental maunderings of those who affect to lament the substitution of iron and power-belts for human muscle and intelligence. The more machines Mr. De La Rue introduces into his workrooms, the greater is the number of hands he requires to employ. "So far," said he, "from the folding-machine robbing our girls of their employment, we have more work for them than ever." One can only have a forcible perception of the truth of this remark, by having visited, as I did, the establishment at two distant periods. On the present occasion, when conducted into the manual-labour rooms, I found that department thronged from the garret to the cellar—a houseful of girls, all as busy as possible at agreeable and remunerating labour; many folding at long tables, others gumming, and a third class finally putting the envelopes in packages ready for sale. The place was in itself a factory, and not the least interesting and curious on various accounts. As all the envelopes, whether made by machine or with the folder, pass through this department, I inquired how many were turned out in any given period of time. The answer was, that the quantity of envelopes altogether made was seventy-five thousand a day, or twenty-two-and-a-half millions per annum, but that this was only those stamped for the post-office. The quantity of fancy envelopes manufactured was equally large.

This led me to an examination of the kinds made without stamps, of which there were numerous varieties in progress. One species were without borders; others were bordered with red, blue, or some other fancy colour; and a third kind had narrow or broad borders of black for mourning. The preparation of mourning note-papers and envelopes seemed in itself a great concern. The putting on of the black I did not see, that being done out of the house by a person whose business is the blacking of paper. "To give you a notion of the extent of this kind of trade," said Mr. De La Rue, "I may mention that we pay £500 a year [this was in 1846] for merely blacking the edges of note and envelope papers." Equally ready, however, to play the part of L'Allegro as Il Penseroso, this great man has not disdained to bring his ingenuity to bear on the important subject of matrimonial stationery. I am rather inclined to think that De La Rue prides himself a little on what he has accomplished in this way. And who that recollects what marriage cards were a few years ago, can wonder at a man feeling proud of being the purveyor of such splendid things as now charm the eyes of misses,—names, borders, wafers, and true lovers' knots, all in a blaze of enamel and silver!

NEWLY-ISSUED OR INEDITED STAMPS.

The middle of next week is a point in futurity at which we sometimes wish our acquaintances when circumstances render their presence unwelcome; but for the sake of our monthly chronicle, we could almost wish we were there: for "the middle of next week" signifies to us a period when something positive will be known as to the new series of stamps to be emitted on New-Year's day; and for want of that knowledge now, we fear our list for the present month will be rather a meagre one. However, such as it is, we offer it to our readers, and must pray them to be content, as the fault is not ours.

Turkey.—Our old friend, *Le Timbre-Poste*, to which we are not unfrequently indebted for early intelligence of stamps, notices the arrival of unpaid letter stamps, printed in pale yellowish bistre, with red-brown inscriptions in lieu of black, and border (?) of the same shade; like the 1 sh. Virgin Islands. The cause of this change, about which we may have more to say when we see the stamps themselves, is said to have been the theft of a considerable quantity of stamps from the post-office. The values already known are 1 and 2 piastres, but probably the others will also appear.

Ceylon. — The new tenpenny envelope forms the handsomest addition to our albums which has been received during the past month. Our cut will give a good idea of the design, which is worthy to be placed by the side of the pre-issued values. The impression is in pale vermilion, on thin paper with a slight blue tint. On the same kind of paper the sixpence has also been issued. The envelopes are, we should observe, of a much larger size—about 6 in. by $3\frac{1}{2}$ in.



A correspondent sends us a rather handsome penny adhesive stamp, but whether postal or not we cannot be certain. It bears an apparently postal obliteration—"1. A," between horizontal bars—but the inscription gives no hint of its employment, being simply, ceylon, one penny. The device resembles closely the Jamaica penny receipt stamp, a specimen of which we once took off a letter, where it was side by side with the postage stamp; the Queen's head, diademed and turned to left, appears in a lined oval, surrounding which is a white frame, bearing the above inscription; the corners are filled in with a kind of foliate ornament; watermark, so far as we can trace in the heavily-marked specimen from which we describe, there is none. Examining the stamp further, we observe, crossing the upper portion, the segment of an oval, and can trace the letters co., doubtless the commencement of the word Colombo. On the whole, we are inclined to believe this is a postal emission, probably, one of a series which shall altogether supersede the existing labels. The shape of the new comer is rectangular; it is

impressed in blue on white paper, and perforated.

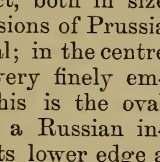
SOUTH AUSTRALIA.—We have here another value of the new series — the twopence orange-red, printed in white paper, bearing the annexed watermark, and *perçe en ligne*. The design is the faintest possible reminiscence of the Nova Scotian; in fact, it is almost a libel on the Nova Scotian to affect to trace any resemblance to them in the stamp before us. As will be seen, this new comer differs from its predecessor in having a lined instead of a solid ground; the inscriptions also are smaller, and, though insignificant, are better arranged. The watermark is another novelty, and a pleasing one, which will commend itself, moreover, as very appropriate. No doubt, in due time we shall have the penny, sixpenny, tenpenny, and shilling, as the present stock of each becomes exhausted.





RUSSIA.—Upon the 1st ult., a new envelope for this empire appeared, a 10 kop. brown, totally different in type from its predecessors, resembling, in fact, both in size and general design, the emissions of Prussia and Austria. Its shape is oval; in the centre appears the Russian arms very finely embossed; and surrounding this is the oval reticulated border, bearing a Russian inscription, and showing in its lower edge a small circle containing the numeral 10. The colour of this new arrival is brown, and it is impressed on ordinary white paper.

NEW GRANADA.—Spain and New Granada go side by side in their beneficence (?) to stamp collectors. The interval of a year for these countries has become too long to be allowed to elapse between their emissions. A new stamp for New Granada, at any rate, is a monthly occurrence; and soon, as a continental contemporary suggests, an album will be required solely for the series of this postally-fertile country. In the design above given, we see the type of a new leading series: that is, one for general postage. It is, take it altogether, of the usual type, its most prominent characteristic being a superabundance of inscription, which strikes the observer at first sight. The improvement of perforation has not yet commended itself to the mind of the Granadian authorities, though, as they are in favour of such frequent emissions, we should have thought they would have welcomed it, as effecting another and very visible change in appearance. Collectors, however, may perhaps consider it lucky that the advantages of this invention have not yet been perceived in that quarter, as the same love of novelty, manifest in the alteration of type, might lead to the creation of endless varieties of perforation—both as to style, and as to number of dents. These are pleasures in store; meanwhile, collectors have nothing more to anticipate than the arrival of the complete series, of which the above is a forerunner. Its colour, we should add, is lilac, and it is impressed on white unwatermarked paper.



HUNGARY.—We gave last month a hint of the emission of a series for this kingdom. Since then we have obtained specimens of the lowest values, and give annexed the illustrations. We must, however, caution our readers against accepting these until further information can be obtained, as part of a postal series; as it has been stated by a contemporary that they are, in fact, fiscals. The inscriptions do not aid us much: they signify simply, "Royal Hungarian Journal Stamp;" or, "Journal Stamp for the Kingdom of Hungary;" nothing indicative of a postal use appears here, and we are left in doubt as to the application of these new comers. We will confine ourselves now to stating that the colours are 1 kr. dull blue, and 2 kr. bistre.





NEWFOUNDLAND. — Just in time for description, we have received one of the most

elegantly-designed stamps we have ever had the pleasure of examining. Its value is one cent, and its colour a delicate mauve, somewhat richer than that of the 2 c. Nova Scotia. In the centre appears the portrait of the Prince of Wales which did duty on the obsolete 17 c. of New Brunswick, but enclosed in a far more tasteful frame—a large oval, occupying nearly the entire rectangle, and bearing on its lower half the name, NEWFOUNDLAND; whilst crossing and covering its upper extremity is a neat scroll, inscribed with the value, ONE CENT, in words; and immediately below it, in the oval, the letters N. F., one on each side. The design is completed by numerals in the lower corners, and leaf-work extending along the lower margin and up the sides. This charming acquisition is impressed on white paper, and perforated.

HAMBURG.—In another part of the number we have alluded to the probability of the series for this city being shortly reprinted; and already we are in possession of a posthumous variety, the $2\frac{1}{2}$ sch. old type, on plain unwatermarked paper. Opinions vary as to the value of this stamp—some considering it to be a re-impression; others, that it was found among the papers of the postmaster, and is, in fact, one of the early specimen copies. Time will prove. Of this variety there are two shades: dark green and yellow-green. There have also been found 3 schg. envelopes, with the arms watermarked; these were intended to be issued on the exhaustion of the unwatermarked stock.

UNITED STATES.—One of our correspondents favours us with the following information: "I have seen, coming direct from Mr. Nesbitt, specimens of new 12 c. and 15 c. envelopes; they both exhibited the American eagle in relief; the 15 c. was evidently modelled from the U. S. silver quarter dollar, being of the very size and style of the 'reverse' of that coin; the 12 c. was an oval shape, and not nearly so effective looking a design." Other values are expected. The 24 c. black and 3 c. rose, of the current series, is on very light straw paper, almost white; the latter value is also printed in a much deeper shade.

SPAIN.—The 19 cuartos, so our Belgian contemporary states, has changed its colour, being now brown in lieu of rose. M. Moens appears charmed, to think that the previsions of those who anticipated an entirely new series have been falsified, but Rome was not built in a day; when the government is consolidated, we may look out for novelties.

WURTEMBURG.—Our illustration of the new type was taken from a photograph of the stamp submitted to the authorities; but we now find that an alteration has taken place: the inscription, POST FREIMARKE, being in roman in lieu of text.

THE OLD SWISS STAMPS.

TRANSLATED FROM "LE TIMBRE-POSTE."

HERE is a question, which at first sight seems trite, but the importance of which will soon be appreciated. Do there exist, or, better, have there been stamps emitted by, and exclusively reserved for, the cantons of Vaud and Neufchatel? What, we hear some one say, are not these stamps in all the albums? Yes, more or less authentic specimens. But it is not their existence which we are contesting to-day, but their origin; and that *malgré* the unanimity of all the catalogues, journals, albums, &c., in considering these stamps as special to the two cantons. We know what such unanimity is worth: it is announced, for example, that stamps have been issued, say, at Timbuctoo—stamps about which privately-acquired information is given; at once, and without question whether the news is true or not, the papers, eager for novelty, reproduce the *tartare;* and later on, when they change their opinion, lavish invectives on the contemporary who first made known their existence.

What is true as to the stamps of Timbuctoo, is equally true in the present case. We first announced that the cantons of Vaud and Neufchatel had emitted stamps. It was an error, which we hasten to correct with the proofs in our hands. We have had the good luck to acquire a bundle of Swiss letters, of the years 1844 to 1850, and all dated from Geneva; and we now give the results of our examination of them.

The canton of Geneva emitted, at the commencement of the year 1844, the 10-cent



stamp of the annexed type, for the prepayment of letters for the entire canton. We have a specimen used on the 10th March, 1844. The letters posted in the town for the town paid 5 centimes, and for such letters one of the two stamps, which form together the 10 c. value, was employed.

We find, on a letter of the 5th October, 1845, the 5 cent. PORT CANTONAL printed in black on apple-green, with the figure 5 thick, and its head slightly bent round; nevertheless, it seems the public were allowed still to use the preceding 5 c. stamp (inscribed PORT LOCAL), for we observe one doing duty on a cantonal letter of the 21st January, 1846. This reduction in the rate from 10 to 5 centimes necessitated the suppression of the 10 c., which, as we see, enjoyed a circulation of only eighteen months at most.

A letter of the 6th Jan., 1847, acquaints us that the cantonal 5 c. stamp has a successor. The type and shade remain the same, but the figure 5 is more elongated, and its head is thick and straight. It is not till the 5th January, 1849, that we see it, for the first time, in dark green; and we find this shade still in use on the 24th of April, 1852, although officially superseded in December, 1849. Specimens then may be found with the different cancellations used after that date.

Up to November, 1849, we remark that all the Genevese stamps, from the date of their emission, bear a red postmark, forming a cross, the centre of which contains four balls, so to speak, also uniting in the shape of a cross.

In November of the same year the balls disappeared, and except for this alteration, the obliteration remained the same, and served to annul the new stamps considered as belonging to Vaud, which appeared perhaps in November, but certainly in December, 1849.

The first of these Vaud stamps which we meet with is a 4 centimes. It is employed on the 2nd Dec., 1849, and the letter is taxed 3 centimes, being no doubt insufficiently prepaid. The 31st December, the same correspondent again franked a letter with the 4 c. stamp, and the letter was subjected to the same surcharge. Nevertheless, a letter posted at the same place, and for the same destination, prepaid on the 5th January, 1850, in the same manner, arrived free; though another letter, which made the same journey on the 5th March, is furnished with a stamp of 5 centimes. What conclusion ought we to draw,—that 4 centimes only was charged from January to March, and after that 5 centimes? We think not. Our belief is, that letters of the town, for the town and its suburbs, were charged 4 centimes; and those for the canton generally, 5 centimes; and that the letter went free for 4 centimes as the result of an oversight, which must have often occurred, through the resemblance between the two stamps.

In April, 1850, we get for the first time a *poste-locale* stamp—$2\frac{1}{2}$ rappen—destined for the prepayment of letters for the town and its environs; an emission which easily explains the rarity of the so-called 4 centimes Vaud stamp, which it replaced, probably in consequence of a diminution in the rate. In fact, from this time we do not see any more of the 4 c., except on a letter of the 30th April, 1850, which bears two in prepayment of a single-weight letter, for which the rate was but 5 c. The sender can only have used these stamps at a loss: instead of keeping them for two local letters, he used them for one for the canton, and thereby lost the 3 centimes over the rate.

The 5 c. remained in favour until the decision of the postal department, on the 4th September, 1850, to create two new stamps, the emission of which was fixed for 1st October,—5 rap. black on blue (Rayon I.), 10 rap. yellow on black (Rayon II.). But though superseded by this emission, the 5 c. "Vaud" continued to be received in payment of postage, and we find them on letters of the 9th August, 1852. Specimens then of this stamp also may be met with, showing a postmark used only after their nominal suppression.

In 1851, we see that the stamps are cancelled by a "gridiron," in a lozenge frame;

and in August of the same year, by a lozenge formed of little horizontal lines, almost touching each other. Conjointly with the appearance of this mark, we observe the first of the *soi-disant* Neufchatel 5-centime stamps, on a letter of the 11th August, 1851. It completely disappeared from our view after the 21st February, 1852; and throughout its period of circulation, we find it obliterated with the lozenge of horizontal lines. At first, it was printed on white paper; later, on yellowish white.

We have found the 5 c. "Neufchatel" on letters sent from Geneva, by one and the same person, at the commencement of September and October, 1851; and the 5 rap. black on blue on letters of the end of August and the 15th September, which proves beyond question that the two stamps were in circulation side by side. Add to these the 5 c. "Vaud," still admitted to currency, and we shall have three stamps—without counting that emitted in January, 1852, at which date there were four—all in full work.

There were emitted, on the 1st January, 1852, the date which perhaps may be considered as that of the [official] suppression of the "Neufchatel," the following stamps, the 10 rappen black on yellow retaining its currency with them, and representing the rappen under its new value:

5 rappen blue on white.
15 „ rose „
15 cent. rose „

This last stamp for the French cantons. We cannot ourselves explain why 5 and 10 centime stamps were not emitted conjointly with the 15 c. for the use of the French cantons.

It results from the facts that we have produced,* that there were never any stamps issued for the cantons of Vaud and Neufchatel, those hitherto ascribed to them having, as we think, been issued by the federal administration. M. N. Rondot, in the *Magasin Pittoresque*, affirms that the 4 and 5 c. stamps said to belong to Vaud, have been employed at Lausanne, and throughout the canton; and that it is certain that the so-called Neufchatel has been used in that canton. Was it not then the case that these stamps were used in, and only in, the French cantons, viz., Fribourg, Geneva, Neufchatel, Valais, Vaud, and the Jura Bernois? We are rather inclined to that belief, as we have never yet seen these stamps with postmarks similar, for example, to those employed in the canton of Zurich. Their rarity also increases the probability of our supposition.

The Federal stamps should then, according to our view, be thus classed:

Federal Administration.

November or December, 1849.

Oblong. Arms of Switzerland in post-horn [hitherto termed Vaud stamps.]

4 centimes black and red (suppressed in April, 1850).

5 centimes black and red (suppressed in October, 1850).

April, 1850.

Rectangular. Same arms as the preceding, but surmounted by a post-horn.

$2\frac{1}{2}$ rappen (*post locale*), black and red.

$2\frac{1}{2}$ „ (*orts post*), „ „

The latter for the German cantons.

(Both suppressed in January, 1852.)

October, 1850.

Same type.

Rayon I. 5 rap. black on blue.

Rayon II. 10 „ black on yellow.

August, 1851.

Rectangular. Arms of Switzerland, without post-horn [hitherto termed the Neufchâtel stamp.]

5 centimes black and red (suppressed Jan., 1852.)

1st January, 1852.

Rectangular. Arms of Switzerland, surmounted by post-horn.

5 rap. blue on white.
15 „ rose „
15 cent. rose „

This new classification suppresses the stamps considered to appertain to the two cantons of Vaud and Neufchatel.

The other federal stamps are sufficiently known and well classified: we pass them in silence.

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* [*Viz.*, that the stamps hitherto supposed to have been peculiar to Vaud and Neufchatel were all used equally at Geneva.—Ed. *S. C. M.*]

THE CASHMERE STAMPS.

BY J. C. WILSON.

I HAVE great pleasure in being able to give a correct translation of the inscription on the Cashmere stamps. Since they first appeared I have taken great interest in them, but knowing nothing of the languages, I have, till quite lately, put them aside. My interest was newly awakened on reading Mr. Pemberton's article in *The Philatelist* for October, and your remarks on it in the November number of your magazine.

The upper part of the circular stamp is in the Kohistani or Pahari character—the language spoken by the people in the Himalaya mountains—and reads thus: HAKIM JUMOON, meaning "Government of Jumoon." The lower is in Persian, and runs as follows: QALAMRAW-I-SIRCAR-I-JUMOON WA KASHMEER, 1923, Bikrama or Hindoo chronology, which translated signifies: "Sovereignty of the government of Jumoon and Cashmere, A.D., 1866." The centre of the stamp contains the value surrounded by the lotus leaf.

As you infer, Serinagur is another name for the town of Cashmere.

Of the rectangular stamps, the upper half of the inscription is in Kohistani, which reads: JUMOON CASHMERE, with the lotus leaf dividing the names.

The words of the lower inscription in Persian, are identical with those on the circular stamps, with the exception of the date, which, in the rectangular, is in the central oval. The centre disc is in mixed characters, Persian and Kohistani, as follows:——ANNA, or ANNAS, in Persian, followed by the date in the same language, and both the value and the date repeated in Kohistani, which is in the $\frac{1}{4}$, 2, 4, and 8 annas, 1923 Bikrama, and in the $\frac{1}{2}$ and 1 anna, 1924, *i.e.*, A.D., 1867.

In the 4 and 8 annas the date is in Kohistani only.

The values of the rectangular are:

Paou	anna,	$\frac{1}{4}$	anna.
Neem	,,	$\frac{1}{2}$	,,
Yak	,,	1	,,
Do	,,	2	,,
Chahar	,,	4	,,
Hasht	,,	8	,,

The characters vary a good deal from bad printing, and are so roughly formed, that they could only be read by one thoroughly conversant with the languages.

I have not yet seen any of the forgeries, but should think that the characters are too difficult to imitate successfully.

From Major Cracroft we have received a somewhat different interpretation of the characters on the above stamps.

He says: "The inscription is in two languages. I give as specimen a quarter-anna label. The outer contains in Persian and Dagree (a Hindee dialect) the words QULUM RO SIRKAR JUMMOO WU KASHMEER, *i.e.*, state of Jummoo and Cashmere; and the inner oval in the same languages, Persian above, and Dagree beneath, PAO ANNA ST 1923, *i.e.*, quarter anna; SUMBUT (or Vikramajît year) 1923." Accompanying this is a rough sketch showing how the inscription reads, QULUM RO SIR KAR running from left to right round the lower half, and JUMMOO WU KASHMEER from right to left round the upper half of oval.

From this we understand that the inscriptions run side by side round the stamp, whilst from Mr. Wilson's description we learn that the inscription in the local dialect occupies by itself the upper half of the oval, and the Persian inscription the lower—which is right? In the reading of the latter, both linguists are virtually at one, allowing for some slight differences in spelling, but whilst Major Cracroft states that the inscriptions in the two dialects are the same, Mr. Wilson informs us that the one in Kohistani simply means JUMOON, KASHMERE,—again we ask, which is right?

Upon the central inscriptions our two contributors are agreed; they consist of the value and date in two languages, and it is easy to identify the Bikrama year of Mr. Wilson, with the Vikramajit year of Major Cracroft.

It does not surprise us that there should be various interpretations of these eastern characters; we are, we almost dare to say, happily, unacquainted with them ourselves; but we, in common with our readers, are aware that very slight variations in their

form, often cause great variation in their meaning, and that the most experienced doctors often differ most widely in their reading.

We note, in conclusion, as corroborative of the statement that the circular series had only a local currency, that the Kohistani characters signify simply "Government of Jummoo," whilst those on the rectangulars stand for "Jummoo and Cashmere."

REVIEWS OF POSTAL PUBLICATIONS.

Alfred Smith & Co.'s Descriptive Price Catalogue of the Postage Stamps of all Nations. Illustrated with upwards of 100 Engravings. London: Marlborough & Co.; Bath: Alfred Smith & Co., Office of *The Stamp-Collector's Magazine.*

THE eleventh edition—what shall we say of it? When one meets an old friend—one with whom one is perfectly familiar—we do not use such formalities as are necessary towards a stranger; we shake his hands, and perchance, if circumstances warrant it, may observe, "You are looking remarkably well, my dear Sir." Such a greeting we extend to this old familiar catalogue; and we can with truth add—*it* is looking remarkably well. It has exchanged that coat—which, with slight variations in the cut, it has worn through half-a-dozen editions—for another and far more ornamental one. The new cover bears a pre-èminently-tasteful lithographed device, with something of the gothic about it, and is printed in two colours; within appear, as in the last edition, four sheets of illustrations on toned paper; but, another innovation, in the new comer, the cuts are printed alternately red and blue, instead of red and black, and with very happy effect. The plan of the catalogue itself has undergone no alteration, but the additions necessary to bring the list up to date have been made, and the prices have also been brought into accordance with the present state of the market.

Our publishers certainly deserve credit for their efforts to combine the ornamental with the useful; and in the rapid exhaustion of editions we find proof that those efforts are appreciated by the philatelic community.

The Permanent Postage-Stamp Album. In four languages. By C. VAN RINSUM. Amsterdam: H. de Hoogh.

THIS work bears evidence throughout of painstaking care in its compilation. It has evidently been to the author a labour of love, and no inconsiderable labour either; but we doubt whether the title which it has received is its most appropriate one. In our opinion, it would have been much more justly styled the "Polyglot," than the "Permanent" album. We do not recognise in the arrangement of the work any great divergence or improvement upon the ordinary plan. There are very few countries to which any spare space has been allotted. The various series are, generally speaking, arranged in designs, so to say, which occupy the entire page, and there is not a single blank page in the book. As in Lallier's and Moens' albums, the issues of the several West Indian colonies are grouped three or four on a page, with no room between them; and other countries which possess few stamps are classed together in the same manner.

The author's scheme for making his album a permanent one is simply the well-worn one of publishing supplementary albums as occasion requires, and provisional leaves in the meantime.

We cannot, however, see much in this plan to admire. An album, to answer the requirements of the day, should contain within itself the elements of permanency, in the shape of extra space. A supplementary album could only be issued some six or seven years hence; allowing, in the interval, an average of (say) 200 new stamps per annum, and it would tax the patience of most collectors to hoard their new emissions for such a lengthened period. They have, it is true, the alternative of mounting them on provisional supplementary sheets, but—there's the rub: stamps are frequently injured, and more or less deteriorated in the course of mounting and dismounting and remounting; and after all this trouble and delay, when the stamps *are* finally placed in the supplementary album, they will still be separated from their predecessors. By such a plan as this, any of the albums already issued may be made "permanent," but few

collectors, we apprehend, will find in it a solution of the "album question."

Taking Mr. van Rinsum's work as it is, and putting aside the pretension to permanency, we find it on the whole a commendable one.

We recognise, before all, the great labour involved in making catalogues of stamps in four different languages; and the compiler, we have pleasure in admitting, has shown considerable mastery of our own. There are fewer errors in English than would be found in Lallier's, and the few there are we hope to see corrected in the next edition.

As we have already indicated, the various series for each country are arranged in designs, and as the squares differ in size, each page has had to be separately planned out, and set up by the printer. This again must have entailed a great amount of labour; and from experiments we have made, we find that the squares, at any rate for the adhesives, are, generally speaking, sufficiently large. But as the designs for the series necessitate the placing of the stamps of a series close together, there is barely any interval between them. It is a matter of taste whether this be preferable to an arrangement whereby space is left between each stamp; for ourselves, we do not like it so well, as the stamps look crowded. Neither can we say we admire another novel feature, viz., giving the name of each state as it is spelt in the state; thus, we find SVERIGE above the stamps for Sweden; OSTERREICH over those for Austria; SACHSEN over those for Saxony; and so forth. The Roman States figure as STATO DELLA CHIESA; Tuscany as TOSCANO on the first, and TOSKANE on the second page; whilst some countries, such as Russia, Turkey, Egypt, &c., have the names in the four languages of the catalogue—Dutch, French, English, and German—written at the head of the page. There is no great utility in this plan, and there are few collectors in this country who would not have preferred to see the title of each country in "plain English." If, however, this be not feasible in a polyglot album, then it would be better to give the name uniformly in the four languages.

The grouping of the countries is another point on which we are at issue with the author. They run now in some kind of geographical order, from west to east, with occasional divergences to north and south—a very troublesome arrangement, which in future editions we should recommend the author to supersede in favour of the alphabetico-continental system.

One other error we noticed, which we dare say the author has ere this discovered: by some mistake in the making up of the sheets, the stamps for Portugal, Spain, and Denmark, are inextricably entangled. We would direct his attention to sheet No. 10, and he will notice, on the first page, the conclusion of Belgium and the commencement of Spain; on the second, the entire number of spaces allotted to Portugal, and the commencement of those for Denmark; and on the third and fourth pages, the remainder of the Spanish spaces; whilst the first page of Sheet No. 11 contains the concluding portion of Denmark. We have tried, by refolding the sheet, to remedy these errors, but though successful in uniting the pages for Spain, the two Danish portions still remain divided.

Turning from these defects, we can heartily commend the catalogue, which is certainly very complete and accurate. One of the most difficult portions of the work has been well performed.

The type is clear and good; and the duty of correction and revision has been, taking it altogether, conscientiously performed. The paper also is thick and of a very fine texture. Of the externals we are unable to speak, as we write from an early copy in sheets; but we do not doubt, judging from the manner in which the interior is got up, that the exterior is or will be equally tasteful.

Our examination of this work, as a whole, impresses us with the belief, that, whilst possessing many excellencies, and evidencing much care on the part of the compiler, it is also characterised by such defects as are likely to prevent its becoming popular in this country; but the author, by correcting these defects in the next edition, may make the work in every way a valuable one, and capable of holding its own against any other production of the kind.

POSTAL CHIT-CHAT.

DEATH OF THE NEW RAJAH OF SARAWAK.—Since the sketch contained in our November number on the above country and its first ruler, he, by whom he was succeeded is also called to his rest, after a very short rajahship, on the 1st of December. Captain Johnson B. J. Brooke, was formerly of her Majesty's 88th foot. In 1848, at the request of his uncle, Sir James, he left the Queen's service, and joined him at Sarawak; and when in 1858 Sir James was incapacitated by an attack of paralysis from further active exertion, Mr. Brooke effectively carried on the government. Last year Mr. Brooke exhibited symptoms of a fatal malady, similar to that which caused the death of his uncle and early friend, a few months ago. Within six months the two principal actors in the scenes of Sarawak have passed away under the influence of disease brought on by the cares and anxieties attending their position in a new and rising country. Mr. Brooke married, in 1856, the daughter of Mr. and Lady Lucy Grant, of Kilgraston, Perthshire, by whom he had two sons. The eldest dying at Sarawak in 1860, he is succeeded by his second son, Hope Brooke. In 1858 he was left a widower, and married again in 1861, to Miss Welstead, of Kimbolton, who died in 1862, leaving issue one daughter. Mr. Brooke was the eldest son of the Rev. Charles Francis Johnson, of White Lackington, Somersetshire. He died, aged 46, deeply regretted.

CORRESPONDENCE.

THE MUTILATED SPANISH STAMPS.

To the Editor of "THE STAMP-COLLECTOR'S MAGAZINE."

SIR,—I see on referring to "Answers to Correspondents" column of your magazine for December, that you have not yet seen any of the Spanish stamps with the Queen's head punched out. I have pleasure in sending you one I received on a letter from Madrid, dated November 23rd, 1868, with the head so served. Some others that I have had since have not been touched, but have arrived entire, one of which I enclose, with the date on the envelope, December 5th, 1868. You will perceive that the die with which the head is punched out has not been cut exactly to the form of the head, but has left some small pieces of hair, &c. Trusting you will insert this in the next number of your magazine,

I am, dear Sir, yours truly,

London. J. C. WILSON.

THE OLD BOLIVIAN STAMPS.

To the Editor of "THE STAMP-COLLECTOR'S MAGAZINE."

SIR,—Some time since I noticed an article in one of the Parisian magazines, denying the authenticity of the one peso of Bolivia, and as you have transferred a portion of it to your magazine, I beg you will allow me to give you the history of the old Bolivian stamps, including the one peso.

I am indebted to F. C. Milne, Esq., of the United States Consulate at Cobija, Bolivia, for the following information concerning them, which he obtained through the courtesy of Don Alberto de Barios, of the Bolivian postal department, together with a complete set of the old Bolivian stamps, which are now in my possession.

Stamps for postal and revenue service were authorised by the Bolivian government in January, 1867, and are engraved by M. de Ribas, of La Paz. They were issued in the following order, viz.:—

5	centavos	green	March 5th, 1867.
5	,,	pink [qy. lilac]	,, ,, ,,
10	,,	brown	April 1st ,,
15	,,	blue (dark)	,, 20th ,,
15	,,	green	,, ,, ,,
20	,,	red	May 1st ,,
50	,,	blue	,, 10th ,,
50	,,	yellow	,, ,, ,,
100	,,	blue	,, ,, ,,
1	peso	deep red	June 1st ,,
1	,,	blue	,, ,, ,,

The design is nearly the same for all the values, excepting the 15 cent; this stamp was issued for registered letters, and has the word ANOTADOS (registered) in the place of CONTRATOS, and the angles outside the oval are filled with colour, forming a solid groundwork. Both the one peso blue and the red unquestionably did duty in that almost inaccessible republic, as copies properly post-marked have been received upon letters direct from that country, and I myself have received them direct from Cobija, which fact is positive evidence in their favour. I agree with you that the entire set offer great facilities to the forger, but M. Mahé, and collectors in general, should be careful, and not condemn newly-issued stamps until their spurious character is well authenticated.

I fear I have already taken too much of your valuable space, so I will remain, dear Sir,

Very respectfully yours,

Philadelphia, U.S. W. C. BANCROFT.

ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS.

J. S. F., Winchester.—The stamp you refer to is a Frankfort newspaper stamp.

JUSTITIA, London.—We cannot admit your letter upon a subject which was definitely closed last month.

T. HORNER, Penzance.—The English stamps are used at Malta.

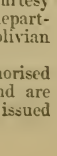
P. T. G, Wolverhampton.—We certainly think the bright red Antigua is worth collecting, as a distinct and officially-issued shade.

F. E. C., Saxmundham, describes a stamp purporting to be of the Confederate States, similar in design to the early-issued 10 c. large rect. blue, head of Jefferson, value 5 cents, and printed in green. We have not the least doubt it is an imposter.

OMEGA, Bristol.—Your 15 c. Dutch, red-brown, is one of the new series, which at present numbers six values. —If you never intend paying more than 5 for a stamp, your collection will certainly be minus the majority of the rarer stamps.

ARTHUR, Lowestoft.—The entire series of Portugal exists, surcharged with the word MADEIRA, and again, with the word ACORES. Though apparently the emissions thus fabricated are only provisionals, we have at present no news of coming permanent issues for the respective colonies.

M. L. B., Stroud, would like to know the best method for attaching stamps so as to permit of reference to the backs. Our present plan, and we find it to answer as well as any, is to cut up the margin of a sheet of stamps into little strips, of about half an inch long, and one fifth broad; double them cross-wise, with the gummed side outwards, and attach one half of this side lightly to the stamp, and the other half firmly to the book. The annexed diagram will make this clear; *a* is the half affixed to the stamp, *b* the half which is folded back and attached to the book.



A SCHOOLBOY'S COLLECTION.

Thursday, Dec. 11th, 1868.—This is my eighteenth birthday. I am hardly a boy any longer. I am arrived at that age when I might be termed—were I by chance to do something very brave— an "heroic youth;" or, were I to commit some very reprehensible action, a "misguided lad." My old maiden aunts may even style me in derision, a "hobbledehoy," but I can afford to smile at even such a remark as that—the unkindest cut of all—for am I not away from home, earning my own bread? and no *man* can do better than that. Yes, away from home, sitting here in *my* little room, alone, in the midst of a great city. But if my thoughts did not wander back of themselves to the quiet little house a hundred-and-thirty miles away, I have plenty of things to remind me of it, little *souvenirs* which my mother and sisters packed into my trunk that sunny day, now more than a year-and-a-half ago—aye, and there resting on the shabby book-rack is my old collection of stamps, side by side with the newer and more brilliant book in which I now arrange my possessions. Let me look through it once more. I'm glad I did not dismantle it for the benefit of the new book. Almost every stamp it contains—even the forgeries which plentifully besprinkle it—possesses associations of its own, and helps to bring back to the mind those happy school-days, which, whilst they lasted, I thought so little of. Ah! how carefully I used to stick my stamps down, and consequently how "cockled" every page! An Oppen's album, and a good one too in its time, though when it came into my hands some of its pristine brilliancy had worn off, for its first possessor, Jack Rose, was not too careful of it. I paid well for it, not in money though, schoolboys are seldom troubled with too much of that; with them pens, marbles, and a dozen other such things have regular currency, and a boy is not looked up to so much because his father has a substantial balance at the bank, as because he himself has a substantial hoard of marbles. *My* chief wealth at the time when I coveted this album was a case of butterflies, on which I vastly prided myself. I had been a whole twelvemonth collecting them, and could show a by no means bad assortment of tigers, elephants, and magpies—of the moth kind. But my passion for butterflies had taken wing, and the charms of entomology paled before the newer attractions of timbrophily. Rose's collection of stamps, numbering in all some 300, was the admiration of the school. It was a veritable triton among minnows, and with the desire to collect came an eager wish to become possessor of this paragon. I negociated with its owner, but at first unsuccessfully. He was deaf to the voice of the charmer—marbles he scorned, and he had a soul high elevated above buttons. My case of butterflies alone seemed worthy to compare, in his eyes, with his nonpareil album. And so it went, and in return the album became mine. How carefully I enveloped it in the cleanest available piece of newspaper, and deposited it in the very bottom of my box, after a long examination of its contents. How I gloated over every stamp, and scarcely dared to guess at the enormous value of the whole. Well, I shouldn't like to lay this book before a brother amateur now, but in those old days it stood me well, and, small as I was, I rose greatly in the estimation of my friends as its owner.

Turning over its crumpled pages, I can hardly help laughing at the strange mixture of specimens it contains. What pieces of stamps! what forgeries! and all stuck down as firmly as if the whole collection were to be handed down from generation to generation as an heirloom. But to a schoolboy what did it matter? the squares were filled; the various issues were in some disreputable manner represented, and that was enough.

Pasted in with the stamps proper, are cuts from newspapers, and receipt labels, some of these latter showing up very well. Chief among them are some large Indian stamps, which my elder brother, who has been several voyages to the other hemisphere, brought me home. These, however, are not the only ones which I owe to him. Coming back some two years ago, he put in at St. Helena, and remembering that his little brother at school in England was a stamp-collector, went up to the post-office, and obtained the

entire set of provisionals—all new—and gave them to me on his arrival. Those stamps were my pride, and the envy of my friends, and I hope never to part with them.

Still casually turning the leaves, I come upon the Ionian squares; two out of the three are ornamented with rank forgeries. I paid dear for those, and considered them great acquisitions; it was no slight disappointment, then, to find afterwards that they were worthless.

That green two-grote Bremen has been another source of vexation in its time, for I bought it as a choice variety. The St. Lucia counterfeit I believed in until quite a recent date, and the black one-crazia Tuscany was to me no less an unquestionably genuine stamp, until I submitted my book to older and wiser collectors.

Scattered through the book are some dozen or more new and good stamps, which a dear old friend bought and sent to me as a present not long before he left England. He was several years older than me, in fact I had been at one time his fag, but between the big boy and the little one there was always a warm friendship; and when, having received an appointment in a foreign house, Martin was obliged to leave rather hurriedly, and could not wish me good-bye in person, he wrote me a kind little note, and enclosed in it these unused stamps.

Here on the French page is a reminder of another old friend, or rather of a friend of the family, in the shape of an obliterated 40 c. stamp, which came on a letter, almost the only one I received from him. This Austrian two kr. I took from off a circular which was sent to my father; these New South Wales emissions I purchased at a nominal price from a school-fellow, whose initial, "N," still appears in the corners.

I might go on for ever thus calling up the histories of these worn little squares of paper, but the hour is late, and my solitary candle is burning low. I have suffered brain and pen to ramble on together, until my hand at least is weary. Let me close the book, and think of friends at home.

LIST OF STAMPS FIRST NOTICED IN *THE STAMP-COLLECTOR'S MAGAZINE* FOR 1868.

(*Concluded from page 5.*)

Mexico.

Type of first series. Col. imp.; rect.

½ (medio) real greenish blue } on bluish
1 (un) „ blue. } paper.
1 („) „ grey-black on green.
4 (cuatro) „ red on yellow.

Same device. Blk. imp.; rect.

1 real black.

GUADALAJARA SERIES.

Same type as issue of 1867. Circ. blk. imp.

2 reales rose.
1 peso dull rose, perf. and unperf.

Portrait in circle, MEXICO in upper margin, value below, name of issuing state in Gothic letters at side. Rect. perf.

6 cent black on chamois.
12 „ „ on green.
25 „ blue on flesh.
50 „ black on yellow.
100 „ „ on fawn.

New Granada.

Device of issue of 1867. Col. imp.; rect.

1 peso carmine, flesh.

Arms surmounted by eagle in ornamental oval frame, with wreath beneath; inscription E. U. DE COLOMBIA, CORREOS NACIONALES. Blk. imp.; on glazed paper, rect.

5 peso green.
10 „ vermilion.

SOBRE PORTE STAMPS.

Arms impaled on crossed spears, each bearing a Phrygian cap, nine stars above, on ground of horizontal lines. Blk. imp.; rect. Inscription SOBRE PORTE.

25 c. flesh.

Arms with stars at sides on lined ground, wreath in lower margin; inscription SOBRE PORTE. Blk. imp.; rect.

50 c. pale green.

Arms and value UN PESO in words in pointed inscribed oval, with stars in lower part, lined spandrels containing

the value; inscription SOBRE PORTE. Blk. imp.; rect.

1 peso (1 dollar) pale blue.

VIGNETTES FOR REGISTERED LETTERS.

Similar device to issue of 1866, but flag turned to left, and inscription disposed in a different manner, space for the address smaller, and enclosed in a frame of straight and waved lines.

50 centavos black on white.

LABEL FOR OFFICIAL LETTERS.

Inscription—ESTADOS UNIDOS DE COLOMBIA. SERVICIO DE CORREOS NACIONALES. CERTIFICADO OFICIAL. SALE DE...EN...DE ...DE 186... REMITE...EL ADMINISTRADOR,—occupying five lines in all, and enclosed in an oblong ornamented border, size 5 in. by 3 in. Blk. imp.

Black on blue.

New South Wales.

Profile of Queen to left in circle, curved labels above and below; inscription NEW SOUTH WALES POSTAGE. Col. imp.; rect. perf.; watermark, italic figure 10.

Tenpence lilac.

Profile of Queen to left in centre of lozenge, ornaments in angles; inscription NEW SOUTH WALES POSTAGE. Col. imp.; rect. perf.

Fourpence brownish-red.

Norway.

Same design as issue of 1867. Col. imp.; rect. perf.

1 skilling grey-black.
8 „ rose.

Orange Free State.

Orange tree and three post-horns on lined rectangular disc, inscription in margin ORANJE VRIJ STAAT. Col. imp.; rect. perf.

Een (1) penny brown.
Zes (6) pence rose.
Een (1) shilling orange.

Paraguay.

1867. Steam-ship, sailing to right, in oval; shield containing numeral at each corner; inscription REPUBLICA DEL PARAGUAY, value in words at sides. Col. imp.; oblong perf.

5 centavos red.

PROVISIONAL SERIES.

1868. Same design, with large numeral in block type surcharged in red on centre of oval, representing the provisional value. Col. imp.; oblong perf.

10 centavos deep green.
20 „ deep blue.
50 „ red.

Peru.

Design of 1862. Col. imp.; square.

1 dinero green.

Portugal.

Same design as issue of 1866. Col. imp.; rect. perf.

5 reis black.
10 „ yellow.
50 „ blue.
120 „ green.

Prussia.

ENVELOPES.

Devices of the three pf. (1865) and six pf. (1861) adhesives, respectively, impressed on right upper corner of envelope, and crossed by two lines of print. Col. imp.; oct.

3 pfennige mauve.
6 „ vermilion.

Queensland.

Device of issue of 1866. Col. imp.; rect. perf.

Fourpence slate.

Roman States.

Device of issue of 1866. Blk. imp.; on glazed paper, perf.

2 centesimi green.
5 „ light blue.
10 „ vermilion.
20 „ lake.
40 „ yellow.

Roumania.

Similar design to issue of 1866, but crosses instead of numerals at angles. Col. imp.; rect.

2 bani orange.
4 „ bright blue.
18 „ rose.

Russia.

ENVELOPE.

Design of issue of 1858. Col. imp.; circ.
20 kopecs pearl grey.

Saint Helena.

Same design as issue of 1855-63, with new value surcharged in black ink. Col. imp.; rect. perf.
Twopence yellow.
Threepence dark purple.
Five shillings orange.

Sarawak.

(?) Head of Rajah Sir James Brooke on radiated ground in oval, SARAWAK above, J. B. R. S. in the four corners (one letter in each). Col. imp.; on yellow paper, rect. perf.
Three cents brown.

Serbia.

Design of issue of 1866. Col. imp. rect. (unperf).
1 para bright green.
2 „ brown.

Suez Maritime Canal Company.

Steamer to right in oval; inscription CANAL MARITIME DE SUEZ POSTES, numeral of value in four angles. Col. imp.; obl.
1 centime black.
5 „ green.
20 „ blue.
40 „ pink.

South Australia.

Same design as issue of 1866. Col. imp.; rect.
Tenpence deep orange.

Straits Settlements.

PROVISIONAL SERIES.

Type of the current Indian series, with crown and value surcharged. Col. imp.; rect. perf.
Three-half-cents red on blue.

Profile of Queen, with diadem, to left in circle, inscribed STRAITS SETTLEMENTS POSTAGE, value in lower margin, different spandrel ornaments for each value. Col. imp.; rect. perf.; watermark C C and crown.
2 cents brown.
4 „ rose.
6 „ lilac.
8 „ orange.
12 „ blue.
24 „ green.

Profile of Queen, diademed, to left in rectangular lined disc, same inscription as the preceding. Col. imp.; rect. perf., same watermark.
32 cents vermilion.
96 „ greyish green.

Switzerland.

Design of 1862. Col. imp.; rect. perf.
25 centimes green.

ENVELOPES.

Design of 1867. Col. imp.; circ.; watermark, a dove.
25 centimes green.
30 „ blue.

United States.

Device of 1860. Col. imp.; rect. perf.* †
24 cents violet-black.
30 „ dark orange.

Venezuela.

Same type as issue of 1866-7. Col. imp.; rect. perf.
½ centavo green.
½ real rose.
1 „ vermilion.

Victoria.

Laureated profile of Queen, on solid disc, in inscribed circle with scroll edge, and surmounted by crown; inscription VICTORIA. Col. imp.; on yellowish paper, rect. perf., watermark V and crown.
Five shillings blue.

Same device, but printed in blue on white, with inscription and crown in red. Col. imp.; rect. perf., same watermark.
Five shillings blue and red.

* The designs for the stamps of a new series are given at p. 171 of vol. vi., but as we are as yet unacquainted with the colours, we have thought it best to omit the description from the present list.

† All, or nearly all, the values of this series are found with a raised square quadrille pattern on the back, impressed by order of the authorities for the purpose of causing the stamps to adhere more firmly to the envelopes to which they may be affixed.

Design of issue of 1866. Col. imp.; rect. perf., watermarked with the word SIXPENCE. (Variety.)
Sixpence blue.

Wurtemburg.

Design of the series of 1864-66. Col. imp.; rect. perf.
3 kreuzer lilac (variety).
7 „ deep blue.

Numeral of value on diaper ground in oval, with double frame, the inner inscribed, in small letters, POST FREIMARKE; the outer, WURTTEMBURG and value; staghorns in oval at corners. Col. imp.; rect. perf.
1 kreuzer green.
3 „ rose.
7 „ blue.

POSTAGE-STAMP PORTRAITS.—VIII.

ANDREW JACKSON.

"The life of man is the true romance, which, when it is valiantly conducted, will yield the imagination a higher joy than any fiction."—EMERSON.

THE consequences of a new epoch in the United States postal system gave to philatelists portraits of one of America's greatest patriots and presidents.

Until March, 1863, the payment of drop-letters had been optional, but on the third of that month, an act was passed, compelling prepayment, and fixing the single rate at two cents. This law came into force in July, when the adhesive and envelope stamps, suitable to the new order of things, were issued. Every juvenile collector is familiar with the black labels, bearing a large head with a fine head of hair, and an intellectual, but decidedly American, countenance. That is a representation of Andrew Jackson, and it is of him our sketch shall be this month.

Jackson, unlike Washington or Jefferson, could not boast of a long roll of famous ancestors, or look back to a genealogical tree laden with noble names. There is always something advantageous to learn from the history of one who, to use the cant phrase of the day, is a self-made man; for how often are the branches of the family tree, as we ascend higher and higher from the root, laden with fruit which has sadly degenerated, and become, like unto the apples of Sodom, all beautiful without, but within nothing but ashes. The tenthredo which has punctured them may be either tyranny, vice, sloth, or any other destroying principle; but whatever it may be, it remains still the same to the modern Hæredipetæ, so long as the rind, or the covering of riches, is left upon them. It is, therefore, a sign of sterling worth, for a man to make for himself a name, revered and honoured by his country, without the aid of this golden mantle, in which to envelop himself. Such a one was Jackson.

His family was originally Scotch, but had settled in Ireland during the seventeenth century. In 1765, his father, bearing the same name as himself, emigrated to the States, taking with him a wife and two sons. They finally settled in Union county, Carolina, where, on the 15th of March, 1767, the subject of our sketch was born. As the family was still in indigent circumstances, his education was but limited, and nearly all his future knowledge was due entirely to his own exertion. He had the misfortune to lose his father when still very young, and his mother and her three sons had then to leave their home, as Jackson did not possess an acre of ground. They lived for some years in the house of a relative, a well-to-do farmer, and whilst there, Andrew went to a small school, when it was open, which was but seldom, the education being conducted by a travelling schoolmaster.

Jackson, when quite a boy, fought in the War of Independence, and joined in many campaigns. A party of horsemen, collected to protect his native village, was joined by our hero and his brother Robert. They were obliged at last to obtain shelter in the farm of a relation, where they were seized by an English officer. It is of this event that Jackson used to speak in after life, and particularly at his election for president, with such acrimony. The usually-accepted story is, that the "Britisher" ordered Andrew to polish his jack-boots, which were thickly splashed with mud. The youth indignantly replied, "Sir, I am a prisoner of war, and claim to be treated as such." This speech irritated the officer, who adopted a

very pitiful way of revenge, by striking the boy with his sword, and indenting a deep wound in his forehead, and, from Jackson attempting to ward off the blow, another gash in his hand. The brothers were incarcerated in a miserable prison, where their sufferings were fearful. It is a question if they would ever have come out alive, had it not been for the unremitting perseverance of their mother in obtaining an exchange. On their release, both the boys were attacked with the ravages of small-pox, and after an agonizing journey, during which, as the party possessed only two horses, Andrew had to walk; footsore, limping, and weary, they arrived at their home, the elder brother to die within two days, and the younger to become a maniac. It was long ere he was sane again. On his recovery, he turned his mind to the study of law, and having obtained, at Salisbury, in North Carolina, a license to practice, he started in business there. Not finding the inhabitants sufficiently alive to the advantages of litigation, he went farther west, to that portion of Carolina which was afterwards a district of the State of Tennessee, but before doing so, he obtained the situation of county solicitor, answering to the office of public prosecutor. He arrived at Nashville when about twenty-one, and, notwithstanding the short existence of the settlement, found a large connection. As the single licensed legal practitioner in the place was in the pay of the tradesmen's creditors, Jackson gave his assistance to the much-abused storekeepers, and in less than a month had issued seventy writs. With such a state of affairs, it is only natural to conclude that his progress was rapid and considerable, and that he at last managed to kill that Sindbad's burden, poverty, with the stone of prosperity.

He practised at the bar for more than twenty years, with the exception of short intervals engaged in the employment of the state. In 1796, he was elected a member of the House of Representatives, and the following year found him transferred to the Senate; this office he only retained for one session, when, resigning, he was appointed a Judge of the "Supreme Court" in Tennessee. Previous to this, he had been made a Major-General of militia, and in 1812, he obtained, from President Madison, a commission in the regular army. After a hazardous campaign with the Creek Indians, the most powerful of the British allies, he subdued them, and effected, by a *coup d'état*, a victory to the republican cause. In November, 1814, he succeeded in taking Pensacola, for which he was highly commended; but he reached the summit of his reputation as a warrior by his defence of New Orleans in the next year. The following is an anecdote, given by an American writer (James Parton), of the general before the battle. It shows the manly character of the man.

"At half-past one o'clock, p.m., on the 23rd December, 1814, General Jackson was sitting in his office, in New Orleans, examining papers and documents. He had been suffering for several months from chronic diarrhœa, which had reduced him to a skeleton, and greatly diminished his strength. Almost any man but General Jackson would have found in his bodily condition a good excuse for resigning his commission, or going home. Not so with this fiery and indomitable chief. While he was engaged in reading, the sound of horses galloping was heard without, and the sentinel soon announced the arrival of three gentlemen, who had important intelligence to communicate.

"'Show them in,' said the general.

"They entered, stained with mud, and panting from their furious ride.

"'What news do you bring, gentlemen?' asked the general.

"'Important! highly important!' replied one of them. 'The British have arrived at Villerè's plantation, nine miles below the city, and are there encamped. Here is Major Villerè, who was captured by them; has escaped, and will now relate his story.'

"Major Villerè proceeded accordingly; and at the close of his narrative, the general brought down his clenched fist upon the table, exclaiming:

"'By the Eternal! they shall not sleep on our soil!'

"Then, with his usual thoughtful politeness, he invited his guests to take a glass of

wine, and sipped a little himself in compliment to them. He then turned to his aids, and quietly said:

"'Gentlemen, the British are below. We must fight them to night!'

"His preparations were instantly made, and in a few minutes the American troops were on the march—about two thousand in number. With this small force, aided by one little armed schooner in the river, Jackson had the audacity to attack the enemy that night, and dealt them a blow from which they did not recover, and which prepared the way for the astonishing victory of the 8th of January, 1815. It was that prompt resolution to strike the enemy as soon as he had landed which saved New Orleans, and made the victorious general President of the United States."

Not long after these events, Jackson was appointed commissioner to negotiate with Spain as to the transfer of Florida, on the settlement of which he was made the first governor of that province, but after holding this office for about a year, he resigned, and again entered the Tennessee Senate.

In 1824, General Jackson "ran" for the presidency with Messrs. Adams, Clay, and Crawford; the first named came in; but on the next election, in 1828, Jackson was successful. He was re-elected in 1832.

At the end of his office as chief magistrate, he retired to his seat, the Hermitage, near Nashville, where he closed a valuable life, June 8th, 1845, aged seventy-seven years. He was married, but left no children.

NEWLY-ISSUED OR INEDITED STAMPS.

The difficulties of journalism is a subject which has frequently been dilated on, but one on which, notwithstanding, the outside world of readers is still very much in the dark. Even we, in our circumscribed sphere, have obstacles to contend with, whereof our indulgent readers little dream. We have, for instance, to gather from fifty different sources the information concerning new issues which is retailed in this our monthly chronicle, and the non-arrival of the more important auxiliaries places us in an awkward position. It will not do to "draw on our imagination for facts;" could we do so we might present our friends with a long list of stamps which ought to be, but are not, and gladden their hearts with news of the suppression of issues whose sole characteristic is ugliness, in favour of charming and appropriate designs. Being debarred from this line of action, however, what better can we do than to take our readers into confidence and confess to them the predicament in which we are for the moment placed. That "next week" for which we expressed our longing last month has come and gone, but unfortunately has brought with it no such a plethora of news as we anticipated. Our usual correspondence has not arrived, and thus our present notice of novelties is likely to rival our last in baldness; and, to make matters worse, our engraver has disappointed us. At the moment of writing we have reason to fear that the illustrations of those new comers of which we have information will arrive too late for insertion. There is nothing for it, then, but to bow to the inevitable, and live in hope that the same concourse of adverse circumstances will not again occur.

Spain.—Considerably to our surprise we have received four new Spanish stamps, all bearing the head of Queen Isabella. They are of four values—25, 50, 100, 200 mil. The 25 m. is a simple reprint of the existing design in light blue. The 50 reis shows the same portrait as before, but enclosed in a somewhat different frame. The inscribed oval is broader, and the inscription, which is in Roman characters, is in white on a coloured ground. The angles are occupied with a kind of shell ornament, on which is displayed on the one side the figure 50, on the other the letter m. The colour is a rather deep mauve. The 100 mil. is perfectly identical in design with the late 12 cuartos, and is printed a clear brown. The 200 mil. which makes its appearance in deep green, resembles the 19 c., having a five-pointed star at the angles. All four stamps are printed on white paper and perforated. The question naturally occurs, in looking at these stamps, how comes it, if the very face of their late queen is so much an object of hatred to the Spaniards, as we have been given to understand, that

that face is chosen for the adornment of a set of new stamps? Perhaps the explanation must be sought in the fact, that everything in Spain is in a "provisional" state. New stamps are wanted, and the old plates are at hand whence to print a supply. With the prospect of the speedy in-coming of a new ruler with whom again must come new coins, new stamps, new everything, it is hardly worth while to go to the expense of preparing and putting in circulation new designs which, in all probability, would have only a circulation of two or three months at most. And this reminds us that the stamps above described will, in all probability, become very rare. The interregnum, of which they will be the representatives in our albums, is not likely to be of much longer duration, and with its cessation their currency will doubtless come to an end. We should advise our friends, then, to obtain these stamps early, and not to follow the rule by which some collectors of our acquaintance are guided, not to trouble about obtaining new emissions immediately on their appearance, on the ground that they must become commoner, and that there will be plenty of time after getting the old to look after the new.

Holland.—Long expected come at last, is our welcome to the new 1 cent stamp which made its appearance on the 1st of the new year accompanied by another stamp of the value of 2 cents or centimes. The design is neat and tasteful, and forms a decided contrast to the other stamps of the series. In the centre are the Netherland arms, a lion *rampant* grasping a dagger, on a shield surmounted by a crown; this is supported by cross branches which almost touch the crown on either side, and the whole is enclosed in a pearled circle: this portion of the design is on a white ground. The rectangle is filled with a ground of horizontal lines on which appears, above the circle, the word NEDERLAND; and below, the value; a scroll ornament occupies the corners; and an outer frame of a thick single line completes the picture. The lower of the two values is printed black, a colour which shows up the design very effectively; the higher is in pale buff. Both are on white unwatermarked paper and are perforated.

Cape of Good Hope.—A correspondent forwards us the following notice, extracted from the *Cape of Good Hope Government Gazette*, of Nov. 17, 1868.

GOVERNMENT NOTICE.—No. 356.—1868.

Colonial Office, Cape of Good Hope,
16 *November*, 1868.

His Excellency the Governor directs it to be notified for general information that he has sanctioned the conversion into Fourpenny postage stamps of a redundant stock of stamps of the value of Sixpence. This conversion has been effected by obliterating the words, "postage sixpence," at the foot of the stamp, and printing across the body the word, "Fourpence."

By command of His Excellency the Governor,

R. SOUTHEY,
Colonial Secretary.

We have just seen one of these changed stamps, and find that the new denomination is printed across the face in red letters.

Transvaal Republic.—We have received authentic information that four values are shortly to be issued for this state, and will give full particulars next month.

Ceylon.—We are assured by an amateur, whose information is generally of the best, that the penny stamp we described last month is beyond doubt a postal.

Corrientes.—The editor of *Le Timbrophile* has received at various times several copies of the Corrientes design printed in black on yellow paper, and is confident of their authenticity. His supposition is, that, like the old Prussian, this type has been re-issued. Have any of our readers met with this stamp?—we appeal more especially to those who are resident in the Argentine Republic.

United States.—We have received a copy of the Postmaster-General's report for the last year from a correspondent, who draws attention to the fact, that no mention is made of a new issue of postage stamps; and observes, it is by no means certain that the designs described last month in our columns will be adopted. In this connection, we deem it well to quote the statement made by *Le Timbrophile*, to the effect that the new emission which has been referred to is adjourned, the types presented by the American Bank-Note Company not having been accepted. Not one of them is well executed; and all who have seen them have united in the one opinion, that they ought to be rejected.

Ecuador.—M. Mahé having made inquiries

of the French consul at Guayaquil, with a view to determine the genuineness of the 2 rls. green and 12 rls. red, has been informed by this gentleman, in reply, that the only true Ecuador stamps in existence are the ½ rl. blue, 1 rl. yellow and green, and 4 rls. red.

Prince Edward Island.—A correspondent, in reply to an inquiry addressed to the postmaster of the island, has received information that a new stamp, value *fourpence*, was in preparation, and would be issued in a few weeks, but no mention was made of the colour or design.

France.—We copy the following piece of news from *Le Petit Journal*, the stamp referred to being in part postal.

"We have seen to-day in the *Abeille de Fontainebleau* the first application of the new adhesive journal stamp. It is about 3 centimetres (1¼ in.) in length by two in width, and of a lilac colour. The centre is occupied by the imperial arms placed in a frame; above appears timbre impérial, below the word journaux; at the right and left, the value—2 cent for the departmental journals, 5 cent for those of Paris. The stamp is placed in the text, which is printed over it."

CONCERNING REPRINTS.

(*Continued from p.* 2.)

Italy.—Under this title it will be well to comprehend the emissions of all the separate states in existence prior to the formation of the kingdom of Italy.

Sardinia.—The first series, we believe, has not been reprinted. Unused specimens are still rarer than obliterated. The former have certainly a somewhat fresh look about them, but this may be due to their having been carefully kept. The second and third series have been reprinted, at the request of the government, by the engraver. The reprints of the third series are very scarce, and unused copies are among the rarities of an album. The re-impressions of its predecessor are comparatively common, and the engraver has also worked the plates in fancy colours on cardboard; these latter impressions, in our opinion, have no value whatever.

Modena.—Opinions differ as to the value of the unused specimens which are so generally offered for sale. Dr. Magnus believes that whatever may be said, they are genuine. Mr. Pemberton, on the other hand, recommends that unused sets should be avoided as scrupulously as "the gentleman with the orthopædical shoe." There is certainly a probability of their being reprints, but again it should be remembered that the currency of the emission was suddenly cut short by the revolution, and that at the time there may have been a large stock of stamps in hand. It is, then, equally as probable that the unused sets which come over to this country may have formed part of this stock, and be therefore genuine originals. The fact that they are sold at a very low price is not conclusive proof of an inferior origin; though with most emissions it furnishes a strong ground for suspicion. The perforated sets of Sardinio-Italian stamps are, like the Modenese, offered at a price far below what might be supposed to be their value, as originals of a series which has been out of use for upwards of five years; yet, that they are originals, is certain; and the explanation of their cheapness is found in the fact, that they also were comprised in the surplus stock in hand at the date of suppression. On the whole, then, we should be inclined to place faith in the Modenese as originals.

Parma.—The first issue has not been reprinted. Of the second, we are not so certain, as it was not in use when the revolution took place; to defend the originality of the unused sets, we are driven, then, to fall back on the theory of "surplus stock." In support of this theory, we would observe that the second issue had currency from eight to twenty months at most. It was emitted in April, 1857, and suppressed some time in the following year. That the first stock of this series should not have been exhausted at the time when the succeeding type was emitted, is therefore not unlikely; and neither, again, is it at all improbable that the remnant—be it great or small—was kept in stock, and found in the post-office on the examination or removal of the papers. What tends to increase our belief in the originality of the specimens now on sale, is

the fact, that, to our certain knowledge, the two higher values (25 c. purple, and 40 c. blue) are becoming rarer: on our supposition, the original stock, which would have been less for these than for the lower denominations, is exhausted, or on the point of exhaustion. For the third series, and for the provisionals, there remains the like probability. Of the two, the third series is by far the more common; the higher values of the provisionals are now, like those of the second series, becoming scarce. Be it always understood, however, that we do not venture to affirm positively that the Parmesans have *not* been reprinted, we can only represent the probabilities, and must leave our readers to balance them.

Tuscany.—Properly speaking, there has been no reprint of the lion series, as the reprints in existence have been struck on white unwatermarked paper, whilst, as is well known, of the two editions of this *series*, the first was on bluish paper, watermarked with a large ducal crown (of which only a portion appeared on each stamp); the second, on white paper, watermarked with lines irregularly intermingled. The reprints above described should be avoided, as used originals are much preferable; but unused watermarked stamps may always be accepted. There is, however, one exception to this latter rule; a 2 soldi stamp has been fabricated from the die of one of the "crazias," printed in a thick but brilliant red, and on paper on which the original watermark has been counterfeited. By counterfeited, we mean in some way imitated on the surface of the paper. This stamp once seen cannot be forgotten, the colour is so peculiar, and has been put on so thickly as to render the design in parts indistinct.

Of the provisionals, there have been no reprints made, but unused originals of the lower values are by no means rare. The 3 lire, however, continues to be as fabulously valuable as ever. We have never but once in the course of our life seen an unused copy, and that was in the album of a friend who was resident at Leghorn at the time of the revolution. He had bought it with the intention to prepay a letter to England with it, but—happy accident!—ere the letter could be sent, the sovereign people had risen "in its millions," and suppressed at once the dynasty and its stamps, and our friend's 3 lire was relegated to his then newly-formed album.

Naples and Sicily.—The Neapolitans have certainly not been reprinted; the same is not equally certain of the Sicilian. Dr. Magnus gives us the following information concerning these latter:—

M. the Baron de L—— has affirmed to us that the printer of the Sicilian stamps having the plates in his hands, has reprinted from them. The position of the author of this assertion does not permit us to consider the question any longer doubtful. What we *can* state is, that the majority of the shades of the so-called reprints are found obliterated.

FURTHER PROOF FOR THE LARGE-FIGURE ARGENTINE.

It is now upwards of a year since the controversy respecting the genuineness of the large-figure Argentine was closed. Since then we have observed with some regret, that we stood almost, or entirely, alone in the philatelic world, as defenders of the authenticity of these stamps. The principal authorities have combined to condemn them as impostors, *timbres de fantaisie*, concocted reprints, and we know not what. Our own opinion has not, however, been subjected to any change, and to-day we are in possession of further proof of their genuine character.

The original discoverer of these stamps, Senor Arenales, has set himself resolutely to work from the first moment when they were called into question, to obtain evidence of their being true and valuable stamps; but a severe illness, which confined him to his bed for several months, coupled with his withdrawal from Buenos Ayres on account of the prevalence of cholera there, has retarded his progress in the accumulation of proof, so that it is only recently he has been able to obtain the required information from the Argentine audit office. This is comprised in the following documents, of which we give the translation in full, feeling persuaded that they will be read with interest.

Buenos Ayres, October 8th, 1868.

To his Excellency the Minister for Home Affairs,
Don Christóval Aguirre.

Honoured Sir,—The undersigned begs your worship to order a certificate to be sent to him from the general Audit-office on the following points:—

1st.—Whether there are in the archives of the Audit-office any postage stamps deposited; if so, how many, of what classes, of what issues, and of what value?

2nd.—How and why the aforesaid stamps are found deposited in the said archives?

3rd.—State whether there are in the archives of the Audit-office any books from which the general Audit-office of Parana has derived a branch revenue; of what classes and importance?

4th.—State any other information the Audit-office can give in reference to the postage stamps of the Argentine Confederation.

Being obliged to send to Europe these official statements, I beg your worship to order that after receiving the information, a copy should be handed over to me for the above purpose.

Yours most respectfully,
A. MZ. ALVAREZ DE ARENALES.

Buenos Ayres, Oct. 9, 1868.

Let the Audit-office give the information.

J. CORTINET.

Honoured Sir,—The audit-office forwards the required information as follows:—

1st.—There are in the archives of this general Audit-office three packets of postage-stamps of the Argentine Confederation. One packet contains 1,400 sheets of stamps of 5, 10, and 15 c. of two classes. The second contains 1,200 sheets of 5 c. small number; and the third, 1,150 sheets on medium size paper of 5 c. large number, all of which are now useless, being the issue of 1859; and for the better understanding of these classes, specimens are here attached—three stamps of 5, 10, and 15 centavos, large number, and on medium folios of 96 stamps each sheet.—[Here specimens of the three large-figure stamps are attached.]—Three stamps of 5, 10, and 15 centavos, number much smaller than the preceding ones, in folios of 216 each. [Here appear the three small-figure stamps.] It should be mentioned that there are a greater number of the first than of the second, except of those of 5 c.

2nd.—The three packets which I have mentioned were brought on the 13th of January, 1862, from Parana, together with all the other documents of the government of the Confederation, by three persons commissioned by the present national government, to bring them to Buenos Ayres, with all the records of that government, and they figured in the inventory of the papers collected in Parana, and entrusted to the ex-auditor, Mr. Pedro C. Pereyra, as belonging to the general Audit-office of Parana.

3rd.—The commissioners brought into this capital all the books which were in Parana, amongst which were found deposited in the record-office, various books referring to the stamps received and sent out. They indicate plainly the quantity of stamps that were issued; those that were sent to the different departments of the Confederation; those wanted by the Audit-office itself, and those which were not used and brought into this city.

The Audit-office has received other information from Mr. T. Romero, who was the chief officer of the Audit-office of Parana, from which it appears that it was more economical to print them off in folios, because they contained a larger number of stamps than the two medium sheets, which latter were put aside, temporarily. It is, however, beyond doubt that both classes were put into circulation by the government of the Confederation.

This is all the information this office can furnish.

FRANCISCO VIVAS.

Buenos Ayres, Oct. 9, 1868.

Let the information given by the Audit-office be sent to the interested party.

AGUIRRE.

The undersigned, chief clerk for foreign affairs of the Argentine Republic, certifies that the signature above, viz.: "Aguirre," is authentic, and deserves to be credited (believed), because it is the same used in all his public acts as Minister for the Home Affairs of the Argentine Republic.

PEDRO BELANSTEGUI.

Attached to this information is the certificate of the British consul as to the genuineness of the last signature, couched in the following terms:

I, FRANK PARISH, Her Britannic Majesty's Consul in this City of Buenos Ayres, do hereby certify unto whomsoever it may concern, that the signature of Pedro Belánstegui, affixed to the Document hereunto annexed, is of his own true and proper handwriting, and that he is the Chief Clerk of the Department for Foreign Affairs of the Argentine Republic. Also that the Seal affixed to his Signature is the Seal of the Ministry for Foreign Affairs of the Argentine Republic. In testimony whereof I have granted this Certificate.

Given under my hand and seal of office at the British Consulate, this Tenth day of October, One Thousand Eight Hundred and Sixty Eight.

FRANK PARISH.

The above documents bear upon their face the stamp of authenticity. If on some points they are not so clear as might be wished, their comparative obscurity must be attributed to the informant's ignorance of the value to philatelists of such details as he might easily have given.

The principal facts evidenced by these documents, are,

1. That the surplus stock of the large-figure series is preserved among the archives of the Argentine Audit-office.

2. That they were previously in the Audit-office at Parana.

3. That they were included in the inventory of paper and records taken by order of the government.

No specific answer has been returned to Senor Arenales' inquiry how many stamps remain in the hands of the office. There is only a general statement that there are more of the large than of the small-figure of the two higher values. This, by the incidental way in which it is given, seems to have been no more than a guess, and we should be inclined to question its accuracy. By Mr. Wood's analysis of the figures formerly given, it would seem that only a small number of large-figure stamps was printed;

we must, therefore, fall back on one of two alternatives: either the figures are capable of being so divided as to show a greater number of large-figure, or else a great many of the small-figure sheets have been withdrawn from the stock. This latter seems more probable; the so-called reprints of the small-figure, which are so common, may all have been derived from this fruitful source.

It is a pity that instead of merely stating the fact that the Parana books give details of the issue of the stamps, the details themselves were not given, as they appear to be fuller than those rendered by Col. Espejo.

There is one point in which the report above given appears to us to be inaccurate. It speaks of the large-figure as being on sheets of 96—or rather we should say pages; now those we saw were certainly on double sheets, with 96 on each page, and Don Supere speaks also of these double sheets bearing in all 192 stamps. Further, both sheets (those of 192 and those of 216) were of the same size, or we are greatly mistaken. We cannot, then, profess to explain the above statements, but we may remark, that the most important, Senor Romero's, is given second-hand. That Senor Romero should recollect that there *were* two kinds of stamps, and that there was a *reason* for substituting the second for the first is, however, worth noting.

There *was* an economy effected by the use of the small-figure stamps, but it consisted, not in printing 216 on a somewhat larger sheet, but in so arranging the designs, that 216 could be impressed on sheets of the same size as those which contained only 192 large-figure.

That there should be some disagreement between accounts emanating from various offices is not surprising; neither, moreover, is it discouraging, since, despite such differences, these accounts combine to prove the chief fact in dispute, viz.: that the 10 and 15 c., large-figure, were really prepared in 1858 for emission; in other words, that they are genuine originals. We trust, then, that our readers, and the philatelic world in general, will reconsider their opinion on them, supported, as they are, by bonâ fide and valuable proof.

POSTAGE-STAMP EMBLEMS.—I.

Tiara and Keys.—Roman States.

The value of an "observing eye" is nowhere better exemplified than in the study of stamps. To the casual examiner of a collection, there is nothing more in it than a brilliant array of colours; the boyish amateur, whose sole object is to fill a book, is a gainer in knowledge only to the extent of recognising the countries to which the stamps belong, and perhaps in being made aware that there are such places as the Virgin Islands and the Orange State; but he who values his possessions for what they teach, and not simply for their gay appearance, may make them subservient to the acquisition of lore, which, like the stamps themselves, shall be both useful and ornamental. There is one department of knowledge, appertaining perhaps more to the latter than to the former class, but yet by no means despicable, which, in connection with stamps, has certainly not been sufficiently worked, though our "coloured favourites" furnish an excellent stepping-stone for its study,—we refer to heraldry. It is not our purpose now to lead the way to the examination of the abstruse mysteries of what has been well denominated a science; we simply aim to lay before our readers such information as we possess as to the meaning of the heraldic devices with which many of our stamps are embellished, and leaving it open to them to pursue the study to such further extent as they may please.

We will this month endeavour to present some particulars concerning the tiara and keys displayed on the Papal labels. Before doing so, it may not be out of place to make a few remarks on heraldry in general.

That some distinctive emblem was often adopted among the Greeks in time of war, there seems but little room to doubt, as in Euripides' tragedy of *Phœniseæ* we read, that "Parthenopœus had, in the centre of his shield, the domestic sign—Atalanta killing the Ætolian boar." The expression, "domestic sign," is certainly curious, but most likely the crest was taken from some incident which had occurred in his family. Euripides

lived 442 B.C., but Homer, who flourished 500 years antecedent to this, speaks of sculptured shields, so we may reasonably conclude that these escutcheons bore some device. It was not till the tenth century that the use of armorial bearings became general, at which time they were very popular in Germany. From the seal of Richard I. bearing two lions on a shield, it seems to have assumed a more fixed character in that reign; but it reached its height during the first crusade, when, to quote Dryden:—

"At each trumpet was a banner bound,
Which, waving in the wind, display'd at large
Their master's coat of arms and knightly charge."

Under Edward I., we find that "all great commanders had adopted arms which were at that date really *coats*, the tinctures and charges of the banner and shield being applied to the surcoat or mantle which was worn over the armour; while the trappings of horses were decorated in a similar manner." * Camden, in his *Remains*, tells us that "the esteem in which crests were held in the reign of Edward III. may appear by his giving an eagle, which he himself had formerly borne for a crest, to William Montacute, Earl of Salisbury."

The custom of bearing arms, in course of time, spread beyond men of the sword, and was adopted by corporations and monasteries. "Persons of the middle class," writes Mr. Lower, "not entitled to coat-armour, invented certain arbitrary signs, called merchant's marks, and these often occur in the stonework and windows of old buildings, and upon tombs. Piers Plowman, who wrote in the reign of Henry III., speaks of "merchantes' markes ymedeled" in glass. Sometimes these marks were impaled with the paternal arms of aristocratic merchants, as in the case of John Halle, a wealthy wool-stapler of Salisbury, rendered immortal by the Rev. Edward Duke, in his *Prolusiones Historicæ*. The early printers and painters likewise adopted similar marks, which are to be seen on their respective works. A rude monogram seems to have been attempted, and it was generally accompanied with a cross, and occasionally a hint at the inventor's peculiar pursuit. The heralds objected to such marks being placed upon a shield; for, says the writer of Harl. manuscript 2252 (fol. 10), "Theys be none armys, for every man may take hym a marke, but not armys without a herawde or purcyvaunte;" and in *The duty and office of an Herald*, by F. Thynne, Lancaster Herald, 1605, the officer is directed "to prohibit merchants and others to put their names, marks, or devices, in escutcheons or shields, which belong to gentlemen bearing arms, and none others."

But space will not permit of our indulging further in these historical details; we will therefore proceed at once to the subject of our sketch—the tiara and keys. To commence with the former, we may premise that it took its origin from the turban worn by the Jewish priests when performing their holy offices. It was worn by the ancient Persians, and is found adorning the heads of the kings of Pontus, as represented on their coins—

"Of beaming sunny rays, a golden tiar
Circled their heads."

These ornaments were usually embellished with peacocks' feathers, and worn in the form of a tower.

Pope Damasius II. was the first crowned with the tiara, which was at that time a high round cap. This was in 1053. It was encompassed with a crown by John XIX. in 1276; a second coronet was added nineteen years later, by Boniface VIII.; and it assumed its present form of a triple crown about 1334, from Benedict XII. In its complete shape, it represents the persons of the Holy Trinity. The keys are of course those given to St. Peter by our Saviour, when he said, "I will give unto thee the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatsoever thou shalt bind on earth, shall be bound in heaven; and whatsoever thou shalt loose on earth, shall be loosed in heaven." Therefore, the confession of penitents is termed, in the Roman communion, the power of the keys. Milton beautifully expresses the idea of a heavenly key, in the lines,—

"Yet some there be, that by due steps aspire
To lay their just hands on that golden key
That opes the palace of eternity."

* *Curiosities of Heraldry*, by A. M. Lower.

The tiara is the emblem of the civil rank of the Pope, and the keys of his spiritual jurisdiction; for on his death his arms are represented with the tiara alone, minus the keys.

Keys were formerly much used among the Romans for purposes of divination, and even now many Italian young ladies, when retiring to rest, on the eve of St. Peter, place under their pillows some keys, and ask the Saint to tell them of their future husbands, singing something to this effect:—

"Gran Santo, pel tuo favore
Fa felice il mio amore
E pel tuo poter antico,
Fatemi veder l'amico."

A somewhat similar custom of obtaining omens through keys existed in Cornwall, the head-quarters of prognostications.

The Papal arms are displayed on an oval shield, surrounded by gold arabesque, and sometimes supported by golden leaves. On the field are emblazoned two keys in saltire, one *or*, the other *argent*; in chief a tiara surmounted by orb, *or*, adorned with precious stones. When the pontiff has belonged to one of the holy orders previous to his election, he often impales the arms of that order with those of the state, in addition to those of his own family. As examples of this we will give the arms of the present pope, and of his predecessor in the chair of St. Peter. Pius IX. is of the noble house of the Counts Mastai—Ferreti. His armorial bearings are—quarterly: 1st and 4th, *azure*, a lion rampant, *or*; 2nd and 3rd, *argent*, a chevron, *gules*. Those of Gregory XVI. are parted per pale; the dexter half, containing the arms of the Cappellari family, is parted per fesse *gules*, charged with three mullets (stars), *or*; the sinister of the shield bears a chalice *or*, on the top of which are two pigeons *argent*, in the act of drinking, facing each other, in chief a comet in splendour, *or*; for the order of Camaldolenses.

Envelopes, which we all use for our letters, were not invented till about forty years ago, when a stationer at Brighton, named Brewer, devised them as wrappers for packets of ladies' tiny note-paper. Then the ladies took them up for private notes only, for if sent by post the letters enclosed in them, as a "double," would be subjected to additional postage. Then M.P.'s and noble lords used them for their franks; and lastly, on the introduction of the penny postal system in 1840, they came all at once into general use.

REVIEWS OF POSTAL PUBLICATIONS.

M. Moens' Anglo-French Stamp Album. Translated by C. W. Viner, Esq., A.M., Ph.D. With Maps, upwards of 500 Illustrations, 77 representations of the Arms of the principal Countries of the World; together with a Money Table arranged by M. Berger-Levrault, and a description of all stamps known to this day. Brussels: J. B. Moens; Bath: Alfred Smith & Co.

The English edition of Moens' album is at length before the world, and we do not doubt it will be heartily welcomed by collectors. It is an old friend, with a somewhat altered face. The original work, with which most philatelists are acquainted, was considerably smaller, and the "designs" were lithographed. The new comer is entirely the work of the printer, and one of which, we do not hesitate to say, the printer may be proud. In the "get-up" of a book such as this, much closer attention is required, and even greater skill, than for the preparation of an ordinary publication composed entirely of letterpress. Every page has its own particular squares for the reception of stamps, and these squares must be exactly of a given size, and arranged in a special manner. And if the printer has reason to be proud of the result of his labour, the author has even greater reason for satisfaction. It is but repeating a worn-out truism, to say that no work can be altogether perfect; there are some minor faults even in this one, but the *toute-ensemble* of the album is most pleasing.

The number of stamps for which places are provided must be very great, as space is given for every important variety. Our readers, however, can better judge of the completeness of this album from the fact, that it contains 350 pages, all carefully allotted out to the various countries.

The collector will be greatly assisted by the descriptions which appear on the pages opposite to those on which the stamps are to be placed; and the engravings of the various types, which are given above the descriptions, will still further aid in the work of recognition.

As may be supposed, the various issues are most carefully classified, the author having no doubt given to this work his special attention; and we do not hesitate to say, that any collector who devotes himself intelligently to the work of filling up this book, cannot fail to acquire a profound and accurate knowledge of stamps.

The sole fault which we find is the inclusion of the Hamburg locals. We do not think the author was well advised in leaving spaces for these worthless stamps, and should decidedly recommend their omission from future editions. Purchasers of the present one must put up with this defect, and may perhaps be the more easily reconciled to it, as the spaces can be filled at such very slight expense.

We must not omit to point out the fact, that the fact of the translation from the French being made by Dr. Viner is in itself evidence of the most careful rendering of the French descriptions. M. Moens did well to secure the services of a gentleman who is at once a philatelist and a scholar; and it is greatly to be regretted that from the pressure of time, the author was unable to send to his translator for correction the proof of the English preface which is affixed to the work. This preface, from the general inaccuracy of its language, forms a slight blemish, and we understand M. Moens intends to reprint the sheet in which it is contained. We ourselves, however, hardly think the fault requires such expensive "correction."

To these remarks we have only to add, that the paper is of extremely good quality, and that the cover is ornamented with a very tasteful device. With everything in its favour, the new-comer cannot fail to win its way, and we doubt not the proof of its success will soon be forthcoming, in the shape of another edition.

POSTAL CHIT-CHAT.

A Cockney inquired at the General Post-Office the other day for a letter for "Enery Hogden." He was told there was none. "Look 'ere," he replied, a little angrily, "you've hexamined a hodd letter for my name. It don't commence with a haitch! It begins with a ho! Look hin the 'ole that's got the ho's!"

The Rajah of Sarawak.—A friend writes us as follows:—"Your correspondent is in error respecting the decease of the present Rajah of Sarawak, the nephew and successor of Rajah Brooke. He still lives. It is his brother, another nephew of the late Rajah, who died. This was communicated to the *Times* a few weeks back; and you will find reference made to the fact, if you look over a file of that paper.

Ocean Penny Postage.—The ocean penny postage scheme is again started, and Mr. Reverdy Johnson has expressed to Mr. Bayley, Mr. Hadfield, and other members of parliament, who memorialised him on the subject, his willingness to promote the object between the United States and Great Britain. There is, therefore, a probability of Elihu Burritt seeing his pet idea at least partly adopted.

The Pony Express.—In the American "Statutes at Large," dated March 2nd, 1861, the following passage occurs: "The postmaster-general is directed to run a pony express from New York to San Francisco, in ten days for eight months, and twelve days for 4 months; carrying for the government, free of charge, 5 lbs. of mail matter, with the privilege of issuing postage stamps, and charging the public one dollar per half-ounce letter, the contractors shall receive £20,000 per annum, and the contract expire July 1st, 1864."

A Remarkably Intelligent Animal.—A lady in London—rather an extensive radius—had a favourite poodle, which carried her letters from the postman to a couch in the lady's parlour. On one occasion, the mistress of this sensible little canine observed, no doubt greatly to her astonishment, that instead of the only letter arrived that morning being carried to her settee, the dog put it into the fire. Amazed, she rushed forward, and rescued the letter, although nearly half burnt; and, lo and behold, it was a dog-tax schedule. If any of our readers can produce a more sensible and discriminating animal than this, we shall be pleased to see it.

Meeting the Mail Tender.—Mr. Dickens, after describing his thoughts and adventures "aboard ship" from the United States, on nearing the Irish coast, goes on to say, "Then up came the half-dozen passengers who are going ashore at Queenstown, and up comes the mail-agent in charge of the bags, and up come the men who are to carry the bags into the mail tender that will come off for them out of the harbour; lamps and lanterns gleam here and there about the decks, and impeding bulks are knocked away with handspikes, and the port-side bulwark, barren but a moment ago, bursts into a crop of heads of seamen, stewards, and engineers. The light begins to be gained upon, begins to be alongside, begins to be left astern. More rockets (some having been fired previously), and between us and the land steams beautifully the Inman steam-ship, City of Paris, for New York, outward bound. We observe with complacency that the wind is dead against her (it being *with* us), and that she rolls and pitches (the sickest passenger on board is the most delighted by this circumstance). Time rushes by as we rush on, and now we see the light in Queenstown harbour, and now the lights of the mail tender coming out to us. What vagaries the mail tender performs on the way, in every point of the compass, especially in those where she has no business; and why she performs them, heaven only knows! At length she is seen plunging within a cable's length of our port broadside, and is being roared at through our speaking trumpets to do this thing, and not to do that, and to stand by the other, as if she were a very demented tender indeed. Then, we slackening amidst a deafening roar of steam, this much-abused tender is made fast to us by hawsers, and the men in readiness carry the bags aboard, and return for more, bending under

their burdens, and looking just like the pasteboard figures of the miller and his men in the theatre of our boyhood, and comporting themselves almost as unsteadily. All the while the unfortunate tender plunges high and low, and is roared at. Then the Queenstown passengers are put on board of her, with infinite plunging and roaring, and the tender gets heaved up on the sea to that surprising extent, that she looks within an ace of washing aboard of us high and dry. Roared at with contumely to the last, this wretched tender is at length let go, with a final plunge of great ignominy, and falls spinning into our wake."

CORRESPONDENCE.

THE FLAP ORNAMENT OF THE INDIAN ENVELOPE.

To the Editor of "The Stamp-Collector's Magazine."

Dear Sir,—In vol v. of *The Stamp-Collector's Magazine*, p. 182, I observe, under the head of envelopes, "India, flap ornament, *elephant* and palm tree." I do not recollect seeing this ornament; that now in use is a *lion and palm tree*.

But my chief object in addressing you is to inquire whether you have ever seen a *red half-anna stamp* with the design of the *lion and palm tree?* One has just been shown me; it is an *unused* specimen, and therefore it does not afford evidence of the stamp having been in circulation. I cannot find it mentioned in any catalogue.

Yours faithfully,

Madras. F. H. H.

A ONE CENT U. S. WHITE NEWSPAPER WRAPPER.

To the Editor of "The Stamp-Collector's Magazine."

Dear Sir,—It is a fact not generally known to European collectors, that we possess, among other newspaper wrapper and envelope stamps, a one cent specimen on *white* paper. I have had a cut copy in my collection for a number of years, and many persons who have examined it have pronounced it either a dissected four cent (3 and 1) envelope on white paper, or the one cent envelope buff changed to white by application of acids. I take pleasure in handing you an entire wrapper, showing it to be a veritable stamp, embossed on white watermarked (U.S.P.O D.) paper. I also beg to hand you a similar stamp on a buff wrapper. The one cent stamp before mentioned, has been usually printed on an envelope, and this gave rise to the idea that there were no wrappers of that denomination, until a buff one recently appeared.

Very truly yours,

New York. WILLARD K. FREEMAN.

BRITISH POSTMARKS.

To the Editor of "The Stamp-Collector's Magazine."

Sir,—Having paid some attention lately to British postmarks, I find some curious anomalies, which I should like either you or some of your correspondents to clear up. I always had the idea that the English and Welsh towns were numbered alphabetically at first—now I find Pontypridd, 163; Carlisle, 165; Newcastle-on-Tyne, 545; Stoke-on-Trent, 547. This does not look much like an alphabetical arrangement. Again, I always thought that a letter preceding a number was peculiar to the British colonies.—A for Malta, Gibraltar, and some of the West Indies, British Guiana, &c.; B I used to think was the distinguishing mark for Hong Kong, Mauritius, &c.; D, Straits Settlements. Now I find the English town Saltburn-by-the-Sea, B 94; Blackhill, county of Durham, D 20; Fence Houses, 092.

All this is very puzzling to me, but I have no doubt but there are persons who could give some explanation, and a good deal of information on British and colonial postmarks, if they would only take the trouble to do so.

Yours respectfully,

Alston, Cumberland. WM. VIPOND.

LALLIER'S STAMP ALBUM.

To the Editor of "The Stamp-Collector's Magazine."

Dear Sir,—As I hear Lallier intends to make a permanent stamp album, allow me to offer a few suggestions for the improvement of his last editions. I think myself there ought to be another page for the Mulready envelopes and covers issued in 1840. In Lallier's fifth edition, which I possess, there is only one page, at the beginning of the book, for a black and blue envelope, the covers being entirely left out. In the pages prepared for the United States, the West Indian Isles, and New Granada, there is hardly any room for future emissions, and the West Indian pages are so cramped, that in a few months it will not be possible to place a pencil between the stamps. In the 5th and 6th editions of the album, the description of the stamps for Saxony has been put "cart before the horse," as the old saying is. Perhaps some of the readers of your valuable magazine may have noticed this fact.

I am, yours truly,

Saxmundham, Suffolk. F. E. CAVELL.

ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS.

A Postage Stamp.—The imperforate 2-para Servian was issued several months back.

K. S. N.—The stamp about which you inquire, inscribed cem reis is the current 100 reis Brazilian.

B. H., Braintree.—We are rather surprised that an amateur of your experience did not at once recognise in the stamp you describe the English 1½d. essay.

R. P. K., Leicester.—Your stamp is one of the series issued for use in the foreign branches of the Austrian post-office.

J. A. M., Gainsborough.—The design you describe is that of one of a series of Austrian commercial stamps, which, under this title, is described at p. 29 of our vol. for 1867.

Iota confirms "Theta's" statement, that no two of the Nevis sixpennies are alike, and says, that the same peculiarity characterises the 1d. and 1s. We can add our confirmation on this point. There are twelve varieties, that being the number of stamps on a sheet.

Master C. inquires if the Indian stamps with service printed across are different from those which do not bear the word?—Upon a superficial view of the matter, we should be inclined to say—Yes.

Marcus, Winchester.—The lilac-tinted 20 c. Italian forms a distinct shade.—We collect two shades of the 2 skill. Norway (arms, single figure), but in this we follow our individual predilection.

H. L. G.—If you wish to collect in a "prepared" album, we do not think you could do better than procure a copy of Moens' new Anglo-French Album, which may be had for a few shillings on application to our publishers.

Adolescens.—We have not had positive information of the withdrawal of the 3 centesimi Roman, but we should be inclined to think that it has been suppressed.—The 18 c. Hong Kong, which we had long believed to have been suppressed, we were surprised to receive very recently a copy on a Hong Kong letter. It may, however, be that this stamp had been long in the sender's possession.

OUR CONTEMPORARIES.

February 16, 1869.

Our readers have doubtless remarked the absence from the last three numbers of the magazine of the monthly *resumé* which we purposed giving under the above heading. The cause must principally be sought in the irregularity with which our contemporaries have arrived. Our continental friends do not appear to be impressed with the belief that "punctuality is the soul of business," and that the exercise of this virtue is more especially requisite in the publication of periodicals. *Le Timbrophile* is the most prominent sinner in this respect; its number for the 31st of December only reached us at the end of January. Will it, then, pardon us if we ask, whether it intends to descend from the rank of a "periodical" to that of an "occasional?" Is it about to follow the example of *Le Collectionneur*, which flits across the philatelic horizon at irregular intervals varying from three to six months? or does it consider that so long as its twelve numbers appear in the course of a year, its subscribers have no cause to complain? Even *Le Timbre-Poste*, which we have been accustomed to receive within a week or ten days from its nominal date, has, within the last two or three months, fallen into irregular habits, though in its case we believe the decadence has arisen from temporary and exceptional causes. Only our American contemporaries have been punctual, and their pages are, unfortunately, so much occupied with their personal squabbles, that there is not much left of their contents, whence to glean anything of interest for the unconcerned collector. Perhaps, however, with the new year our tardy friends will turn over a new leaf, and our disputatious contemporaries cease from quarrelling amongst themselves; for such an alteration in the state of things no one will be more grateful than we. And now—to business.

The Philatelist.—The number for December, though far from being uninteresting, contains nothing of an "extractable" nature. From Mr. Pemberton's letter therein, it would seem that progress is being slowly made towards the formation of a philatelic society. A correspondent in the January number writes lucidly upon the composition and advantages of the proposed society, and states that several friends of his have inquired of him respecting its scope. Still, the project is for all practical purposes *in nubibus;* it has not advanced beyond the region of suggestion, its warmest supporters appearing to hesitate from taking the decisive first step, and forming a nucleus. There is certainly a sufficient number of collectors in the metropolis alone to start the thing, and once on its feet, we cannot believe its success would be long uncertain. Its proposers are, it seems to us, indulging in chimerical ideas if they expect the society to spring, Minerva-like, into existence with a complete organization and branches in the country towns. It can only have a small beginning, and instead of seeking members here and there in the country, it would be far better if the London collectors were to combine at once. With a few good names at their head they would soon make way. At Paris the leading amateurs do practically form a kind of society; they are not associated together by any rules, or bound in any formal manner, but in point of fact they do meet each other more or less frequently, and though there may be no distinct work in existence, the result of their united efforts, the effect of their intercommunication is seen in the greater ardency with which philately is pursued, and, upon the whole, the greater substantial worth of their studies. Union is strength no less in this than in other matters, and from the certainty that the project of a philatelic society, if vigorously and ably carried out, will tend in every way to the advantage of collectors, we shall most heartily hail its execution.

In *The Philatelist* for January a cursory notice appears of an impression worthy to rank amongst the curiosities of an album. It is, in brief, "an envelope used by the Abyssinian field force. It consists of a common overland envelope, with two 4 anna Indian stamps in front, obliterated with four letters, A. F. F. P., and stamped behind with a round hand-stamp, reading ABYSSINIAN FIELD FORCE POST."

The January and February numbers of our Brighton contemporary are enriched with an elaborate and carefully-compiled reference list of the stamps of New South Wales, the work of Mr. Pemberton, assisted by Mr. Thos. F. Erskine, a gentleman whose name for the first time appears in philatelic pages. He does not, we believe, trace back his connection with stamps to the primitive Birchin Lane era, but he is a collector of by no means recent standing, and one whose connection with this reference list proves to be no superficial amateur. Of the exhaustiveness of this list, the fact that it comprises 317 varieties is sufficient evidence. Every shade of colour, every change in perforation, every variation in the quality of paper, is noted; and what is more, the dates of all, or nearly all, the varieties are given, so that upon collating their book with the list, collectors can see whether their specimens of any of the types are of the normal shade, or possess the distinguishing characteristics of any of the catalogued varieties, and the verification, owing to the excellent arrangement, can be accomplished in a very brief space of time. This list we need not fear to place in comparison with any production of amateurs on the other side of the channel.

Le Timbre-Poste.—In the December number the most noteworthy of the contents is a second article on the old Swiss stamps. The first portion of this article is devoted to the disproof of the very far-fetched idea of a correspondent, that the cantons of Vaud and Neufchatel may have *lent* their stamps to Geneva! Such an hypothesis is hardly worth a moment's consideration. The remainder of the article is taken up with extracts from other communications. With the first of these was sent to the editor an obliterated 5 c. *cantonal* Geneva, postmarked 5 *July*, 1845; the earliest postmark previously known is, as stated in the article which we translated, the 5th of *October* of the same year. This stamp was accompanied by a 5 rap. blue on white, obliterated 19 *November*, 1851—a value which, it has hitherto been supposed, was only emitted on the 1st of January, 1852. Another correspondent expresses his belief in the correctness of M. Moens' statement, that the *soi-disant* Vaud and Neufchatel stamps were really employed in Geneva, but queries whether they were used in any other cantons. "It is probable," he observes, "very probable, that they were not issued for Geneva only, still it is a fact which strikes me forcibly, that every one of these stamps comes to me exclusively from that town, whilst the cantons of Vaud and Neufchatel furnish me only with the 2½ rap. *post-locale* and *orts-post*, never with the 4 and 5 c. *post-locale*." He adds some other remarks, which we think it worth while to translate:—

For your guidance, neither the stamps nor the envelopes of Geneva have been reprinted. I have it from a good source, that the stones were broken after the suppression of the series.

The 15 *cents.* Rayon III. were destined, you say, for the French cantons; nevertheless, I have several letters addressed from Basle to Geneva in 1852, franked with these stamps, and Basle is a German canton.

Distinction ought to be made between two types of the 6 rap. of Zurich; in one, the hyphen which unites the words CANTONAL-TAXE touches the letters L and T; in the other, the space between the words is greater, and the hyphen does not touch. Further, there are Zurich stamps on ordinary paper, that is to say—without the rose lines. Enclosed is a copy of this variety, genuine beyond suspicion.

The most worthy feature of the January number is a carefully-written paper, by Dr. Magnus, on "Varieties of the first emission of Mauritius." He seeks in this to trace the position on the plate of the twelve separate impressions of which it is composed, and having a goodly number of these rare stamps under his eye, is able to carry out his intention. He further examines the details of the design, and in the course of his analysis gives an interesting explanation of the effects of use on the plate, which we regret space will not permit us to introduce here.

In the February number of our Belgian contemporary, Dr. Magnus again figures prominently, the continuation of his article on envelopes being the *pièce de resistance.* In the present instalment he treats of the Russian envelopes, and establishes the existence of two different types, distinguished from each other by slight varieties in the design, which are duly noted. He gives the date of the first type as 1845, of the second as 1864, and in further elucidation, the measurement of the envelopes on which they appear.

The most amusing article of all that we

have had the pleasure of reading in our contemporaries, is one which appears in this number from the pen of M. de Rives de Seine, entitled "The Letter Paper of the East Indies." It is very wrong to laugh at what must have been written in the most serious of moods, but—will our readers believe it?—a tirade against that much-abused creature, John Bull, extending through an entire *page*, is made the prelude to a *column* of description of certain palm-leaf letter-paper, made by the natives of Ceylon. Here is a "small taste" of M. de Seine's Anglo-phobism:—

> As to the civilization of those he [John Bull] annexes, he troubles himself very little about that. He gives them brandy as long as they can drink, to brutalise them, and make them support their oppressors; but he refuses them paper, in order that they may not have the notion of writing what they think. It is by brutalising that he civilizes, and of nations but lately brilliant he makes imbeciles, who wallow in the disgusting drunkenness of fanaticism, and curse their invaders when they are not massacred.

After remarking that people fall in admiration before a bit of paper bearing the head of the Queen and the word Ceylon, &c., &c., he continues:—

> Since the postage stamp, which there was such trouble in bringing into use amongst the most civilized people of the world, has been implanted where but a few years ago were naught but hideous savages, one would think that civilization had made indeed prodigious efforts. Alas! it is but an illusion. We see indeed a postage-stamp, but there is no paper, unless it be for the exclusive use of the invaders. It is found in the town where commercial relations exist. Were it not, indeed, the invader would be troubled to do his business. But beyond the walls there is nothing but savage barbarism, governed, administered, by *civilised* barbarism. Paper, which would appear to be one of the wants of the population, is not to be found, or but very little of it.

All this, and a great deal more, as preface to a description of some palm-leaf paper. We will not follow our Anglo-phobic friend into this field of discussion, but we cannot help being amused at the notion implied in his remarks, that it is the duty of the English government to send out missionaries among the natives of our colonies, armed with a box of pens in one hand, and a five-quire packet of note paper in the other. It is good to shut one's eyes and dream of a secretary of state for the colonial stationery department, or of the chief of the house of De La Rue leaving England to fulfil the important mission entrusted to him by the government, of diffusing a knowledge of the benefits of cream-laid among the Hottentots and the Cingalese. We must not linger longer over this extra-postal subject, but we cannot help asking M. de Rives de Seine to favour us, if he can, with statistics of the number of letters written (on ordinary paper) either in French, or in the melodious dialect of the isle, by the cultured natives of New Caledonia.

Le Timbrophile for December has nothing specially noticeable, except an article on Bolivian stamps, of which we make mention elsewhere. As, however, M. Mahé is generally very exact, he will permit us to point out a little error in the title of the article on the Confederate States locals. It reads, "The Provisional Postage-stamps of the Confederate States of *South* America." Of course a moment's perusal of the article was sufficient to show what stamps were meant, but when we first saw the title we were in hopes that it led the way to some entirely new discovery.

The January number contains a copy of Dr. Magnus' remarks in *Le Timbre-Poste*, *re* the Russian envelopes, and a short article on the "Signature on the Prussian envelopes." This is in reference to the microscopic word SCHILLING (the name of the engraver), which is found on the edge of the bust on the old Prussian series, and is sometimes followed, sometimes not, by a figure, 1, 2, or 3, as the case may be. The writer, M. Mahé, gives a list of all the varieties he can find, with or without the figure. Of these distinctions we can only say it is interesting to know that they exist, but no one would care, we should think, to collect the 28 stamps enumerated, merely to exemplify them. Following this comes an amusing little criticism on French post-office law, which requires that every letter, sealed or not, must be sent through the post. After hinting at the many ways whereby this law is of necessity evaded, the writer winds up with a suggestion to the post-master-general, that he should get a law passed to the effect, that "Any citizen who puts in his snuff-box a bit of paper to remind him of something, without first making it known to the post-office, shall be punished by a fine of 2000 francs, and three years imprisonment, for having cheated the adminis-

tration, in fraudulently sending [and receiving] a missive."

The continuation of Dr. Magnus' paper on locals, embracing this month the Bergen and Drontheim stamps, and a smart piece of poetry, conclude the number. The poem is sent by M. Lallier, who says of its author: "Louis Brochot is certainly one of the interesting personalities of the street. He is a true child of Paris, where he was born the 5th of September, 1815. He composed before 1848 a large number of popular songs, which are still known under the name of *Little Brochot's Chips*, and his editors, MM. Aubert and Stall, can witness to the extent of his popularity. He merits, like Beranger, the title of the *workman's poet*." The title of his contribution to our Parisian contemporary is, "*La Timbromaniographie,—chansonette*, more or less stamped, improvised (?) at a banquet of timbromaniographs (?) It is a well-written, sparkling bit of rhyme, despite its ungrammatical title, but with Sydney Smith's maxim in our mind, we will not venture on even a partial translation. Indeed, had we the will, the space is wanting; we have already exceeded our limits, and must, therefore, bring this article to a close, keeping over our American cousins until next month.

THE SOUTH AFRICAN REPUBLIC, AND ITS NEW STAMPS.

Poor Richard's sayings are, no doubt, very piquant, but we must protest against the stand-still doctrine embodied in the lines:—

> "I never saw an oft-removed tree,
> Nor yet an oft-removed family,
> That throve so well as one that settled be."

"Home, sweet home," is a very delightful air, but we prefer it with "variations." If the founders of the Transvaal republic had been too much attached to their village steeples, it would not now have been our pleasure to chronicle an emission of postage stamps for that state.

We are indebted to the kindness of Fred. Jeppe, Esq., the Postmaster-General, for early information on the subject, which has enabled us to place before philatelists what is in store for them. The date assigned for the issue was New Year's day, but it seems doubtful if they were ready by that time. They are, or will be, of four values, viz.:—1d., 3d., 6d., and 1s. The design, which is rather intricate, we will endeavour to explain. The arms are emblazoned on an oval convex shield, which is divided across the centre by a horizontal silver band, termed a fesse *argent;* the upper half of the escutcheon is subdivided perpendicularly, the right side bearing a gold lion sejant on a red field; and the left, on a blue ground, a Boer habited in shooting costume, and with gun in right hand. In the base or lower portion of the shield is a waggon, with red wheels, on a green field. Over all, in the centre, is a small silver escutcheon, charged with an anchor. The crest is a black eagle, displayed with extended wings. The arms are supported on either side by three flags bearing the national colours arranged thus. At foot on a blue ribbon is the motto, ENDRAGT MAAKT MAGT (Union is Strength). The stamps will be issued in the four different colours of the republic: the penny, green; the threepenny, white; the sixpenny, blue; and the shilling, red. The postmaster informs us that there is some doubt as to whether the engravers will be able to get the whole of the above design into such a small compass, but we, for our part, think they will not find any difficulty in doing so. From a remark contained a short time since in the *Transvaal Argus*, we are led to believe that the production of the labels has been entrusted to a house in Prussia, but cannot vouch for the correctness of this.

Green.		
Blue.	White.	Red.

The history of the South African Republic is a short one, and the earlier portion is, in a great measure, bound up with that of Natal. About twenty years ago, a company of Dutch emigrants, "trekking" from district to district, obtained farms, and plodding on, soon raised the jealousy of the natives with whom they had numerous skirmishes. The Boers, as the farmers are called, were under the leadership of Andries Pretorius, who was styled commandant-general. Their greatest battle was with a chief—Dingaan, on the 16th of December, 1838, which

resulted in a victory to the Dutch. Soon after this, various petty disagreements cropped up with the British, which resulted in the greater portion of the Boers travelling over the Drachenberg mountains and settling upon the land now known as the Orange Free State, which "sovereignty," although acknowledging Her Majesty as Queen, has its own laws and ruler. Some of the farmers not relishing the idea of subjection to England in any form, made another move; this time going much farther up and crossing the Vaal river, where they founded a colony of their own. This, of course, took time to accomplish, as having to fight against the natives for every foot of the soil, they had hard work in making their way; but then we know there are few things that by perseverance man cannot attain to. Rome was not built in a day! Pretorius having died, his son and adjutant, Marthinus Wessels Pretorius, succeeded in 1854 to his father's post of commandant. The following year he was kept actively employed in suppressing the outrages of the Kaffir chief Makopan, who had behaved most brutally in murdering several women and children. With the aid of six hundred extemporised troops, the "Makopaners" were entirely defeated and placed in subjection.

In an amusing and interesting sketch * by a writer well versed in all Transvaal affairs, we are told that "In 1856 a 'constitution' was formed, and Mr. W. Pretorius took the oath as President of the South African Republic; a 'Grond Wet,' or general law, was made, which provided for a 'Volksraad,' or House of Representatives, and an Executive Council (at which the President sits). The President and the Executive Council are answerable to the Volksraad, and the Volksraad in turn to the people. All laws passed by the 'Raad' must be advertised three months before coming into force, in order to give the public an opportunity of accepting or 'agitating' against the same." The title given to the President is "His Honour." His salary (exclusive of travelling expenses) is £800 a year.

* *To Ophir Direct; or, the South African Gold Fields.* By "Bamang-Wato." London: E. Stanford, Charing Cross.

The area of the country is something like that which was given in old stamp albums to the Confederate States; in other words, undefined—very much so. It may be given as something between a hundred or a hundred and fifty thousand square miles; for even lately they have annexed—on the maps—a large tract of land to the north-west belonging to various chiefs, the most important of whom is Matjin. Their southern boundary is the Vaal river and the Orange Free State; on the east they are bounded by the Zulu territory; while on the west, an undefined line separates it from the land of the Betjuana tribes. Great prominence has been accorded to this rising republic during the last few years from the discovery of gold and diamonds. Many emigrants have gone out to the *El Dorado*, and from recent accounts they appear to find their settlements the very reverse of that Eden whereat Mr. Mark Tapley made himself happy under such adverse circumstances.

Pretoria is the capital and seat of government, but Potchefstroom is the most important town. Each district is under the supervision of Landdrosts, or magistrates, under whom are veldt-cornets and sheriffs. Although the Transvaal is not a Utopia in the matter of peace it has only twice been disturbed by civil commotions. In time of war each burgher is bound to contribute either in money or kind to the support of the campaign; they prefer however to supply the latter commodity. The climate is very delightful, and it is stated to be highly renovating to individuals affected with disease of the lungs. It is a large sheep-producing country, and a capital place for sportsmen desirous of "potting" a lion or sharing in an ostrich expedition. Elephants are plentiful on the land of the chief Masela, but he, having a great idea of the *meum* and *teum* principle has closed his establishment against all comers. Sugar, coffee, tobacco, and corn are largely grown, which, with tanned skins, ivory, wool, &c., form the staple exports of the country.

There are many things described by historians, especially those of a new and little-known country, that must be taken *cum grano salis;* among them may be classed the

statements that have appeared at various times, both in our own and the Natal newspapers, respecting the supposed traffic in slaves at the Transvaal. Some of the facts (?) given might be worked up into a capital drama, of the blood-and-thunder style, for the edification of the gallery at the Theatre Royal, Whitechapel. But as regards the truthfulness of the matters dilated upon, we fear but little praise can be given to the authors for their veracity on the subject of republican "nigger-driving." We will not for a moment do these gentlemen the injustice to suppose that they had any intention of "economising the truth!" Oh, dear, no! We would merely recommend to them, as an interesting and instructive study, that fable of the mole-hill, which by degrees was increased to a mountain. One or two cases, no doubt, have occurred of cruelty practised by the Boers against the natives, but they have been greatly exaggerated. Such instances were, of course, perfect godsends to the penny-a-liners, and to those individuals who had a taste for "holding forth" on the "frightful depravity of the Dutch farmer." Here is, indeed, a splendid field for anti-everything agitators to bestow their energies upon.

We have no connection whatever with the Republic ourselves, but we candidly believe that those slave sales that *have* taken place have been without either the sanction or knowledge of the government. If we are wrong, we regret that any civilised state should allow this inhuman traffic to exist within its boundary. The subject is now before the House of Commons, so we may trust it will be thoroughly investigated.

THE BOLIVIAN STAMPS.

We published in our January number a letter from an American correspondent, Mr. Bancroft, giving a list of the stamps comprising the first Bolivian series, with their respective dates of emission. We inserted this letter under reserve, noticing that the catalogue given included some stamps whose existence is not well-authenticated; or, it would be more correct to say, we inserted it without any comment of our own, feeling doubtful of its correctness. Its appearance has been the subject of observation in our continental contemporaries, who combine in questioning its accuracy; and in the hope of gleaning further information upon a question as yet by no means fully elucidated, we deem it well to give the gist of their remarks.

And first, *Le Timbrophile* observes: "In an article lately published, M. Albis gave details concerning the stamps of the first two series. The information which he had obtained emanated not from a Philadelphic amateur, but from the most official of sources; and it was with stamps in hand that he prepared his list. As may be seen, he places a note of interrogation before the stamp of 15 and 20 centavos, and those of 1 peso, for honesty's sake." [This list we give lower down.]

"We differ from the note published by *The Stamp-Collector's Magazine*, first, upon the date; and further, because it does not include the 100 centavos green, which we have before our eyes, and which we can produce if required. All the stamps of these two first emissions are engraved in intaglio (*en creux*). We have never seen the 15 and 20 c. of *The Stamp-Collector's Magazine*, but we have had the opportunity of studying the two 1 peso stamps which it patronises [?]. These two stamps are engraved in relief, and printed *typographically;* they are upon a cottonish, machine-made paper, very unlike that employed for all the genuine stamps which we have seen; lastly, the value is expressed by 1 *peso*, instead of by 100 *centavos*, as it appears on the three true emissions of this value.

"Are not these differences striking? See how rumours fly about! Some one hears that Bolivia has a stamp, value 5 francs; it has never been seen, but that matters little, the imitator is not stopped by such a trifle. He takes some stamps of the country, and makes an imitation; and as the stamps of that value already in existence generally bear the words UN PESO, he puts it as 1 PESO. Yes, but the true stamps are known from the fact, that they were sent over by a person who has the best opportunities for obtaining a complete collection; and among those which have been received, the stamps of 15 and 20 c., and 1 *peso*, are *not* found; and further,

those which are *worth* 1 peso are marked 100 *centavos*, just as those of 5 pesos are marked 500 *centavos*. Another time, *Messieurs les inventeurs*, try to get a sight of the stamps before you counterfeit them."

Le Timbre-Poste says:—"Our special information upon these stamps is far from being in accord with the details given by Mr. Bancroft. He pretends that the 5 c. green and the 5 c. lilac were issued the same day. *Our* correspondent at Cobija affirms, that in consequence of counterfeits having been circulated, the one replaced the other in one department of the Republic. Every one will agree that it is hardly possible to counterfeit a stamp on the day of its appearance, and to meet the imitation the same day, by printing the true stamp in lilac.

"On the 21st December, 1867 (observe the date), our correspondent wrote us that there were in existence but three stamps: 5 cent green, 50 cent yellow, 100 cent blue; that a 10 cent was earnestly demanded by the public, but that that value, though more useful than the 50 or 100 c., had not yet been emitted. According to M. Bancroft, all the values were emitted by the 1st June, 1867; and his list is also inexact, in affirming the authenticity of the 15 c. blue and green, and 1 peso true and blue.

"As for M. Bancroft himself, may he not be in correspondence with the Boston imposters, and his letter possibly nothing more than an attempt to pass off their wares, and give them the seal of authenticity? We think so, but if mistaken, shall be ready to make the *amende honorable*."

In reply to this last query, we can only say that Mr. Bancroft is not personally known to us, and his information must be judged of by its intrinsic worth. The doubtful stamps we have ourselves never seen, with the exception of the 1 peso red and blue; the blue had a genuine appearance; the red, quite the reverse. The 15 centavos we have only seen a tracing of; and for our own part, without further evidence of its genuineness, should be inclined to relegate it to the category of "mythicals," equally with the 20 c.

It is worth while, as we are upon this subject, to note the fact, that there *does* exist at Boston a set of impostors, who conspire to palm off on collectors stamps of their own invention and fabrication. We are already in possession of some details of their *modus operandi;* and we can assure these gentlemen, we shall continue our inquiries; and, further, should circumstances render it necessary, shall not hesitate to make public the information we may acquire, with the names of the defaulters. This to all whom it may concern.

The following is a translation of the article by M. Albis, to which *Le Timbrophile* refers, and which was published in that journal:—

The decree of the Bolivian government for the emission of postage stamps, and of stamps for contracts or notarial acts, is dated the 12th March, 1867, but it was not put in force until the month of July. The engraver, who made the "eagle" stamps, is of Spanish origin; he had great trouble to obtain passable plates—several, indeed, were rejected immediately after their preparation. All the stamps of the same sheet differ in the drawing of the eagle, like those of New Caledonia. The sheet of 5 centavos contains 72 impressions. Here is a pretty complete list of these stamps:—

5 centavos dark green, pale green, and apple or yellow-green.
5 ,, violet.
10 ,, sepia. This, as far as the engraving goes, is the most unsuccessful.
15 ,, blue and green (anotados), for registered letters (?).
20 ,, red (?).
50 ,, yellow, and orange-yellow.
50 ,, light blue.
100 ,, dark blue.
100 ,, green.
1 peso red (?).
1 ,, blue (?).

The first obliterations were made with pen and ink, then with a hand-stamp, indicating, in large capitals, the town where the letter was posted. Thus we have copies dated from SUCRE, the chief town of the republic, in long, very thick letters, covering half the stamp, with black and oily ink. This mode of obliteration is also in use in the town of Cuzco, in Peru. The postmarks are at present made with an ordinary round stamp, showing the town, the date, and the country.

WHAT IS THE POST-OFFICE COMING TO?—The post-office officials have been charged with the duties of a Savings' Bank, a Telegraph Company, and the Excise Office; and not long since, a little girl, entering the post-office of a fashionable town, deposited on the counter a piece of card-board two inches by one inch in size, and exclaimed, "I want this backed for three months." The clerk on duty saw the error which the child had made, and directing her to a pawnshop not far distant, laughingly said to those who witnessed the mistake, "We haven't come to that yet."

NEWLY-ISSUED OR INEDITED STAMPS.

We have this month to make amends for the shortcomings of our last number, as well as to introduce the new arrivals. Giving seniority the preference, we will take first those stamps which have already been noticed, commencing with

Newfoundland.—We gave a full description of the new one-cent stamp in January, and we now supplement this with an engraving of the type. It is a fair representation of the design, but to fully appreciate its delicacy, our readers must refer to the originals; and as these are fortunately so cheap, they can easily adorn their albums with what we can but style a *chef-d'œuvre*.



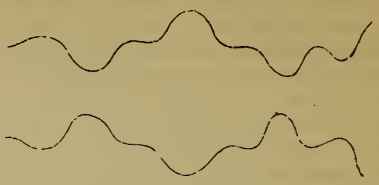
Holland.—Were it not for the sake of future reference, at a time when the numbers for the present year shall have been bound, and the little sheet of advertisements which faces this page shall have disappeared, it would be hardly worth while to insert an engraving of the new type, our publishers having forestalled us, by giving a specimen of the original with the last number, whence our readers will get the best possible idea of the design.



Russia.—The annexed engraving will evidence the sort of envelope design, in favour of which the Russians have superseded the fine device so long in vogue. It is neat, and Germanesque, and will, no doubt, as the imperial authorities are not fond of change, remain current for many years. A 20 kop. blue and 30 kop. rose have, it appears, been emitted, in addition to the 10 kop. brown which we have already chronicled.



The adhesive stamps are now watermarked with undulating lines, forming a primitive sort of device, of which our engraving is a



reduced copy. The 1 kop. yellow, and 5 kop. lilac, are the only values as yet known to possess this addition, but no doubt the others are, or will shortly be, impressed on the new paper.

Spain.—Of the four new stamps described last month, three being mere reproductions of a former type, the remaining fourth is the only one of which it is necessary to give an illustration. The latter appears to have been the first of the series in point of time, M. Moens has seen a specimen postmarked 20 December, 1868; whilst, so far as can be known, the others only saw light on New-Year's day.



As showing a movement towards the abolition of the Queen's-head type, it is worth while to chronicle the emission of a new telegraph stamp—400 mil.,—showing for device the arms of Castile, Leon, Arragon, Navarre, and Granada, quartered on a shield, and surmounted by a *mural* (not a royal) crown. Something like this we shall probably see ere long on the postage stamps.

Ceylon.—We are now able to give an engraving of the type, which, under reserve, we described in our January number. Of its postal character there can now be no doubt, and we may expect from time to time to receive other of the values of the same design, until a complete series appears. To the details already given, we have only to add, that the paper is watermarked C C and crown.



Belgium.—The current 20 c. is now

printed in what our Brussels contemporary (who ought to know) describes as a pearl-grey blue—a light and delicate shade, presenting a marked contrast to the previous one. The last copies we have received of the 10 c. are also of a much deeper hue than those previously current; they are quite a blackish grey, and appear to be impressions from a retouched plate, all the details of the design coming out with unusual clearness.

Le Timbre-Poste gives a report of a probable change of series, the present minister, M. Jamar, being dissatisfied at the enormous expenses which have followed the purchase of the present die, which is supposed to be a representation of Leopold the first.

Our contemporary states that M. Jamar has already called the engravers to his aid, and gives the annexed types as the first results of the action he has taken. Which (if either) will be accepted is not known, but M. Moens avers that both contain faithful portraits of the reigning king. He gives his own suffrages to the first, as being the better executed of the two, and in this we are disposed to agree with him; the bell-shaped corner devices of the second being a decided disfigurement. He gives the further intelligence, that the present "arms" stamps will be suppressed, M. Jamar having "fallen in love" with a design which has been submitted to him, representing the Belgian lion *couchant* in the centre; and below, the value in large figures. The 6 and 8 centime stamps will be kept back for the new type, but, as M. Moens says with regard to this type, we must not give ourselves up to a false hope, as in Belgium things hasten slowly.





German Confederation.—A correspondent reminds us of an omission on our part (which we had intended to have corrected ere this) to chronicle certain peculiar envelopes, in use in the Confederation. It seems that there remained in the Berlin post-office a considerable surplus stock of the old "eagle" envelopes; and instead of following the example set by the Finnish post-office in a similar case, the Prussian authorities hit upon the rather novel idea of covering the old device with a new adhesive stamp. We first saw these metamorphosed envelopes mentioned some two or three months back, but hardly cared to describe them without first having ocular evidence of their existence. This we did not have until a comparatively recent date, when we became possessed of copies of both the 1 and 2 sgr. We find, then, that the stamp is so placed as entirely to cover the oval impression; and after the stamp had been thus affixed, a kind of ground-work design was struck in relief over it. This design consists of a tablet, with rounded corners, about $1\frac{1}{8}$ in. deep by 1 in. wide, having a narrow Greek border, and the whole space within occupied with minute repetitions of the words NORDDEUTSCHER POST BEZIRK. It is impressed in very slight relief (as may be supposed), and is coloured a faint pearl-grey. The hue of the adhesive stamp itself appears somewhat dimmed by being thus covered with another colour, but is by no means substantially changed. The effect of the whole is, when the stamp is squarely placed, to make it appear to be in the centre of a large rectangle.

The Prussian envelopes are not the only ones which have been thus treated. Of the Oldenburg also there appears to have been a superabundant stock, and these too have been "plastered." The correspondent referred to at the commencement of the paragraph sends us one of the 1 gr. of this state, covered by the new adhesive; but there is this difference: had one of the ordinary adhesives been stuck over the large oval, portions of it would still have been visible; so, to meet this difficulty, the stamps have been printed in the centre of large rectangles of paper, showing a margin of about the fifth of an inch all round, and these special impressions have been employed to hide the old design. These rectangles are all perforated, or rather, "pierced in line," like the ordinary adhesives; and in order to print them, the "forme" must have been entirely re-arranged, so as to leave four or

five times the ordinary margin between the rows of stamps. In other respects, the Oldenburg changelings are the same as the Prussian, the tablet being printed over the stamp, and colour the same. We will just add, for clearness' sake, that the new 1 gr. rect. is printed over the old 1 gr. oval (rose), and the new 2 gr. over the old—like upon like.

Cuba.—Undisturbed by change of government in the home country, or by rebellion in the colony itself, the postal authorities have made their usual annual change in their stamps. They have retained the design, but altered the colours, which now stand as follows:—

5	centimos	pink.
10	,,	light brown.
20	,,	orange.
40	,,	lilac.

The impression is, as before, on unwatermarked paper, and the stamps are perforated.

Turkey.—The new series for this empire is the same in design as the last, the colours only having been changed. We have as yet only seen the four lower values: 10 and 20 paras, and 1 and 2 piastres, whose colours are, respectively, lilac, very light green, orange, and bright red. We hope to be able to give further information next month.

South African [or Transvaal] Republic.—We would draw our readers' attention to the interesting details *re* the stamps of this republic given by one of our correspondents in another part of the present number.

Canada.—We have just received copies of the one cent printed in brilliant orange. No doubt this colour has been adopted in order better to distinguish it from the 3 cents, which it has hitherto too nearly approached.

North Germany.—M. Moens reports having seen a $\frac{1}{4}$ gr. coloured rose (like the 1 sgr.) in lieu of violet. He supposes, and no doubt correctly, that it is an *erreur d'impression*. A correspondent sends us a copy of the 1 sgr. *perforated*, not *pierced* as hitherto. This is an advance in the right direction.

Brazil.—The 10, 50, 80, and 100 reis stamps are now printed on paper of a slightly bluish tint, like the first 20 reis.

Newfoundland.—The 5 c. is now printed brownish black.

ON VARIETIES OF PERFORATION.

BY THETA.

Perforation, as applied to postage stamps for the purpose of separating them from each other, may be divided into two classes:

The first, which I will style imperfect (that is, not properly accomplished) perforation, comprises the so-called "pricked" and "serrated" methods, the ordinary and pointed roulettes, and the different varieties of serpentine denticulation.

The second or perfect mode applies to all those cases where the machine employed clears away the perforated matter, leaving the sheet *perforated*, in the common acceptation of the term, which the other does not.

It is with respect to the first class that the greater number of variations will have to be recorded, but of the second also there are several varieties, which I shall notice in their proper place.

Imperfect Perforation.

1.—*Pricked.*—This denticulation is found on all the earliest perforated issues of Antigua, Bahamas, Barbados, Ceylon, Grenada, Natal, St. Vincent, and Trinidad. In appearance, it is like a succession of incisions with the point of a pin, leaving, when the stamps are separated, a jagged edge to the margin, which generally presents a somewhat crimped look.

2.—*Serpentine.*—The serpentine perforation, in present use in Finland, and which was at first adopted for the La Guaira stamps, is very large and coarse in construction, and so imperfectly does it effect the purpose it was designed for, that it is extremely difficult to get a perfect specimen, as they are all more or less damaged by the act of separation.

The two varieties of this method, which occur on some of the Victoria sixpenny "postage stamp," are large and very small, respectively. They are also often found in combination, one with the other; as, for instance, large top and bottom, and small at the sides, or *vice versa*. The smaller variety is very finely executed, and gives an extremely neat appearance to the margin, as will be readily observed on examina-

tion of a perfect specimen. Few collectors, however, have such a copy to refer to, all these varieties being of great rarity. They *may* have been trials of perforation by the authorities in Victoria, but might be ascribed, with greater probability, I think, to the caprice of private individuals, which fact would in some way account for their extreme scarcity.

3.—*Double serpentine.*—This name is given to the scarce variety of the Portuguese stamps (doubtless trials of perforation by the government) which preceded the emission of the present set, perforated in the ordinary manner. It is evident, I think, that although the ovals are very neatly defined, such oval pieces were never intended to be removed altogether from the sheet, and therefore I have placed this variety in the first division of our subject. Moreover, since my former notice of the existence of the 120 reis *dark* blue thus perforated, I have met with single copies of the 10 and 20 reis, to which a like species of denticulation is attached.

4. — *Serrated.* — This variety occurs on some of the New Zealand stamps of the star watermarked and unwatermarked series, and is a very singular method, the margins of specimens so treated assuming almost a ragged look at times. The smallness of the dents, and their close contiguity to each other, gives a serrated or toothed appearance to the edge of the stamp, and hence the name by which it is generally known. The New Zealand, which show this species, are the rarest of all the issues of that colony, and among the most valuable of any varieties of perforation.

5.—*Roulette.*—Rouletted stamps may be further divided into six kinds.

In the first of these, the incisions are long, and the blades of the instrument by which the cuts were made having been undoubtedly very thin, as a consequence, stamps thus perforated are extremely difficult to distinguish from imperforate ones.

This species of roulette is found on all the New Zealand and Victorian thus treated, with the exception of the two-shilling Victoria, of which more hereafter. What has been said as to the character of the serpentine perforation of the sixpenny "postage stamp" Victoria, may, to my mind, be advanced with great probability and equal justice in the matter of the rouletting found on the New Zealand and Victorian stamps, viz., that it is to be looked upon as an invention made use of by private individuals or firms for their own convenience solely.

The second class of roulettes is very similar in appearance to the first, the slits, however, are invariably much shorter, as short even as those of the next class to be noticed; they are found on all the rouletted issues of South Australia.

The third class, namely, that which occurs on the Western Australian stamps, is easily distinguishable, since the incisions are always short, and—from the fact of their having been made by an instrument with thicker blades than that which inflicted the dents on the stamps referred to in the two last classes—very sharply defined. This sharpness of the dent is also observable in the fourth class, of which I only know one instance, viz., the two-shilling Victoria alluded to above, which, as to the size of the incisions, comes between the first and second classes.

The fifth division of rouletted stamps, sometimes styled "line" perforation, is, comparatively speaking, quite a modern invention. We meet with it on all the recent issues for Denmark, Hamburg, Mecklenburg-Strelitz, North German Confederation, Oldenburg, Prussia, Schleswig and Holstein,, Wurtemburg, &c.

As this mode is in present use in several of the above states, a description of its characteristics is perhaps hardly necessary; but for the benefit of the uninitiated, it will suffice for me to remark that it is merely a succession of very small slits, placed close together, and giving an extremely neat appearance to the edge of the stamps.

The sixth division is precisely similar, with the exception, that the sides of the dents are coloured of the same hue as the impression. This perforation is observable on all the latest issues for Thurn and Taxis, and Luxembourg.

The above is the last class of true roulettes that I have to describe; but there is yet another variety, which though partaking

somewhat of the character of roulette perforation, is entitled, in my mind, to an altogether separate description as a distinct method, viz. :—

6.—*Pointed perforation.*—In this species the slits are placed at acute angles to each other, so as to give, when the stamps are separated, a pointed appearance to the margin. It is found on only one issue of the La Guaira stamps (the most recent, I believe), and seems to be as much an unsuccessful introduction as the large serpentine method originally adopted by the same country.

Perfect Perforation.

This, the second part of our subject, is, as I have already explained, that method in which the machine employed clears away the perforated matter. Hitherto, this style of perforation has only been accomplished by circular dents, but great differences exist as to the size of the holes, and likewise as to the juxtaposition in which they stand to each other on the stamps of various countries. Such differences are capable of division, for purposes of study, into the four following classes :—

1.—The dents large, and close together.
2. „ „ wide apart.
3. „ small, and close together.
4. „ „ wide apart.

Before, however, proceeding to notice each of these classes, and the illustrations of them that our albums furnish us with, separately, I may as well observe that there are many varieties which are little better than hybrids between, say, a couple of the said divisions.

1.—*Holes large, and close together.*—One of the instances which we have of this class of denticulation is the first perforated French issue, which comprised the 1, 5, and 10 cents, pierced with *very* large holes, close together. They are extremely rare now, though I remember having seen the 10 c. very frequently in Birchin Lane, when, of course, in common with any other "variety," it was not appreciated at all. The above is the coarsest illustration that we have of this class; in all the modern adaptations of it, the dents are of a much more moderate size, although still a great deal larger than the perforation in general use. As examples, I may name the present issues for Austria, Baden, and Tasmania, the last emission but one of Wurtemburg, &c.

2.—*Holes large, and wide apart.*—Here we have but one solitary instance, namely, the first issue for Prince Edward Island; this variety is rather scarce now, I believe.

3.—*Holes small, and close together.*—This, which is the mode of perforation most commonly made use of above all others, is the one which was first introduced by, and is yet in use in, our own country, and which is now almost universally used over the whole globe. It is so generally known, that I need only remark further in connection with it, that there are innumerable variations as to the number of dents that go to the two centimetre guage, which it will be better for the amateur to find out, by comparison, for himself, as he will then be able to arrange his specimens according to a calculation based on his own observations.

The one penny brown English, on white and on blued paper, and the twopenny on white, watermarked with the *large* crown in present use, instead of the *small* crown found on the black penny and the ordinary penny brown, but perforated with smaller holes than those in present use, are excessively rare, almost, I might say, unattainable. I should advise all our friends who have any old correspondence by them (*i. e.*, dated between 1853 and 1856) to look out for these great rarities, which, although they occur obliterated, were doubtless trials of perforation, as they will be amply repaid for the trouble they may have taken in the search, should they be fortunate enough to secure an example.

4.—*Holes small, and wide apart.* — The perforation in question—for the utility of which I cannot say much, as it appears to me to be a very clumsy and absurd innovation upon the invariable neatness of the last method commented upon—has lately been introduced for the stamps of British Guiana, which I believe is the only instance we possess at present.

Recently a curious combination of the imperfect and perfect methods has arrived from South Australia, in which rouletting appears down each side, and the circular

dents of class 3 at top and bottom. The one penny is the only value so treated that I have noticed hitherto; and I presume this mode has been already discontinued, as it and several of the other values have now the denticulation of the top and bottom continued all round.

The best way to study varieties of perfect perforation is undoubtedly by application of a guage to the perforated margin of the stamp, as practised by the French collectors. The uniform measure which they apply indiscriminately to either of the four varieties classified by myself is two centimetres, which is nearly equivalent (not quite, I believe) to 14 dents of the present English perforation.

The space comprised by these 14 dents, however, will be near enough for all ordinary purposes; indeed, I have hitherto adopted it without the slightest compunction in all cases, and any calculations that I may hereafter make, in connection with this subject, will be based on like data. My mode of procedure, and I find it very easy of attainment, is as follows: taking a perfect specimen of our own penny stamp, I lay it on its back, and in the centre of the first dent, on either of the *sides*, make a mark in ink, which I repeat in the middle of the fourteenth hole from it. The space between the two points I then apply to any class of perforation I may be studying, and classify the same according to the number of its dents, which are comprised by the gauge.

There are many instances, however, to be observed with reference to this system of gauging the number of dents, in which it will be seen that there are more holes included in the length of the measure at the top and bottom of the stamp than there are at the sides, or *vice versa*.

The present Egyptian, and the last issues for Belgium, show this combination of two different scales of denticulation, the former very manifestly to the naked eye even, and the latter immediately on application of the guage, although the difference between the number of dents on the ends and sides only amounts to half a one.

I must now draw this paper to a conclusion, trusting that I have accomplished my task to the satisfaction of those collectors who have been led to notice, though perhaps only in a moderate degree, the very evident alteration which perforation effects in the character of a postage stamp.

CONCERNING REPRINTS.

(*Continued from p.* 26.)

Italy.—*Sardinia.*—A very well-informed Parisian correspondent writes us, questioning the accuracy of our statement last month, that the third series had been reprinted. He says, "I have a new copy of the 40 c., and have seen the 20 c. new. I know of but two new copies *anywhere* of the 5 c. They both came from the Count de P.; one is in his collection, the other he sold to M. Herpin; and he assured me that the first and third series had never been reprinted. If they had he could have obtained copies, not only on account of his position as an Italian, but of his relationship to the imperial family here." We accept this correction the more readily, as our own idea was that this series had not been reprinted. In writing as we did we were under the impression that Dr. Magnus had stated positively that it had been, but on reference to his paper we found we had mis-read his remarks. His statement was to the effect that the two emissions were fabricated for the state by a private engraver, in whose hands the plates remained, and he by means of them issued essays, or rather fancy impressions on paper and on card. We were well aware that the second series had been reprinted; we have indeed had many copies of each value in our hands, and our recollection of them is, that though in shade they were different from those of the genuine, they were still passable reprints in the ordinary sense of the term. Of the third series we have never seen unused copies, and our statement that it had been reprinted was only the consequence of our misunderstanding of Dr. Magnus' (to say the least) ambiguous assertion.

Portugal.—The Donna Maria series was reprinted in 1864, and the reprints came over to England shortly after in large quantities. They were at one time very cheap,

but the lessening of the supply has considerably raised their value. Unused originals are almost priceless, collectors therefore should decidedly possess themselves of copies of the re-impressions, unless they can obtain decent obliterated specimens. The higher denominations have been reprinted with such a careful regard to colour that they cannot be distinguished from the originals, but collectors may be assured that they will not be offered the latter. The 5 reis differs considerably from the original in shade, being of a light instead of a red-brown, and shows also divers variations in the design, the result of a retouching of the plate. The 5 reis brown (curled hair) is the only one of the second series (Don Pedro) known to have been reprinted. This is far from common, but being printed in a very dark brown —almost black—it is easily distinguishable from the originals.

Prussia.—The first three issues and the "head" envelopes have been reprinted. The 1, 2, and 3 sgr. of first series are recognisable by the fact that they are on unwatermarked paper. The reprint of the 4 and 6 pf. cannot so easily be distinguished, as the originals exist on both watermarked and unwatermarked paper. The best test is the shade of colour; the reprint of the 6 pf. is paler than either of the originals; the reprint of the 4 pf. is darker.

The date of the reprint of the second, and also, we presume, of the third series, is fixed by Dr. Magnus, as 1866. The frame of the 1857 series had been re-made, hence some difference in this portion of the design, the word freimarke especially appearing in a kind of semi-relief; the head also looks smaller. Levrault catalogues the reprints both of this and the third series as *tirages de fantaisie* (fancy impressions), and gives the colour of the 1 sgr. of the second series as carmine.

The third series is chiefly distinguishable by the colours; the reprint 1 sgr. is a bright rose carmine; the 2, a thick blue; the 3, a yellow-orange.—If, as Dr. Magnus says, the *burelage* of which one of our contributors lately spoke were found on all the stamps of the emission, it would be easy to distinguish originals from reprints, but, in fact, this peculiarity is not possessed by all, and when it exists, as it is only a kind of light impression in relief, it disappears on wetting the paper and pressing it between sheets of blotting-paper.

For the envelopes, the following signs may be generally relied on, so far as they go: the whole set are reprinted without the silk threads; for the higher values, then (4 to 7 sgr.), this alone forms a sufficient distinction; the three lower denominations may be known by the blackness of the printed inscription which crosses the envelope, this inscription in the originals being of a greyish black. The reprints are coloured—1 sgr. bright rose, 2 sgr. ultramarine, 3 sgr. orange. This will be of further assistance in discriminating, but the collector must still rely to some extent on his judgment, as the size of the envelope being the same for both classes, and also the flap ornament, it is impossible to give such a distinction as shall utterly prevent mistakes.

THE CASHMERE STAMPS.–FURTHER NOTICE.

BY J. C. WILSON.

In reference to the communication from Major Cracroft on the Cashmere stamps, the Hindee dialects are all very similar, but the inscription on the upper part of the stamp is, as I have said before, in Kohistani, and was translated for me by a native of Kohistan.

From Major Cracroft's description, we are given to understand that the inscription, qulum ro sircar, is begun in one language, and the remainder of the sentence, jummoo wu kashmeer, finished in another. This is not so, as the Kohistani in the upper part of the rectangular reads: jumoon (neither Jummoo nor Jumnoo) cashmere, and the lower in Persian: qalamraw-i-sircar-i-jumoon wa kashmeer. Of course state and government signify the same thing.

The word wa, pronounced wu short, meaning "and," does not occur in the upper inscription. In translating the Persian inscription we must *understand* the preposition "i" (equivalent to our "of"), which is generally omitted in writing.

The Kohistani is a totally different character from the Persian.

The spelling I have given of the Persian is that used by the celebrated lexicographer, Dr. Wilkins.

To make the explanation plainer still, I have annexed two engravings, with the inscriptions as they run in both the circular and rectangular stamps.

Kohistani.



Persian inscription.

Kohistani.



Persian inscription.

The Kohistani inscription in the upper part of the circular stamp reads from left to right, as in English; the Persian from right to left, viz.: from 1 to 2. It is, however, reversed in the circular. In the rectangular the Persian reads from right to left, viz.: from 1 to 2, and is *not* reversed.

REVIEWS OF POSTAL PUBLICATIONS.

The Continental Philatelic Magazine. Amsterdam: C. Van Rinsum.

THE first number of Mr. Van Rinsum's publication is before us, but we trust the first is not the best. To be brief, it is too dry. Turning over its pages, one cannot but be struck with its catalogue appearance. There is no lack of information, though perhaps not much that is really new; but such as there is, whatever its value, is not worked up at all. The articles entitled "The Stamps of Mexico" and "The Stamps of East India" are simply lists of the emissions of the respective countries named; and lists, moreover, which, so far as we can see, contain no novelties. As, however, we see a reference made in the introduction to a forthcoming article from Mr. Pemberton's pen, we presume it is intended to make the contents of future numbers more interesting than the present, by the aid of that and similar contributions.

We heartily wish Mr. Van Rinsum success in his undertaking, which is certainly by no means a light one. Should any of our readers be desirous to become possessed of this new Anglo-continental work, they may obtain it from the English agents, Messrs. H. W. Taylor & Co., 139, London Road, Manchester.

The New England Journal of Philately. Boston: W. W. Learned & Co.

THIS new-comer is a strong reminder, in appearance, of the ephemeral publications of yore, though we sincerely trust that a long life may falsify those doubts of its permanency, to which its too modest exterior gives rise. At present it is decidedly wanting in "body," but as it grows older we hope it may grow bigger, and increase in usefulness. Such matter as it contains is readable; and in the style there is less of "buncombe" than usual, though the entire absence of that nondescript peculiarity is a thing not to be expected in an American publication.

POSTAL CHIT-CHAT.

FRENCH POSTAGE STAMPS.—The fabrication of French postage labels assumes larger proportions every year; during 1868, 500 millions were produced.

REDUCED RATES FOR OCEAN AND INLAND POSTAGE.—At the annual conference of the Associated Chambers of Commerce, held in London on the 23rd ult., a reduced ocean postage, and a reduction of inland postage, was advocated. It was agreed to memorialise the government for the adoption of a halfpenny rate for letters within urban districts, and the conference expressed an opinion that small parcels ought to be carried by post on the same regulations and terms as books.

"HARD LINES" FOR THE POSTMASTER.—As a specimen of the rough-and-ready, free-and-easy style of literature, commend us to the following in the correspondence column of a Queensland journal: "To the Editor of the——. Sir,—I wish you would speak to Captain——, when the steamer arrives with the mail to-morrow, not to give our postmaster any breakfast. Every time the steamer arrives in the morning, he goes on board, and stays there stuffing and gorging till his eyes nearly start out." For beauty of thought and elegance of diction, this last paragraph is without its equal—*Q. E. D.*

THE UNITED STATES POST-OFFICE AND THE TELEGRAPHS.—The proposition made in the American Congress, that the American government shall take possession of the telegraph lines, and manage them in connection with the post-office, or as a separate department, has been extensively discussed; but the burden of opinion is so decidedly against it, that the plan will probably be abandoned. Nearly all the press are in favour of letting the control of the telegraph rest where it now is, in private hands, for the

reasons, that the American government always fails when it goes outside of its legitimate task of governing, to indulge in business enterprises; and that the telegraph, if placed under governmental control, would soon become a mere political machine, devoted, not to transacting the business of the public, but to securing the ascendancy of party.

CORRESPONDENCE.

THE VALUE OF THE CUBAN *CENTIMO*.

To the Editor of "The Stamp-Collector's Magazine."

Dear Sir,—I see that M. Berger-Levrault, in his money table—both in his own catalogue and M. Moens' new stamp album—gives the value of the Cuban *centimo* thus: 100 *centimos* = 5 fr. 40 c., or about 4/4 English money. I have authentic information on this point, showing that he is in error. The Cuban currency is in *centimos* and *escudos*. 100 *centimos* = 1 *escudo*; 2 *escudos* = 1 dollar; and 1 dollar, 4/4: so that 100 *centimos* is equivalent only to 2/2, and not 4/4, as M. Berger-Levrault states.

I am, Sir, yours obediently,

Cheltenham. A. W. S.

GREEK HERALDRY.

To the Editor of "The Stamp-Collector's Magazine."

Dear Sir,—I perused with great pleasure the paper on "Postage-Stamp Emblems" in the February number of *The Stamp-Collector's Magazine;* and on looking over *Potter's Grecian Antiquities*, I found an interesting passage on "ensigns," which I think will throw a little light on the subject of Greek heraldry. Speaking of "ensigns," it says:—"Of these there were different sorts, several of which were adorned with images of animals, or other things, bearing peculiar relations to the cities they belonged to; the Athenians, for instance, bore an owl in their ensigns, as being sacred to Minerva; the Thebans, a sphinx, in memory of the famous monster overcome by Œdipus. The Persians paid divine honours to the sun, and therefore represented him in their ensigns."

Ferne, who is quoted in *Clark's Heraldry*, says:—"The first soveraigne that ever gave coate of arms to his soldiers was King Alexander the Great, who, after the manner of his auncestors, desirous to exalt, by some speciall meanes of honour, his stoutest captaines and soldiers above the rest, to provoke them to incounter their enimies with manly courage, and by the advice of Aristotle, he gives unto the most valiant of his armies certain signes or emblemes, to be painted upon their armours, banners, and pennons, as tokens for their service in his wars."

Very truly yours,

Cheam. JACOBUS.

ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS.

Nota Bene.—We find, ourselves, very marked contrasts of shade in all the Swiss series of 1855; we collect two of each value in exemplification.

A. R. W., Airdrie, N. B.—The shilling Natal is a comparatively recent issue, and unlike the other values, which continue to patronise their ancient design.

Martin B., Axminster.—The 50 soldi Austrian is by no means common, especially used.—The 1 and 2 para of Servia are the only two values which have appeared unperforated.

F. E. C., Saxmundham.—The question, whether Mulready envelopes and covers with and without advertisements should be considered as different varieties, is one which every collector must decide for himself.

J. R. B., Surrey.—As the contribution which you have been good enough to forward has no direct or indirect relation with stamps, we must decline it—with thanks.

Fiscal, Winchester, sends us a copy of an Italian bill-stamp, and wishes to know whether the head is the same as that on the postage-stamps. It is: the head forms one die, the frame another; the head, then, can be introduced into any frame which may be made for it.

Epsilon, London.—The Swiss stamp you describe was issued in 1850, and is one of the commonest of the obsolete "rayon" series, used specimens being worth about twopence.—The one-cent Dutch stamp given with our February number, is the lowest value current in that country.

K. C. L., Dewsbury.—*The Stamp-Collector's Magazine* was commenced in February, 1863, and has been published regularly every month since that date. Vols. i. and ii. are out of print, but those for 1865—8 may still be had of our publishers.

E. R. J., Truro.—You ask us to help you to select a good stamp album. This is a difficult matter, as tastes differ. Some collectors like a plain book, that they may arrange their stamps as they list; but others prefer a "prepared" album, such as Moens', Lallier's, or Stafford Smith's. We can only advise you to get full descriptions of each work, and judge for yourself which is best.

A British Postage Stamp, Liverpool.—1. To the best of our knowledge, there have *not* been any loose leaves published for the last edition of Lallier's album.—2. The Turkish stamps, so we have always understood, are only used for the payment of interior postage.—3. The *Ph.* collection, about which you inquire, is the property of a gentleman well known in philatelic circles, but who prefers to remain incog. The collection is, no doubt, the finest in existence, and its owner has done immeasurable good, by stealth, to the cause of timbrophily.

G. W. B., Manchester.—Of the stamps you send us for examination, all except Nos. 1, 8, 9, 22, and 23, are genuine. No. 22 is an imitation of the stamp provisionally used in Parma when the revolution took place in 1859. No. 26 (10 c. French Republic) appears to be an original, though the obliteration by square dots are rather against it.—The anchor cancellation on No. 27 is that used by the French post-office in Japan.—We *do* consider the shades exemplified by your Nos. 28-31, worth collecting.—We do not consider the somewhat brighter colour of the English fourpenny deserving of special notice.—Your No. 24 *is* the blue paper 1s. New Zealand.

N. W. M.—1.—The stamps affixed to the covers of the volumes of *The Stamp-Collector's Magazine* are all genuine, excepting those on vols. ii. and iii., which are neither more nor less than copies from engravings which have appeared in the magazine.—2. All the values of St. Helena and of St. Lucia are respectively printed from one and the same die.—3. We hope in the course of a couple of months to have the pleasure of reviewing the new edition of Dr. Gray's catalogue; the price, we believe, will remain the same.—4. As a collector of the "very moderate" French school, Moens' album would probably suit you best, unless you prefer the greater freedom of arrangement, which (in spite of the system of numbered spaces) is practically afforded by Stafford Smith's permanent album.—5. This question we have incidentally answered in the previous one.

OUR CONTEMPORARIES.

March 17, 1869.

We were unable to include the American journals in our notice last month; they therefore appropriately commence the present review.

The American Stamp Mercury. — Of this publication we have now four numbers before us. Through these runs the continuation of S. A. T.'s paper on "Our 'Local' Stamps," which is worth reading, though many of the statements must be taken *cum grano salis*. For instance, we are favoured, in the first number, with a history of the Westervelt post, and are informed that the proprietor's prospectus forms "a standing advertisement in the columns of the *Goshen Democrat*, embellished with engravings of his stamps." No doubt, but we should no more think of putting faith in a Westervelt stamp on the strength of such appearances, than we should think of investing in the great professor Holloway's pills because the *Little Pedlington Whig* contains a standing advertisement of those world-famous medicines. Of one thing we have little doubt in connection with these stamps, and that is, that an obliterated specimen would certainly be one of the greatest rarities in any collection.

No inconsiderable portion of this article is occupied with the gossiping recital of the history of the Essex post stamps, showing how the post was established and terminated; and how, years after its suppression, one New York dealer swindled another over the stamps, causing the production of forgeries, which are distinguished from the genuine by their bearing the letters sx below the ship, and by the ship itself having a pennon floating from the mast. The writer, from the manner in which he narrates these incidents, evidently "knows all about it;" and the whole matter shows up the honesty of American stamp dealers in a strong but unfavourable light.

The December number contains a paper on "The Stamps of the Confederate States," from the pen of our old correspondent, Mr. Chute, which, though not distinguished by much new matter, is interesting and readable. The *facts* in connection with the Confederate issues appear now to be pretty clearly established, and we cannot expect more from new writers than the discovery of minor details. On one or two points referred to in this article of Mr. Chute's, we are at issue with the writer; we refer to his remarks on the Nashville locals. He includes in his list a 3 cents light red; of this we never heard before, and we strongly doubt its existence as a genuine stamp. We find no mention of it in Levrault's catalogue, but, on the other hand, we do find it stated there that the grey 5 c. (the slate-blue and dark blue of Mr. Chute) is a counterfeit, and we ourselves have long understood that this stamp was an imitation.

In the February number we find the translation of Dr. Magnus's *brochure*, on "Watermarks and Papers," commenced. This is a sign of the times. We thought American collectors were not in favour of making those finer distinctions between stamps which are in favour on this side of the water, and lo, and behold! they have begun to study the writings of that philatelist, who, of all others, has done most to render the collection of varieties popular. It is no slight advance, and we trust it will be followed up by the collecting world generally in the northern continent.

As another step in the right direction, we are glad to observe, in the same number, an article entitled "Schools of Timbrophily," in which the establishment of an "American School" is advocated. There is a rather needless appeal to the patriotism of the writer's philatelic countrymen, couched in the following grandiloquent language:—

> I cannot believe that American collectors are so utterly devoid of the spirit of their forefathers—that glorious spirit of independence, which made our nation what it is—that now they will not endeavour to bring about this very desirable end, which can easily be done now, if they will only unite and each do part, and show our independence in this matter, as we do in greater and more important matters which affect the nation.

This inflated style shows clearly that the writer has not advanced beyond that immature stage of mind which A. K. H. B. entitles "veal," and so pleasantly discourses of in one of his amusing essays; but the spirit is a praiseworthy one. There will always be in this country and in France, as well as in

the States, a large number of amateurs, superficial or otherwise, who collect after no fixed principles, and scorn to be guided by any rule; but there can be no doubt that the advocacy of certain definite tenets by the leading philatelists tends to the consolidation of the pursuit, and to the study of stamps, being generally conducted in a more systematic manner. Whatever "doctrines" the collector may adopt as his own, he will still have considerable room for the exercise of his own independent judgment.

For our part, we should rejoice to see a series of papers in our American contemporaries in support of those methods of collecting most in vogue amongst their readers. That there is room for any third "school," which in its principal theories shall differ from both those already in existence, we question; unless, indeed, our Yankee friends choose to draw a "hard and fast line" at the designs of stamps, and refuse to admit any varieties whatever, whether of perforation, watermark, paper, or thread. This idea we recommend to their consideration; and if they carry it into execution, they will undoubtedly attain to that independence which "Americus," the writer of the paper under notice, so eagerly advocates.

The American Journal of Philately.—The December number contains very little of interest. The philatelic society, at its meeting on the 21st November, confined itself to passing certain resolutions concerning the "journal;" among others, one authorising its issue in an enlarged form, and on better paper. Pursuant to this resolution, we presume, the January number appears in a new shape, and contains a greater number of pages; the paper also shows a great improvement; and altogether the "journal" presents a much better appearance than before.

The first number of the new series opens with a very self-laudatory article, entitled "Our Annual Review," wherein "our department of 'Newly-issued Stamps'" is pronounced to have been, "as a whole, well up to the standard," and, "with a single exception, our illustrations have been capital"! The principal articles are then touched on, in a manner which must be highly satisfactory to the writers. Of the "Chronological system," by W. K. Freeman, it is observed that, "admitting that it contains a few *gross errors*, it is due to him to say, that so far it is creditably compiled;" and Mr. J. W. Scott's article on "United States Locals" is declared to be "thoroughly and well written." After this, any commendation of ours is certainly unnecessary. The editor of the "journal" certainly does do all in his power to assist his contributors in cultivating the good opinion of—themselves.

Following this unique piece of writing, comes a readable article on "The Brattleboro' Stamp," by Dr. J. A. Petrie; whence it appears that this stamp—which is but little known in Europe—was issued during the year 1845-6 as an experiment by the Brattleboro' postmaster, who caused some five or six hundred of them to be printed. The given impression was in black on buff paper, and oblong. The groundwork of the stamp is made up of diagonally-waved lines; at top is BRATTLEBORO', VT.; on one side, P; on the other, O; and at the bottom, 5 CTS. The central portion of the stamp is occupied by an octagonal figure, with groundwork of perpendicular lines, on which appear the initials of the postmaster, F. N. P. (F. N. Palmer), with dash beneath, in fac-simile.

The plate of these stamps is said to have been lost. So, unless some enterprising dealer discovers a large portion of the issue hidden away in some surprisingly out-of-the-way nook, we may consider ourselves safe from an invasion of Brattleboros.

In the succeeding paper, the genuineness of the Paraguay stamps is controverted; and in proof of their falsity, a letter, purporting to be from the late Paraguay minister, is inserted, denying that he had ever written the communication which we gave some months ago in our magazine in reference to these stamps. We, however, look with considerable suspicion on this letter of Mr. Washburn's. The mere fact, that it appears in a paper which numbers among its contributors the mythical Dr. Morley, is a circumstance that militates strongly against its authenticity. We are far from denying the possibility of our having been deceived in the matter, but if the letter which we re-

ceived was a forgery, it was a thorough one; for it bore the printed heading, "United States Legation, Asuncion, Paraguay," and other internal appearances of genuineness. Beside this, we received a letter from an independent correspondent at Montevideo some months afterwards, confirming the report of the emission of the now well-known 5 centavos; and enclosing copies of provisional stamps, which are described at length in our number for December last. So we must assume the existence of a very deeply-concocted conspiracy, before we can accept the statements of the New York paper as even probable. As a matter of duty, we note the fact, then, that it denies the authenticity of these stamps, but we do so under all reserves.

The report of a meeting of the Philatelic Society, held on the 16th of January, occupies barely half a page of the journal, and the business transacted would appear to have been purely formal. Indeed, we do not observe in the reports generally that philately itself is much studied by the members of the society collectively. The time occupied by the meetings appears to be passed in voting resolutions, electing officers, and reading reports of previous meetings. From this last report, we find that there has been a considerable change in the officers. We miss the familiar name of "Morley" altogether; and Professor Bunger too seems to have been either absent or unnoticed. Where can the former be? is a sad but interesting question, about which, however, the New York Philatelic Society does not seem to trouble itself much. He has long been lost to sight, and there is little outward sign that his co-workers "keep his memory green." He has departed from *public* life beyond a doubt, and the subscribers of the *American Journal* can never hope to have the pleasure of reading any more of his interesting letters, unless, indeed, they should be posthumously published by the society.

Continuing our perusal, we come to decidedly the best thing in the number—a readable letter from an anonymous writer, giving various sensible hints about stamps, and how to mount them, which American collectors would do well to read.

The February number contains little that is noteworthy, except a short letter, which we must give the conductors of the "journal" the credit of courage for publishing, and which is really a unique little bit in its way. We give it, italics and all, for what it is worth, only premising that it is introduced as being the production of "an unprincipled youth of weak intellect."

Montrose, Feb. 10, 1869.

J. W. Scott & Co.: Dear Sirs,—Enclosed please find fifty cents, for which you may send me for one year, commencing January, 1869, that sheet *called* "The American Journal of Philately," *not* because that I think it *amounts* to anything (for I take a *paper* of Mr. Trifet that *beats* it all to pieces), but that I may read the amount of *slang* hurled at every "stamp dealer," except "J. W. S. & Co.," which is about *all* that is contained in *said* Journal. But fifty cents wont *break me*, and it *may* be the *making* of *you*.

F. A. DEANS.

Bidding farewell to our American friends, turn we now to our Old World contemporaries.

The *Continental Philatelic Magazine* is the first on which we lay hands. It is somewhat better than the first number, though minus the expected article from Mr. Pemberton. The editor writes English tolerably well, though certainly one may derive an unintended amusement from his magazine on noticing those slips and imperfections into which foreigners naturally fall. Whether his publication will turn out a success or a failure, we should not like to prophesy, but in any event he deserves credit for his thorough earnestness, and the *bonâ-fide* character of his paper. In this second number he inserts a short notice respecting certain forgeries on sale in Amsterdam, mounted on sheets bearing a French inscription at the top. We have not seen those he names, but we have seen others marked simply *Au choix*, 15 *c. la pièce*, and believe they are sent throughout France to respectable booksellers, who, knowing nothing of stamps, receive them as genuine, and aid in the deception by exposing them in their windows.

Collectors should lose no opportunity of exposing them, in the other sense of the word, whenever they can, for they do incalculable harm to philately. Mr. Van Rinsum has done well to give what intelli-

gence he could respecting these "vermin," and we hope he will continue to do so.

After the notice referred to, comes a review of the philatelic magazines, somewhat after the plan of the present article, and then the monthly chronicle, wherein the editor laments the non-existence of a Dutch ½ c. or 2½ c., and the remainder of the number is filled with articles of the catalogue species.

Der Briefmarken Sammler.—We have an overwhelming objection against this magazine, and that is, that it is written in German. We have not the least doubt it is highly interesting, and nothing but an unfortunate want of acquaintance with the language prevents our deriving pleasure from its contents. There is one thing, however, in the number before us (the February one) which we could not help observing, and that was an illustration of what we could make out to be a Bavarian envelope, whether an essay or a type about to be emitted. It is of oval shape and bears the Bavarian arms within an inner frame, much resembling that on the adhesives; above is the word BAYERN and below DREI KREUZER. Above the stamp and crossing the envelope itself is the inscription in small type, KÖNIGL BAYER POST COUVERT. Finally, the colour is rose. Although the source whence we obtain these details is a most trustworthy one, we yet feel bound to give them with *all* reserve—for reasons which our readers will appreciate.

POSTE RESTANTE.

FROM "ALL THE YEAR ROUND."

THERE are sermons in stones; but how many in letters! It matters little what may be within them. I have a whole batch, now before me, which I do not intend ever to open; and one I know by the postmark, is fifteen years old. There is quite enough interest for me in their envelopes and their superscriptions, in their crests and stamps, in the blots and the scratches they have picked up on their way. For a letter cannot, no more than a man, get through the world without some rubs, often of the hardest. Here is a dainty little pink thing of an envelope, longer than it is broad—a flimsy brick from the temple of love, shot away as rubbish long ago. It is directed in the beautifullest little Italian hand—so small that the effigy of her most gracious Majesty on the stamp might be, by comparison, the portrait of the sovereign of Brobdingnag. But, woe is me! that careless postman! The little letter, ere ever it reached me, tumbled into the mud. Dun brown splashes deface its fair outside. The mud is dry as dust now, but not dustier or drier than the memories which the envelope awakens.

Dismissing the letters themselves, relegating them all to fiery death behind those bars, I linger over the envelopes; I dwell upon the postmarks, I long to be in the distant lands to which those marks refer. There is vast room for speculation in the address of a letter, for, in the mass of hand-writings you have seen, many have been forgotten. In the letter itself your curiosity is at once appeased, for you turn to the signature mechanically, and ten to one, if the letter be an old one, to read it gives you a sharp pang. Burn the letters, then; keep to the envelopes. Especially scan those which have been directed to you at hotels abroad. In very rare instances does the memory of a foreign hotel remind you of aught but pleasant things. You lived your life. The bills were heavy, but they were paid. You enjoyed. How good the pickled herrings were at the Oude-Doelen at the Hague! What a famous four-poster they put you into, at the Old Bible in Amsterdam! Could anything be be better than the table d'hôte at the Hotel d'Angleterre at Berlin—save perhaps, that at the Hotel de Russie, close by, and that other Russie at Frankfort? Here come Salò and Desenzano, on the Lake of Garda. Ah! a villanous hostelry the last; but with what exultation you hurried back through Brescia to the clean and comfortable Hotel Cavour at Milan! You were rather short of money, perhaps, when you arrived in the capital of Lombardy. Your stock of circular notes was growing small. No cash awaited you at the Albergo Cavour—nay, nor letters either. But there would be letters for you, it was certain, at the Poste Restante. Quick, Portiere, "un broum"—Milanese for brougham, and not very wide of the mark. You hasten to the Poste Restante. There the letters await you; there is the

stack of circular notes. Yes, and here among your envelopes at home, is the banker's letter of advice, enumerating a hundred cities where he has agents who will gladly cash your notes at the current rate of exchange, deducting neither agio nor discount.

The postage and the reception of a letter in foreign countries—notably the less civilised—are events accompanied by circumstances generally curious and occasionally terrifying. I never saw a Chinese postman, but I can picture him as a kind of embodied bamboo, who presents you with your packet of correspondence with some preposterous ceremonial, or uses some outrageously hyperbolical locution to inform you that your letter is insufficiently stamped. As for the Russian Empire, I can vouch, personally, for the whole postal system of that tremendous dominion being, twelve years ago, environed with a network of strange observances. The prepayment of a letter from St. Petersburg to England involved the attendance of at least three separate departments of the imperial post-office, and the administration of at least one bribe to a dingy official with a stand-up collar to his napless tail coat, and the symbolical buttons of the "Tchinn" on the band of his cap. As those who have ever made acquaintance with the stage doorkeepers of theatres in any part of the world, are aware that those functionaries are generally eating something from a basin (preferably yellow), so those who have ever been constrained to do business with a Russian government clerk of the lower grades will remember that, conspicuous by the side of the blotting pad (under which you slipped the rouble notes when you bribed him), there was always a soddened blue pocket-handkerchief, the which, rolled up into a ball, or twisted into a thong, or waved wide like a piratical flag, served him alternately as a sign of content, a gesture of refusal, or an emblem of defiance. You couldn't prepay your letter without this azure semaphore being put through the whole of its paces; unless, indeed, previous to attending the post-office, you took the precaution of requesting some mercantile friend to affix the stamp of his firm to your envelope. Then the official pocket-handkerchief assumed permanently, the spherical, or satisfied stage; and you had, moreover, the satisfaction of knowing that the stamp of the firm might stand you in good stead as an Eastern firman, and that, in all probability, your letter would not be opened and read as a preliminary to its being despatched to its destination.

So much for sending a letter; on which you seldom failed (purely through official oversight, of course), to be overcharged. There were two ways of receiving a letter; both equally remarkable. I used to live in a thoroughfare called the Cadetten-Linie, in the island of Wassili-Ostrow. It was about three times longer than that Upper Wigmore-street to which Sydney Smith declared that there was no end. When any English friend had sufficiently mastered the mysteries of Russian topographology as to write "Cadetten-Linie" and "Wassili-Ostrow" correctly, I got my letter. This was but seldom. It was delivered at the hotel where I resided, in a manner which reminded me vaguely, but persistently, of the spectacle of Timour the Tartar, and of the Hetman Platoff leading a pulk of Cossacks over the boundless steppes of the Ukraine. The postman was one of the fiercest little men, with one of the fiercest and largest cocked-hats I ever saw. His face was yellow in the bony and livid in the fleshy parts; and the huge moustache lying on his upper lip, looked like a leech bound to suck away at him for evermore for some misdeeds of the Promethean kind.

This Russian postman: don't let me forget his sword, with its rusty leather scabbard and its brazen hilt, which seemed designed, like Hudibras's, to hold bread and cheese; and not omitting, again, the half dozen little tin-pot crosses and medals attached by dirty scraps of parti-coloured ribbon to his breast; for this brave had "served," and had only failed to obtain a commission because he was not "born." This attaché of St. Sergius-le-Grand, if that highly-respectable saint can be accepted as a Muscovite equivalent for our St. Martin of Aldersgate, used to come clattering down

the Cadetten-Linie on a shaggy little pony, scattering the pigeons, and confounding the vagrant curs. If he had had many letters to deliver on his way, he would have been compelled to modify the ardour of his wild career; but it always seemed to me that nineteen-twentieths of the Cadetten-Linie were taken up by dead walls, painted a glaring yellow, and that the remaining twentieth was occupied by the house where I resided. It was a very impressive spectacle to see him bring up the little pony short before the gate of the hotel, dismount, look proudly around, caress the ever-sucking leech on his lip—as for twisting the ends of it, the vampire would never have permitted such a liberty—and beckon to some passing Ivan Ivanovitch, with a ragged beard and caftan, to hold his steed, or in default of any prowling Ivan being in the way, attach his pony's bridle to the palisades. It was a grand sound to hear him thundering—he was a little man, but he *did* thunder—up the stone stairs, the brass tip of his sword-scabbard bumping against his spurs, and his spurs clanking against the stones, and the gloves hanging from a steel ring in his belt, playing rub-a-dub-dub on the leather pouch which held his letters for delivery—*my* letters, my newspapers, when they hadn't been confiscated—with all the interesting paragraphs neatly daubed out with black paint by the censor. And when this martial postman handed you a letter, you treated him to liquor, and gave him copecks. All this kind of thing is altered, I suppose, by this time in Russia.

I have no doubt, either, that the transaction of prepaying a letter has been very much simplified since the period in which I visited Russia. The Poste Restante also, has, of course, been sweepingly reformed. Brooms were not used in Russia in my time, save for the purpose of thrashing Ivan Ivanovitch. The St. Petersburg Poste Restante in 1856 was one of the oddest institutions imaginable. It was a prudent course to take your landlord, or some Russian friend with you, to vouch for your respectability. In any case, you were bound to produce your passport, or rather your, "permission to sojourn," which had been granted to you—on your paying for it—when the police at Count Orloff's had sequestrated your Foreign Office passport. When divers functionaries—all of the type of him with the blotting-pad and the blue pockethandkerchief—were quite satisfied that you were not a forger of rouble notes, or an incendiary, or an agent for the sale of M. Herzen's Kolokol, their suspicions gave way to the most unbounded confidence. You were ushered into a large room; a sack of letters from every quarter of the globe was bundled out upon the table; and you were politely invited to try if you could make out anything that looked as though it belonged to you. I am afraid that, as a rule, I did *not* obtain the property to which I was entitled, and somebody else had helped himself to that which belonged to me. I wonder who got my letters, and read them, or are they still mouldering in the Petropolitan Poste Restante?

Poste Restante! Poste Restante! I scan envelope after envelope. I know the Poste Restante in New York, with its struggling striving crowd of German and Irish emigrants craving for news from the dear ones at home. In connexion with this department of the American postal service, I may mention that in the great Atlantic cities they have an admirable practice of issuing, periodically, alphabetical lists of persons for whom letters have arrived by the European mails "to be left till called for," or whose addresses cannot be discovered. The latter cases are very numerous; letters addressed, "Franz Hermann, New York," or "My Cousin Biddy in Amerikey," not being uncommon.

I roam from pillar to post, always, "Restante," and ten years slip away, and I come upon an envelope inscribed, "Poste Restante, Madrid." There is another name for this traveller's convenience in Spanish, but I have forgotten it. Otherwise "Poste Restante" belongs to the universal language. Everybody knows what it means. The Madrilena Poste Restante is like most other things of Spain: a marvel and a mystery. You reach the post office itself, by a dirty little street called, if I remember aright, the Calle de las Carretas, one of the thorough-

fares branching from that Castilian Seven Dials, the Puerta del Sol.

The entrance to the office is in a dingy little alley lined with those agreeable blackened stone walls, relieved by dungeon-like barred windows, common in the cities of northern Spain.

I don't think I ever knew such a black, dirty, and decayed staircase as that of the Madrid post-office—save, perhaps, that of the Monte de Piété, Paris. You ascended, so it seemed, several flights, meeting on the way male and female phantoms shrouded in cloaks or in mantillas. The mingled odour of tobacco smoke, of garlic, and of Spain —for Spain has its peculiar though indescribable odour—was wonderful. The odds were rather against you, when you visited the Poste Restante, that the occasion might be a feast or a fast day of moment. In either case the office opened very late, and closed very early; and the hour selected for your own application was usually the wrong one. If the postal machine were in gear, you pushed aside a green baize door and entered a long low apartment, with a vaulted roof of stone. Stuck against the whitewashed walls, were huge placards covered with names, more or less illegible. Knots of soldiers in undress stood calmly contemplating those lists. I don't think a tithe of the starers expected any letters; it was only another way of passing the time. A group of shovel-hatted priests would be gravely scanning another list; a party of black-hooded women would be gossiping before a third; and everybody would be smoking.

You wandered into another vaulted room, and there you found your own series of lists —those of the "estrangeros." In the way of reading those lists, madness lay. The schedules belonging to several months, hung side by side. There were names repeated thrice over, names written in differently coloured inks, names crossed out, names blotted, names altered, names jobbed at with a penknife, so as to be indecipherable, by some contemplative spirit in a sportive mood. The arrangement of names was alphabetical, but arbitrary. Sometimes the alphabet began at A and sometimes at T. The system of indexing was equally mysterious. I will suppose your name to be Septimus Terminus Optimus Penn. To this patronymic and prefixes your correspondent in England has foolishly added the complimentary Esquire. Under those circumstances the best thing you could do was to look for yourself under the head of "Esquire." Failing in unearthing yourself, then you might try Optimus and Terminus, and so up to Penn. When you found yourself a number was affixed to you. At one extremity of the apartment was a grating, and behind that grating sat an old gentleman in a striped dressing-gown and a black velvet skull-cap. If you can imagine a very tame and sleepy tiger at the Zoological Gardens, smoking a cigarito, and with bundles of letters and newspapers, in lieu of shin bones of beef, to eat, you may realise the idea of that old gentleman in his cage at the Poste Restante behind the Puerta del Sol. You spake him kindly, and called him "Caballero." He bowed profoundly and returned your compliment. Then you told him your number, and handed your passport through the bars. He looked at the number and he looked at the passport. Then he kindled another cigarito; then, in a preoccupied manner he began the perusal of a leading article in the Epoca of that morning. Then after a season, remembering you, he rose, offered you a thousand apologies, and went away out of the cage altogether, retiring into some back den—whether to look for your letters, or to drink his chocolate, or to offer his orisons to San Jago De Compostella, is uncertain. By this time there were generally two or three free and independent Britons clamouring at the bars; the Briton who threatened to write to *The Times;* the Briton who declared that he should place the whole matter in the hands of the British ambassador; and the persistent Briton who simply clung to the grate, or battered at the doortrap with an umbrella, crying, "Hi! Mossoo! Donnez-moi mon letter. Larrup, Milk-street, Cheapside, à Londres. Donnez-moi. Look alive, will you!" At last the old gentleman returned, lighted another cigarito, and began to look for your letters. For whose letters is he looking now, I wonder, and where?

Poste Restante! Poste Restante! It has rested for me close to the Roman Pantheon, and under the shadow of that blood-stained sacrificial stone by the great Cathedral of Mexico. Poste Restante! How many times have I journeyed towards it with fluttering pulse and a sinking in my throat—how many times have I come from it with my pocket full of dollars, or my eyes full of tears; tears that were sometimes of joy, and sometimes—but not often—of sorrow. The Poste Restante has been to me, these many years, a smooth and a kind post, on the whole.

THE STAMPS OF TASMANIA.

These stamps, though not perhaps of such interest as some of the other colonies, are still well worth studying; and to the best of our recollection, no paper has hitherto been published respecting them. We ourselves should hardly venture to write upon such well-known stamps, were we not in possession of some details which reach us from an official source, and are in part confirmatory, in part supplementary, to those already recognised. Our correspondent, who spent some years in Tasmania, was appointed, in 1864, one of the commissioners for reviewing all the departments of the Government, of which, of course, the post-office formed one. The manipulation and supply of stamps was an important item in the inquiry, in the prosecution of which he obtained information of the exact dates of the emission of the several series. We regret he has not given us this information respecting *all* the series; he probably has thought it unnecessary to do so respecting the later issues, but in point of fact, there is a degree of uncertainty as to their date of emission, which we, unassisted, cannot clear up.

The first series, consisting of two stamps, appeared in October, 1853. The *one penny* was printed in a uniform clear blue tint. The fourpence, however, was not printed with the same attention to colour; hence we find it in three very distinct shades: red, orange, and light brown. The design was of an exceedingly simple character, and, as may be supposed, was fabricated in the colony. The Queen's head appears on the penny enclosed in an oval band, on which are inscribed the words, VAN DIEMEN'S LAND, ONE PENNY; which, again, is contained in a square lined frame with notched corners; the fourpence, by far the commoner of the two varieties, shows the Queen's head within a circular frame, bearing the same inscription as the penny, the value alone being changed; and the design is completed by an external octagonal-lined frame. Of the two, the penny is at once the simpler and more pleasing, but both are extremely crude. These two stamps were, until very recently, the only ones with the Queen's head turned to the right. The paper on which they are printed is thick, but spongy. We are not sure that these values were used for commercial as well as postal purposes, although we are not ignorant of the fact, that they are generally met with bearing a pen-and-ink obliteration. Without the means of referring to any quantity at present, and writing therefore entirely from memory, we do not recollect ever observing the mention of any sum of money forming part of the cancellation. Probably with the postal organisation in a primitive state, the officials, at least in the out-of-the-way settlements, had time to write the name of their office, as well as the date of forwarding, over the stamp. This question, however, we must leave open; and in finally taking leave of the first issue, we have only to notice the fact, that the values were printed in sheets of 24 stamps.

The second type (head of Queen on an engine-turned ground) was issued in October, 1855. Levrault erroneously gives 1st October, 1858, as the date of emission. Of this second type there are three values. One penny red, twopence green, fourpence blue. These were first emitted unperforated and in deep tints. We give the generic tints above; the actual shades were, for this first edition, dark carmine, dark green (a rich colour), and thick blue, and it appeared on a laid bluish-tinted paper, watermarked with a star. Sometime after a second edition appeared on unwatermarked paper and in lighter colours, that is to say, carmine, light green, and blue. We cannot give the exact date of appearance of these stamps, but we

should be inclined to put it as 1857; it must certainly have been earlier than 1858, as in that year appeared the two higher values which we are about to notice, which were on paper watermarked with a figure; and no doubt, had the first supply of the low values been exhausted at the same time as or after the emission of the 6d. and 1s., the figure-watermarked paper would have been employed as for them.

The lilac 6d. and red shilling, both of which show the Queen's portrait in a peculiar octagonal frame, were issued on the 1st January, 1858. *En passant*, we may observe, that Levrault gives no date of emission for these, but places a note of interrogation as to the date before the description. He gives the first colours of the sixpence as violet and grey-lilac; the shilling was then, as it still is, simply red; our correspondent terms it dark orange. As above observed, the paper was watermarked with a figure, the shilling bearing the number 12 in place of the usual denominator.

At an uncertain date, the penny, two-penny, and fourpenny stamps were issued on paper watermarked with a figure representing the value. Levrault places the time at 1863, but does not profess to give the date authoritatively, and we ourselves should be inclined to give a rather earlier date. Assuming that the unwatermarked stamps were issued about 1857, they would, according to Levrault, have had a currency of about six years—rather a long period for an issue which was very probably issued for provisional use. The higher values were issued at the beginning of '58, on the figure watermarked paper; and, no doubt, had the stock of the lower ones lasted until that date, they would likewise have been re-issued on that paper; but as it was exhausted earlier, some temporary provision had to be made for meeting the requirements of the service. On our supposition, a very moderate stock would have been printed, calculated to suffice for only a short period; and arguing from this theory, we should be disposed to place the date of the emission of the figure series at about 1860 at the latest. This point, however, is capable of proof, by examination of a quantity of obliterated specimens; or, better still, by the officially-derived information which it is in our correspondent's power to furnish.

With the appearance of these figure-watermarked stamps, the list of emissions proper closes; but, as all the world knows, the Tasmanian series exists perforated as well as unperforated; and it is generally understood that the perforation is the work of some private person or company. The fact is mentioned by Levrault in his catalogue, and confirmed by Dr. Magnus in his paper on denticulations. Who it is that, apparently without hope of reward, performs this public service is entirely unknown. If the generally-accepted statement on this point be true, it forms one of the most curious incidents in postage-stamp annals. This private perforation has been going on for years, and the work too is well done; a fresh machine even has been employed, and in place of being perforated with 13 dents to the guage, the higher values now come over showing only 10.

This matter, in some degree, escaped our attention up to the present time; we have been content, in fact, to accept the common statement, that the perforation is the fruit of private enterprise, but we think it is now time this statement should be put to the test. If it be true, the name of the firm or individual by whom the work is done can be easily ascertained, and will well deserve publicity; if not, the sooner the popular error is exploded the better.

GAMBIA AND ITS NEW STAMPS.

We have had the pleasure during the last few years of enrolling under the banner of postal progress many kingdoms, colonies, and republics, and the cry is, "Still they come." Last month we gave particulars of a South African state which has joined, or is on the eve of entering the ranks; and now we have to chronicle another recruit from the same continent, this time one of our dependencies in the west—Gambia, to wit.

This colony is composed of several small towns and factories on the borders of the river from whence it takes its cognomen.

The capital is Bathurst, in the district of St. Mary. The West African settlements are Sierra Leone, Lagos, Gambia, the Gold Coast, and their dependencies. The governor and commander-in-chief is Sir A. E. Kennedy, C.B., whose residence is at Sierra Leone. The Gambian legislative council is at present composed of the Administrator, who acts as president, the chief magistrate, the collector of customs, and the Hon. T. Brown, one of the justices. The governor receives a salary of £3500 a year. The population in 1854 was 5693. The census has not since been taken, but if it had been, would show an extensive increase. The river Gambia was discoverd in 1447 by Nunez Tristan, who after ascending it for some hundreds of miles, finally met his death from the poisoned arrows of the natives. The river is navigable for more than six hundred miles into the interior. Like the Nile, it annually overflows its banks; its mouth is at Cape St. Mary, where the width is eight miles. The supply of crocodiles is always quoted as being greater than the demand. Although the climate is not every thing that can be desired for the "creature's comfort," it is not nearly so unhealthy as that of Lagos or of the Gold Coast. Their hottest season is from October to March. The country is well stocked with cattle, wild animals, and birds, some of the latter being of beautiful plumage. Sugar, rice, Indian corn, and potatoes are amongst the chief productions. Some of these were shown at the 1862 Exhibition and elicited general commendation.

After the fashion of those children who leave all the plums in their cakes till the last, we now come to *our* "tit-bits" in the shape of the new postage stamps.

A white embossed head of Her Majesty is contained in a circle, GAMBIA is inscribed in a straight label above; the value is in white relief below, the spandrel ornaments being also embossed. The stamps we have seen are unperforated. There are two values—

4 pence,	deep brown.
6 „	deep blue.

INTERNATIONAL POSTAGE STAMPS.

Postage stamps, like the telegraph, are still in their infancy. We hardly yet know to what extent they are capable of being utilised, but it is certain they may be applied for other purposes than those for which they were first created. In this country, it has long been the custom to use them for making small remittances by post, and the trade in many articles has received no slight impulse from this facility, coupled also with the power, now possessed, of sending many such articles themselves by book or sample post. Of course there is no commercial advantage which may not be employed for evil as well as good, and in this case we find that the new circulating medium has been one of the principal aids to the extension of quackery, which has now assumed such monstrous proportions; still, on the whole, the benefit to honest trade more than counterbalances these drawbacks. To such an extent had stamps become used for remittances, that the government, some years back, found it necessary to grant facilities for exchanging them for coin at the post-offices, of which no doubt the public has pretty generally availed itself. On sums under ten shillings there is an advantage given by this exchange, but above that amount money-orders are cheaper, as the percentage on stamps of higher sums is greater than the fee for orders.

Hitherto this country has been alone in its recognition of the value of stamps as a circulating medium, they have been and are employed in other countries to represent money, but no official assistance has been given to develope their capabilities; now, however, it would seem, a step, and a very considerable one, has been taken towards the utilisation of stamps. We read in the current number of Mr. Van Rinsum's journal (*The Continental Philatelic Magazine*), an announcement that "The French trade (?) is negociating with the government about the issuing of *international* stamps—to use in the countries which have unity of coins, and also for the expedition of small sums of money." International stamps—who would have dreamt of such a thing

a few years ago, and yet the thing is feasible enough. International money-orders have been issued for some considerable period between France and Italy, and why should not stamps be introduced? Such stamps might be current throughout France, Belgium, Switzerland, Italy, and Rome. Some difficulty might arise in Italy where paper-money is current and is at a discount, but this might be avoided by keeping a separate account for the internationals and requiring gold in payment. This plan is pursued with respect to money-orders drawn in Italy upon French offices, they are only issued against gold. In this country we cannot expect to have international stamps until the sovereign is made the exact equivalent of 25 francs, and then we shall also have the proposed international coin of that value. Should we have long to wait, we shall have time to envy our continental neighbours.

International stamps would prove a vast benefit; at present remittances from one country to another must be made either by banker's draft or by bank-notes, an inconvenience in respect of small sums and not unfrequently a loss on large ones; with the proposed facility trade would certainly increase considerably, as for many smaller articles, the buyer would be placed in direct communication with the original maker or seller. The advantage given in the matter of prepayment of letters is a minor but by no means despicable one. The principal continental states being so thoroughly connected by rail, there must certainly be a vast number of persons constantly passing between one country and another. At present any small stock of stamps they may possess is useless beyond their own frontier, and their value can only be realised, after arriving in another country, by remitting them home; but with international stamps in their pockets, they would always be able to frank their letters without troubling to purchase the labels of the country they might happen to be in. We do not insist upon this as a great advantage, but it is worth reckoning in the general account of usefulness.

Altogether the plan seems an admirable one, and we trust its novelty will not lead to its rejection or postponement.

CONCERNING REPRINTS.

(*Continued from p.* 46.)

Romagna.—The provisional Romagnese have no doubt been reprinted. A new value has been added in the reprints, and proofs have also been concocted. Though not of the highest rarity, unused originals are far from common. The four baj. brown is the only one at all frequently met with. The value of used specimens has been greatly depreciated by the prevalence of the reprints. They do not fetch more than the latter, though in our opinion much more valuable. We, ourselves, should recommend collectors to do the best they can to obtain used copies, but if they fail, the reprints form a very fair substitute, being from the original dies, and in colours which approximate to those of the originals.

Russia-Poland. — It appears from Dr. Magnus, that there are two varieties of the common blue 3 kop. envelope, one with the impression at the left upper angle; the other with it on the flap. The latter is stated to be a reprint, having been made after the closing of the Warsaw post-office, and, as we may well suppose, that in Russia no tampering with the dies would be permitted, these impressions must have been taken by authority—though why, it is hard to say. We must not omit to mention that the reprint is on paper watermarked with the same check pattern as the originals.

Saxony.—None of the stamps of this country have been reprinted. Unused specimens of the first series are now rather difficult to obtain. Of the second issue there appears to be a rather more plentiful supply in existence, the highest value even being by no means uncommon. We may remark here, that unused copies of the great majority of European stamps which have been in use since 1860-1 are easily obtainable. The influence of philately soon made itself felt; even at a time when it was no better than a mania, people commenced looking after stamps, and such as belonged to superseded series, or to series about to be withdrawn, must have been carefully guarded. Hence very few of these more recently emitted individuals realise anything like "fancy prices,"

and for this philatelists may be thankful, for they gain no slight pecuniary advantage in coming after the "timbromaniacs."

To return: the arms series which has just been suppressed has at once become commoner than when current—we mean the unused specimens, and already we have commenced to receive inquiries from correspondents whether or not it has been reprinted. That it has not is certain. No doubt the explanation is, that a very large stock remained on hand, and that it has been disposed of by "private contract," at "an enormous sacrifice." Collectors with a horror of reprints will thus be quite safe in investing in these stamps, and thank Bismarck for getting them so cheaply.

Schleswig-Holstein.—In all probability the unused stamps now generally sold are reprints. Positive proof of the fact there is very little of, but as the paper is thinner, the colour paler, and, according to Dr. Magnus, the silk thread finer, there is a great deal of circumstantial evidence against their originality. It would be interesting to trace the history of the dies, and to discover the how, when, and wherefore they were used in the printing of posthumous impressions, but with all the attention given to philately, and to everything appertaining thereto, no one seems to have been able to find out the sources of unofficial reprints. As a rule, reprinters prefer to work in the dark, and whether it be good or evil that they do by stealth, would perhaps blush to find their names made famous. No doubt in many cases a sort of back-stairs influence is exerted to procure the disused dies; in others no doubt the engraver holds the dies, or casts from them, and is moved by the necessities of the philatelic world to work them, and thus it happens that presentable copies of the greatest rarities are placed within reach of collectors of the most moderate means. *Revenons à nos moutons*, the originals of the Schleswig-Holstein pair are rarely to be had, either used or unused; we have, however, occasionally met with a very deceptive forgery of the two schg., inasmuch as, departing from the usual plan, it is heavily postmarked, but the absence of the thread forms a decisive test.

Of the Schleswig-Holstein stamps of 1864-6, no reprints exist, the originals being sufficiently plentiful.

Spain.—None of the numerous series of stamps for this country have been reprinted, and the reprinting of the old issues of 1850-4 has been rendered impossible by the alteration of some of the dies to make them serve for fiscal stamps, and by the partial destruction of others. These old issues have declined considerably in value during the last two or three years, but it has been by a perfectly natural process. The fall is entirely the result of the discovery of large quantities of used specimens by enterprising dealers. The spirit of commerce, in relation to stamps, was a long time in penetrating into Spain, but when it was once fairly engrafted, it made quick progress. We must remark, however, that no amount of searching has succeeded in bringing to light any really influential quantity of unused copies, except of the 10 reales of 1851, which, once among the greatest rarities, has fallen to the rank of a stamp of not more than ordinary scarcity.

The specimens of various issues which are now being offered, with one or more lines printed or drawn with a pen across them, are not reprints, but simply remainders of the old stock cancelled in this manner to prevent their being used, or in any way passing at their facial value. The 1 and 5 reales of 1854, and the 2 cuartos of 1855, are generally found with three lines of print transversely crossing—one thick between two thin ones; the 1 real of 1855, and the 1856 and 1857 series, on the other hand, are usually found with one pen-and-ink line each way across the stamp. Most frequently these lines appear to have been roughly drawn, without much attempt at straightness; but we have seen entire sheets of these stamps thus marked with the lines regularly and carefully ruled across and down. The most provoking thing in connection with these line obliterations is, that they nearly always obscure the portrait to such a degree as to render preferable even inferior copies postmarked with the usual hand-stamp.

HOW THE POST-OFFICE ASSISTS THE PRESS IN AMERICA.

From *The Times*.

The newspaper in America is regarded as a useful and necessary institution, and one which it is as much the duty of the government and people to support as the public school system, or any other of the many indispensable things that the community carries on for its benefit. This usefulness of the newspaper is recognized by the government in every way. Every law passed by the Federal congress is required to be published in a certain number of newspapers in every State in the Union; the same is the case with every treaty ratified, with every presidential proclamation, and with other official acts of our rulers. Nothing can be bought or sold by government without advertisement duly made. In these ways millions of dollars are distributed over the country among the newspaper profession.

When congress, at the close of the war, lessened the heavy taxation upon the people, the first tax removed was the inland duty upon advertisements, and the importance of the newspaper business was recognized by exempting it from restriction. But the government even goes further than this, and holds it to be its duty actually to facilitate the newspaper circulation. Every advantage that can be asked in the way of postal facilities is extended to newspaper circulation. The "exchange papers" in every newspaper-office are an important source of information, and there are few American editors who do not exchange their paper with several hundred contemporaries. By law the post-office department carries all these exchange papers free of cost, either to sender or receiver. The San Francisco publisher drops his journal daily into the post-office at that city, and it is carried 3,000 miles to Philadelphia; the Philadelphia publisher receives it, and in turn sends his paper to San Francisco. Not a penny is paid for this service, yet it goes on between the many newspaper offices of the country, and tons of mail-matter are carried in this way at the public cost.

The post-office does even more, for it gives each publisher a post-office box on its premises to receive his hundreds of exchanges daily, to be his exclusive property so long as thus used, and this, too, without any pay. 1,000 dollars a year from each would scarcely pay for the service thus done for every newspaper in the country, and done voluntarily and gladly by the government.

The post-office does much more than this, for it considers it to be the wisest policy to benefit the subscribers as well as the publishers of newspapers. The newspaper mails are carried with the same speed and care as the letter mails, but at a much lower rate. Letter postage from any part of the United States to any other, provided the distance be not more than 3,000 miles, is at the rate of 3 c. for a half-ounce. Newspaper postage for the same distance is but 2 c. a single rate, and this single rate is anything less than four ounces, so that the sender may put half a dozen newspapers in one package, provided it does not weigh over four ounces, and still pay only 2 c. postage for it.

Besides this, the post-office grants a commutation to regular newspaper subscribers. The subscriber to a daily newspaper would have to pay at the regular rate 2 c. postage a day, but by merely exhibiting a receipt from the publisher showing him to be a subscriber he is entitled to the commutation, and pays 30 c. in advance for three months at the post-office where he receives his paper. For 1 dol. 20 c. (4s. 10d.) a year, therefore, he can get through the post his 310 daily newspapers, that otherwise would have cost over six dollars postage. These advantages are extended to all publications—daily, weekly, or monthly. The publishers of weekly papers have an additional advantage, as they can send by mail, free of charge for postage, one copy of their paper each week to any subscriber within the county where the paper is published. These are actual encouragements to the public to subscribe, and they are granted by the government in order to assist a business which is thought to be of incalculable benefit to the country.

Books, authors' MSS., proof-sheets, &c., are also carried by mail at much less than the regular rates, and for the same reason. The

railway, steamboat, express, and telegraph companies, also, for the same cause, grant facilities for the gathering of news and the circulation of newspapers, not enjoyed by the general public. While all the transportation lines give every facility for the carriage of newspaper bundles from the cities to rural newsmen and agents, they rarely think of charging anything for the service; and the telegraph companies, recognizing the newspapers as among their best customers, transmit their news messages at from one-third to one-half the ordinary rates. This, too, is done in order to facilitate the operations of an important business.

REVIEWS OF POSTAL PUBLICATIONS.

Oppen's Postage-stamp Album and Catalogue. Revised, corrected, and brought up to the present time, by Dr. Viner. Twelfth Edition. London: William Stevens.

A round dozen editions of a work is a very convincing testimony to its popularity. That the album which still retains the name of "Oppen's," though as it now stands it is really the work of Dr. Viner alone, should have retained its position, is not surprising. It is well fitted for juvenile collectors, and future generations of schoolboys will, no doubt, testify to its worth in the most desirable manner—namely, by obtaining copies.

The twelfth edition offers no special feature on which to remark. It has been brought up to the present time, and will, no doubt, meet the pleasant fate of its predecessor—rapid exhaustion.

The Permanent Postage-stamp Album. In four languages. By C. Van Rinsum. Amsterdam: H. de Hoogh.

(second notice.)

Since reviewing this work from the early sheets we have seen a bound copy, and are glad to find that the error in the printing of the sheets, whereby Spain, Denmark, Belgium, and Portugal, were jumbled together, has been rectified. For the guidance of collectors, we felt bound to notice the existence of this error, and have now much pleasure in announcing its correction. The compiler has written us in reply to our complaint that the album did not contain the elements of permanency, pointing out that it contains a number of blank sheets. On reference to our copy we find that there are indeed blank sheets, but they are perforated down the inner edge, and without other explanation, we should have taken them to be simply the guards. There are no other guards in the book: the effect, therefore, of mounting stamps on these sheets would be to cause it to bulge inordinately. Even were no stamps put on them, the book would still bulge, having no guards; and the only way to remedy the defect, is to tear out the sheets, leaving in only the narrow slip on the other side of the perforated line.

POSTAL CHIT-CHAT.

The General Post-office at Bombay has been totally destroyed by fire.

We understand that the proposal to form an "International" Philatelic Society is on the *tapis*.

An Historical Conundrum.—Why were there no postage labels in Henry the Eighth's reign?—Because then a Queen's head was not worth a penny.

Cautious.—The other day a little girl presented a letter at the post-office. There being no stamp on it, the postmaster inquired whether she had not brought a penny. "No," she replied, "father has put the stamp inside."

A Wise Alteration.—The Dutch have just taken a significant step in domestic legislation. They have abolished the stamp duty on newspapers, and to make up the deficiency thus occasioned have raised the duty on spirits.

A Good Customer.—A boy, some time since, went to the post-office at Totnes, and tried the following:—"Please, ma'am, bante a going to gie me anything for Christmas?"—"For what reason?"—"'Cause I always brings my letters to your post-office."

Curiosities of the Post-office.—At Addlestone, near Chertsey, in Surrey, a curious parcel was received by an angler, some time since, containing a quarter-of-an-ounce of the common house flies, which was found to amount to the astonishing number of 1273.

A New Paper Money.—The paper money now in use is the postage stamp. This postal money is essentially the poor man's bank-note, as it enables him to pay a sum as low as a penny, or draw a cheque for twopence. When crossed over, it is a sign that the payment of the note is stopped. It is endorsed with adhesive gum, which is a very great convenience for persons who are noted for sticking at nothing when they wish to raise money.

Postmen on Wheels.—Like as a sensible man may learn wisdom from the folly of others, the Parisian Postmaster-General has adopted the velocipedian mania to the advantage both of the public and the state. At the commencement, it was only tried by the rural postmen in

the department of the Aube, but the success attending it being so great, it has now been extended to the metropolis. In addition to delivering letters, the postman, as he rolls along on his three-wheeled machine, executes little commissions, placing light parcels in a box for that purpose. Three hours per day are saved in the delivery of letters.

Ocean Penny Postage.—Of course, there are arguments urged against the proposed reduction, both on the grounds of practicability and expediency. None, however, seem to us of sufficient weight to counterbalance the manifest benefits to be derived from it. We cannot share in the fear that the regularity and efficiency of the mail service would be impaired by it. At the figure of a penny, or two cents, per half ounce, freight on the mail-bags would amount to something over forty pounds, or two hundred dollars per ton—surely enough to make the efficient fulfilment of postal requirements an object with the wealthiest steamship company, both as to speed and regularity.—*New York Times.*

Post-office Colloquy.—The *Salem Observer* says that the following colloquy once actually took place at a post-office within a few miles of that city:—*Patrick:* "I say, Misther Postmaster, is there a letter for me?"—*Postmaster:* "Who are you, my good sir?"—*Pat.:* "I am myself, that's who I am."—*P. M.:* "Well, but what's your name, sir?"—*Pat.:* "O niver mind the name."—*P. M.:* "I must have your name, sir."—*Pat.:* "By the holy St. Patrick, an' what do you want with my name?"—*P. M.:* "So that I can find your letter, if there is one."—*Pat.:* "Well, Mary Burns, thin, if you must have it."—*P. M.:* "No, there is none for Mary Burns."—*Pat.:* "Is there no other way to get in there, except through this pane of glass?"—*P. M.:* "No, sir."—*Pat.:* "Well for you there isn't, I'd tache ye better manners than to insist upon a gintleman's name! But you didn't get it afther all, so I'm even with you."

A Method for Preventing the Robbery of Postage Stamps.—The attention of business men has lately been called by Mr. Joseph Sloper, of Walbrook-house, to the means afforded by his perforating machines of completely preventing the robberies of postage stamps which are constantly going on. In the despatch of newspapers and circulars by thousands, it has often been discovered that a portion have never been forwarded to their destination, the stamps having proved too great a temptation to dishonest messengers. Again, many persons transmit stamps through the post-office in payment of accounts which are not considered sufficiently large to require a cheque, or, in other cases, where it is not convenient to go through the formalities attending the taking out of Post-office orders; and than this mode of remittance nothing can be more unsafe. The remedy proposed consists in marking postage stamps by the perforating process (as, for instance, by impressing the initials of firms), in such a way that the sale of them shall be prevented, and the temptation to wrong dealing at once removed. The post-office authorities have themselves issued printed instructions, strongly recommending the adoption of this plan as the most effectual means of preventing the fraudulent removal of stamps. By the process employed the mark does not interfere at all with the obliterating mark used by the post-office.—*Bell's Weekly Messenger.*

Taking Stamps from Letters.—In the early days of our philatelic career it was often our misfortune to receive packets from our correspondents abroad mulcted of the stamps with which they were supposed to be franked. It would have been folly to write to the post-office, and after being informed that "our communication would receive early attention," not to hear anything more on the subject. About a fortnight since appeared, at Bow Street, a certain Joseph George Smith, charged with having "fraudulently removed, or caused to be removed, from a certain letter, a postage stamp." It appears from the evidence, that Smith had previously been suspected; so the usual species of trap was laid for him, into which, not being endowed with the gift of second sight, he naturally fell, and was caught. The following is the recognised receipt for baiting a postal "man-trap:" Make up a half-ounce letter, upon which (after privately marking) affix a twopenny stamp; then address it to an individual whose real abode is most probably *in nubibus*, and duly posting your packet, you will, nine times out of ten, "land" your man. This was tried in the case under notice, and it succeeded admirably. Upon the defendant being searched, other stamps were taken from him, which likewise seemed to have been detached from letters. The defendant's counsel said, no doubt his client had acted foolishly, but he contended that the prosecution ought to have proved that the stamps removed from certain letters were the same placed on others. If that were not shown, there was no proof that the removal was done with a fraudulent intent. The magistrate said, the point was a very ingenious one, but it was quite clear that if an official took a stamp off a letter in its course through the post, it could only be with a fraudulent intent. As the case was fully proved, the defendant was fined £10 and costs. Another summons was preferred against him, for affixing obliterated penny labels to letters, for which offence he was also fined.

CORRESPONDENCE.

THE SWISS STAMPS.

To the Editor of "The Stamp-Collector's Magazine."

Sir,—I have been much surprised that no notice has been taken by English philatelists of your paper on the paternity and date of the Vaud, Neufchatel, and Geneva stamps, translated from *Le Timbre-Poste.* Also, if you thought the substance of that article authentic, why did you not favour us with a translation of Mons. Moens' second article on the same subject, which might either have confirmed the statements, or have provoked some interesting discussion from veteran collectors? It is not now too late to remedy this omission, though perhaps the whole article *verbatim* might be undesirable.

Clifton. FENTONIA.

THE YELLOW CORRIENTES STAMP.

To the Editor of "The Stamp-Collector's Magazine."

Sir,—Having seen in your magazine an account of the "Corrientes," *black* on *yellow ground*, and read the question asked, as to any one having met with this said variety, I beg to state that I have seen it, last year, in a good collection, belonging to an amateur collector at Bordeaux. The variety is extremely pretty, being on a bright yellow ground, and the design clear. The gentleman (French) to whom it belonged told me that M. Mahé had admired it much, and considered it genuine and very rare.

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,

Trieste. E. R. S.

THE DRESDEN "EXPRESS" STAMPS.

To the Editor of "The Stamp-Collector's Magazine."

Dear Sir,—I have been in Dresden a couple of days, and notwithstanding my efforts, I could not discover any trace of the "Express" stamps; nor did I hear anything relating to their existence, except at *one* place—a litho-

grapher's! I am fully persuaded that they are, like their already unmasked brethren of Breslau, fictitious labels. Mons. Moens is, indeed, on the right track, being more than suspicious about them.

It is a matter of fact, or at least universally known among British stamp collectors, that in Germany private persons or companies are not allowed to carry letters for transmission, unless they (*i.e.*, the letters) are *open*, or it be effected *gratuitously*; which latter alternative is, in this case, out of the question. But, if the letters must be open, why then are the "Express" envelopes gummed? I think this fact speaks for itself.

I beg to remain, dear Sir, yours respectfully,

Breslau. MAX JOSEPH.

THE PERMANENT STAMP ALBUM AGAIN.

To the Editor of "The Stamp-Collector's Magazine."

Dear Sir,—I have carefully perused the descriptions of the albums lately published, and now beg to trouble you with my idea of what a really good album should be.

1.—Accommodation for Stamps already issued.

The spaces should be of uniform size, capable of containing, without crowding, the largest stamps. These spaces should be on the right-hand side of the pages only, the left-hand side being occupied by the catalogue. They should be numbered at the bottom or side (not inside, as then, in the case of the first Moldo-Wallachians and others, the numbers would show through the stamps), in accordance with the catalogue on the opposite page. The numbering of each series of stamps should commence with No. 1 at the left end of the row; and if any spaces remain at the right end, these should be blank, for the reception of varieties at the option of the collector.

2.—Accommodation for future Issues.

About one hundred leaves should be inserted throughout the book, where they are most likely to be required (as in Stafford Smith's album), with spaces on the one side, and blank on the other, for the continuation in writing of the catalogue.

3.—The Catalogue.

This should be placed on the left-hand side of each leaf. Each country should be headed in a similar manner to Oppen's album, with the arms on one side, and a space for the portrait of the sovereign on the other. The descriptions following, fully yet clearly worded, with engravings of each type at the side. Every prominent variety, such as perforate and imperforate, and decided differences in shade, should be included. Newspaper stamps might also deservedly have a place in the album.

4.—Printing and Engraving.

I think that a clear type, printed in blue ink on toned paper, would be about the best. The engravings should be entrusted to a really skilful engraver. Specially-engraved maps of the principal countries should be inserted.

5.—Binding.

In various styles and at various prices. Clasps and guards are of course indispensable.

I am aware that the album above described would not be a truly permanent one, but still it would hold all stamps likely to be issued for the next ten years. You will see that I have taken example by existing albums in several places. I shall be glad to know what you or any of your readers think of the idea.

Yours truly,

Cardiff. W. H. S.

ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS.

Gertenelliannie, Clifton.—Barbados, as on the stamps, and not "Barbadoes," is the correct spelling.

Darby and Joan.—There is no stamp in existence with the heads of the reigning king and queen, as on the William and Mary coinage.

Connemara.—We can give you no further information respecting the word colon on the Chili stamps. The subject has already been discussed in our pages.

B. Harrison.—Thanks for the list you have been at the trouble of sending us, but, with one exception, the stamps have been either noticed, or are hardly worth notice.

Virginia.—The Sierra Leone sixpenny stamp is the only value ever issued for that settlement. Unperforated specimens *do* exist, but are seldom to be met with, and are therefore comparatively rare.

M. J., Breslau.—We thank you for yours of the 18th ult. We will write you as soon as we receive the desired information. The second part of your communication is reserved for our May number.

S.K.L.—The 2 reales Spain 1865 stamp exists in several shades of colour. We have specimens in rose, pink, and mauve, perforated and unperforated. The 1 real green of the same issue is sometimes to be met with perforated.

W. S. E., Boston, U.S.—The first number of *The Stamp Collector's Magazine* was published in February, 1863. It was preceded by one or two months by *The Stamp-Collector's Review*, a Liverpool paper, in which Mr. Pemberton was concerned.

M. A., Bungay.—A person collecting a million of used English postage stamps is *not* entitled to any sum of money from the government, nor to any other reward other than that accruing from the practice of a great virtue—patience.

J. K. L. R., Portsea.—We still have considerable doubts as to the authenticity of the so-called Honduras stamps. A short time ago a respectable dealer sent us a few specimens, obliterated with a pen-stroke, which were said to have been received on letters coming direct from the Republic. More precise information is needed, ere we can class them with *bona-fide* issues.

Jacobus.—We quite agree with you that philately should be made to lead to the study of other things, history especially, and are obliged by your sending us the manuscript on Mexico, but regret that its style is hardly sufficiently interesting to warrant our inserting it. We once meditated an article on Mexico ourselves, but gave up the project on finding to what a length it must run if it were made to comprise any account of the Aztecs and their subjugation; and considering, also, that the popularity of Prescott's work rendered such an article somewhat superfluous.

J. T. M., Guernsey.—The unused Brunswick and Saxony stamps now offered for sale by dealers are *not* reprints. For further information we refer you to the article on reprints in the present number.—2. The 4-4ths Brunswick on white paper has never done duty as a postage stamp.—3. In reply to your query *re* the Spanish stamps obliterated with bars, we must again refer you to our current article on reprints.—4. The proposed Spanish stamps, value 30, 40, 400, and 800 mil, have never been issued; the 100 and 200 are now in existence.—5. We are not aware that any new work on forged stamps is expected to appear.

THE PHILATELIC SOCIETY, LONDON.

A MEETING of amateurs of the philatelic science was held on Saturday, the 10th of April, at 93, Great Russell Street, Bloomsbury, for the purpose of taking into consideration the expediency of forming a Philatelic Society. Sir Daniel Cooper, Bart., F.R.G.S., &c., occupied the chair, the meeting being opened by a few words from Mr. Atlee, who said:—

"It is now eighteen months since the idea of a philatelic society was broached in the magazines; it is therefore with feelings of pleasure that I reflect that we have now made a start in earnest, and I sincerely trust and believe it will be a successful one. Before proceeding further, it will be necessary for me to state what I have done in the matter, but I hope you will exonerate me from being guilty of egotism. I have written to forty-nine collectors, and have received most encouraging replies from nearly all of them. We know the proverb, *Quot homines tot sententiæ;* but I must say that philatelists appear to agree very well as to the general advantages of a society, although as to rules and minor details there is some diversity of opinion.

"Now, as regards obtaining particulars of the exact dates of issue of every stamp (which is a most important branch of study), I should propose that the Secretary write to postmasters for that information; and on receipt of it, cause it to be read at the meetings. In course of time, we shall be able to compile a catalogue, giving all varieties of colour, watermark, and perforation; but as the amassing of materials for a complete catalogue would take a long time, monographs might be published in the interim. These would have to be arranged on the so-called French system, which would leave every one to retain or reject what he might think proper. I do trust that we shall all co-operate in effecting the purpose for which we have met to-day; and, sinking all petty differences of English and French schools, devote our energies for the benefit of the science in general."

The following rules were then discussed, and approved:—

1st.—That the Society be called *The Philatelic Society, London.*

2nd.—That the objects of the Society be to collect all possible information respecting stamps; the prevention of forgeries; the facilitating and spreading of the knowledge of philately; and the facilitating the acquisition and exchange of stamps among members.

3rd.—That all amateurs be eligible for election as members of the Society.

4th.—The mode of election to be as follows:—Candidates for admission to be proposed in writing by a member, and elected by ballot, by majority of votes.

5th.—The annual subscription to be six shillings, to be paid in advance on being admitted a member of the Society, and annually on the 1st of December.

6th.—The business of the Society to be conducted by a Committee, composed of a President, a Vice-President, a Secretary, a Treasurer, and five other members. Three members to constitute a quorum.

7th.—The election of the Committee of Direction to take place by ballot, at the annual meeting of the Society, to be held on the first Saturday in May.

8th.—A monthly meeting to be held, at three p.m., on the first Saturday of every month, at such place in London as the Committee may appoint.

9th.—The Secretary to conduct the correspondence of the Society.

10th.—The funds of the Society to be in the hands of the Treasurer, who is to present the balance-sheet of the Society to the Committee in time that it may be audited, and laid before the Society at the Annual General Meeting in the month of May.

The above rules having been carried, Mr. Philbrick (seconded by Mr. Hayns) proposed that the amateurs present at the meeting constitute themselves THE PHILATELIC SOCIETY, LONDON. This having been agreed to, the following gentlemen were named, to form the provisional Committee of the Society:—

President:
Sir Daniel Cooper, Bart., F.R.G.S., &c.
Vice-President:
Frederick A. Philbrick, Esq.

Secretary:
W. Dudley Atlee, Esq.
Members of the Committee:
Edward L. Pemberton, Esq.
Charles W. Viner, Esq., A.M., PH.D.
Thomas F. Erskine, Esq.
J. Speranza, Esq., R.M.F. ARTILLERY.
W. E. Hayns, Esq.

Letters to be addressed to the Secretary, Philatelic Society, 127, St. George's Road, Warwick Square, London, S.W.

The Secretary was requested to place himself in communication with the philatelic journals, and ask them to publish the proceedings of the meeting.

A meeting of the Committee was appointed for Saturday, the 17th April, for the purpose of taking the necessary steps to procure a room for the meetings of the Society, and to transact other business.

We are glad to find that the agitation in favour of the philatelic society has at length resulted in something tangible. We urged the leading London amateurs to take the decisive first step a couple of months since, and are happy to learn that that step has now been taken. We trust the movement will be well followed up. The names of the officers of the new society form in themselves a guarantee that the effort is a serious and well-considered one; and, no doubt, if the collectors of London and the provinces give it the support which may fairly be expected from them, philately will receive great and constant benefit from it.

THE STAMP DEALERS OF BOSTON (MASSACHUSETTS).

In our March number, in the course of some remarks on the old Bolivian stamps, we took occasion to observe, that "there *does* exist at Boston a set of impostors, who conspire to palm off on collectors stamps of their own invention and fabrication;" adding, "we are already in possession of some details of their *modus operandi*, and we can assure these gentlemen we shall continue our inquiries, and further, should circumstances render it necessary, shall not hesitate to make public the information we may acquire, with the names of the defaulters."

This brief and general reference to a matter which has long been the subject of discussion among the leading collectors, both of England and France, has borne some rather sudden and unexpected results.

In the first place, we received a rather formidable document from Boston itself. This is no other than the joint and separate testimony of certain of Mr. Trifet's admirers to his integrity. The proper place for such a document, which is no more than a rather clumsy puff, would be in our advertisement columns, where we shall have no objection to insert it. Suffice it for the present to state, that Lemuel Pope, T. W. Brewer, A. Robeson, jun., F. E. Hunter, F. H. Storry, and George Fuller, severally bear witness that they have each bought a great number of stamps from Mr. Trifet, and have only found a few counterfeits among them, which have been returned to the vendor; that Mr. Trifet is an honest man, &c., &c. George B. Perkins certifies that the six deponents signed their statements in his presence. Israel Perkins, justice of the peace, declares that George B. Perkins swore to the truth of the statement, and that G. B. P. is a credible person; and, finally, the Secretary to the Commonwealth of Massachusetts declares, on a printed form, to which is affixed the "seal of the commonwealth," that Israel Perkins was a Justice of Peace, for the county of Suffolk, at the date of the attestation thereto annexed.

If this is not enough to convince any one of Mr. Trifet's honesty and general integrity, what more can be required? There is only one point worth noting, and that is, that we, at any rate, never expressed any doubt of that gentleman's honesty. In the remarks quoted at the commencement of the present article we did not refer to any stamp dealer by name; the excessive anxiety, therefore, of Mr. Trifet's friends to vindicate his character *in advance* offers food for some curious speculations. We are led to wonder whether his customers *really did*, on reading our remarks, spontaneously combine to testify to his excellence; and further, did share among themselves the expense incurred

in obtaining the legal attestations by which they seek to give weight to their testimony. This is a question which we may well leave to our readers to decide. We, however, may point out to the six deponents that their declaration that Mr. Trifet has never or but very rarely sold them counterfeits, does not at all affect the question whether or not he has been concerned with others in the fabrication of entirely fictitious stamps. Forgeries and falsities are two different things. A dealer in "works of fiction" would seriously injure his trade by selling any considerable quantity of forgeries. His position as a vendor of genuine stamps enables him to pass off his own manufactures; but suspicion would at once fall on these latter, were they sold by a known dealer in counterfeits. We repeat, then, that this important declaration is entirely superfluous on every ground, and its only effect is to throw suspicion on the dealings of the person to whom it refers.

Following this declaration, comes an amusing paragraph from the little *New England Journal of Philately*, which, as showing how well our caution to the Boston impostors has told, we must insert.

With the concluding paragraph [of the article in *The Stamp-Collector's Magazine*] have we more particularly to do; this states [?] that the Editors of the journals in question—*Le Timbre-Poste* and *The Stamp-Collector's Magazine*—are conjointly aware that there exists in Boston a set of impostors, who conspire to palm off on collectors stamps of their own invention. In behalf of Boston, and in the name of the dealers thereof, we therefore call on the journalists in question for the names of these parties, so that we may consign them to eternal and everlasting infamy; and in default of the production of such names by *The Stamp-Collector's Magazine* and *Timbre-Poste*, we do, in the name of Boston, pronounce such statements a foul, malicious, and mendacious slander, and the editors of said journals as liars, traducers, and philatelic defamers and slanderers of the worst class.

Our readers may be interested to learn that, notwithstanding this tremendous onslaught, we continue in good health; and as we received the current number of *Le Timbre-Poste* some days in advance of the usual time, we presume that M. Moens feels, if anything, rather better after it.

As the *New England Journal* is so overpowered with virtuous indignation at the idea that Boston dealers are other than what they ought to be, we will just point out to it that, on the very page in which the above extract appears, there is an advertisement from S. Allan Taylor, of "Cheap Sets of Stamps," among which are mentioned the set of eight Pacific Steam Navigation Company's stamps, *used*, for 15 cents (sevenpence halfpenny). These stamps, we have pleasure in informing the *New England Journal of Philately*, are forgeries; the fact that they are "used" is alone sufficient to prove this. It is true, Mr. S. A. Taylor's connection with the stamp-fabricators is not proved by his selling forgeries, but the *New England Journal* will, no doubt, find sufficient reason in the fact, that he deals in counterfeits, for consigning him "to the eternal *and* everlasting infamy" which it threatens.

The legal declaration and the *New England Journal's* very emphatic disclaimer represent, up to the present time, the effect of our remarks on the Bostonians; the following letter, from Mr. Pemberton, represents their result on this side of the water. In giving it currency, we do not bind ourselves to an *entire* agreement with the writer's observations. To no small extent, they are certainly justified; and if Mr. Pemberton speaks *very* plainly, and calls a spade a spade in an entirely unequivocal manner, we, for our part, cannot blame him. If certain of our American readers feel themselves injured by his remarks, Mr. Pemberton is, no doubt, well able to take upon himself the responsibility for what he says.

To the Editor of "The Stamp-Collector's Magazine."

Dear Sir,—*I have a few words to say in the matter of the three most successful of recent Boston swindles. Why these people have been allowed to go on so long, in the uninterrupted exercise of their peculiar faculties for lying, swindling, and forging, I cannot divine. That the letter in your January number, signed W. C. Bancroft, purporting to be a correct account of the officially-issued Bolivian stamps, is altogether worthless, a few minutes consideration of the remarks translated by you (on pp. 38, 39) will amply show; it is, as *Le Timbre-Poste* says: "nothing more than an attempt to pass off the Boston impostors' wares, and to give them the seal of authenticity." Precisely so; this has been the impudent "game" for years past. The Ecuador 12 reales was soon knocked on the head, the proprietors having forgotten to write a letter from the United States consul at Quito. This was fortunate for many of our collectors, who would certainly have purchased upon the strength of such apparently convincing proof.

* Mr. Pemberton commences his letter with certain criticisms on "Theta's" paper on "perforations," which we have deemed it best to insert separately in our Correspondence columns.

The best swindle of all appears to me to be that of the Paraguay stamp. I can only regard it as a swindle, though for some time I felt doubtful. When I read the onslaught upon it in *The American Journal of Philately*, I felt fairly puzzled for a little time, for I scarcely thought it likely that even Boston swindlers would go to the length of forging a consul's letter, but now I firmly believe that they have done so, and here are my reasons: First, I see no motive why the *American Journal of Philately* should attack the stamp *if it were genuine*, save possibly an *animus* against your informant, C. P. Wright; but to gratify this they themselves would have to forge the consul's denial. On the other hand, *if they are false*, there is at once a motive for exposing them—to spoil the trade of another man. I do not for an instant think that any American dealer would be influenced by care for the pockets of collectors; I know so very few United States dealers who suffer from that antiquated disease, pangs of conscience, that, unsatisfactory as it is, one has to look at all motives in examining their doings and writings. From this exposure in the *American Journal of Philately*, I imagine there has been a split in the Boston camp, and "when thieves fall out," proverbial honesty gets the benefit. Secondly, if we turn to p. 47 in *The Stamp-Collector's Magazine* of last year, we find that the very first notice of the Paraguay stamp under discussion was contributed by Charles L. Hill, *of Boston*, "who received it from a person at Monte Video." This I fear is the same as your "independent correspondent at Monte Video," who had been primed with the stamps to set the swindle fairly going. Thirdly, the denial by the post-master at Yonkers, New York, of the existence of any such person as Charles P. Wright—this in answer to an inquiry by Mr. James A. Petrie, with whom I am in correspondence. Fourthly, we know from indisputable evidence, that the letter of W. C. Bancroft contains "information" which can only have been invented. If such a thing will be attempted in one case, it certainly will be in another. Why should we credit the evidence for the Paraguay more than that for the Bolivians, when we have such a denial as that in *The American Journal of Philately?* To be introduced by a Bostonite is quite enough to damn any new stamp now-a-days. The "inventors" really must change their place of residence; we are all getting sick of Boston.

Another of your Boston correspondents, Mr. Chute, has never been asked to explain his share in "introducing" one of the earlier humbugs of his city to your notice; will he give us an explanation? If we turn to vol. v. p. 40, we remark how carefully and how kindly he explained about a certain rose-coloured stamp, value 2 reales, accredited to St. Domingo! How, to allay all doubt, he mentioned a friend—no, a relative, I see,—residing in that chaste locality, who, perhaps, kindly neglected important business to supply him with the copies he sent you! How particular he was to call your attention to the variety of a dirty red colour, of which he possessed duplicates! Yet this very thing was a swindle from first to last. How came Mr. Chute's *relative* in St. Domingo to know so much about them, and to be so prodigal with his information? Many people would be glad to know.

Another swindle is that of the forged Canadian envelopes, which I recently noticed; these Mr. Chute first pointed out, and my correspondent, who sent me the specimens, after reading my letter in *The Stamp-Collector's Magazine* (vol. vi. p. 175), wrote me that "they were struck from the original die in the possession of Mr. Nesbitt, and came from him, through one person only (Mr. Benjamin Haines, of Elizabeth, New Jersey), to me. They are printed in sheets of 50, allowing about half-an-inch margin round the stamps, so as to cut them square; some few of the buff were struck on entire envelopes, none of which I have, however." Now, this would be enough to stagger many people, but we are getting rather too knowing to swallow everything that is told us. If anyone can produce an impression, from what I consider the forged die, upon an entire envelope, officially watermarked, I admit that it *may* be genuine. They are not from the same dies as the genuine stamps on white, with which we are so well acquainted, this is a *primâ-facie* evidence that they are fine forgeries; besides, why should Mr. Chute denounce them, if they were genuine? If they are false, we have the same reason as in the case of the Paraguayan denunciation, by the *American Journal of Philately*. I imagine they are Boston forgeries—at any rate, Boston always has credit for anything very fine in forgeries; and their denunciation from Boston is due to another split in the camp, and honesty obtains another benefit. My correspondent says that Mr. Trifet (Mr. Chute's friend) wished to purchase a quantity of them from him, "but he would not give my price, and so he was offended, and got them written down." I mention all these trifling matters, to show the ebb and flow of honesty in Boston. What a charming picture for we poor deluded English collectors, who have so long afforded practice for the exercise of those illimitable powers of lying which the Boston forgers possess! My language is strong, but one cannot write too strongly on such a subject—a polite style would hardly be in character with it. My correspondent who sent me these Canadians is personally unknown to me, and I have not had much correspondence with him; but I do not accuse him of any knowledge of their real character, I rather fancy he has been victimised. In conclusion, those who know anything of S. Allan Taylor's large dealings in United States local rubbish and Boston goods, cannot but be amused that he is writing articles upon the *genuine* locals for a Boston paper. It reminds one of Artemus Ward's anecdote of meeting "Old Poodles, the allfirdist gambler in the country. 'Whither goist thow, sweet nimp?' sez I, in a play-actin' tone. 'To the mines, sir,' he unto me did say, 'to the mines, *to earn an honest livin'*.' Thinks I, that air ain't very cool, I guess, and druv on."

Yours faithfully,

Birmingham. EDWARD L. PEMBERTON.

With regard to the Paraguayan stamps, we must admit Mr. Pemberton's arguments have considerably shaken our faith in them. The case of the Bolivian stamps tells very much against them. We may be accused of inconsistency in changing our views respecting them, but it must be remembered that the pretended issues of Paraguay have always given rise to difficulties, and that the evidence is in favour of these particular stamps. Without going so far as to declare them false, we must now place them in the catalogue of "suspects."

As to the Ecuador 12 reales, we never put much faith in it. We chronicled it originally without remark either way, further than that our specimen was on a fragment of envelope, postmarked *New York!*—a circum-

stance which, at the time, we thought rather suspicious; and in September last we advised its rejection. We may add, that it was noticed by the *American Stamp Mercury* (Mr. Trifet's paper) in July last, and in the following number of that paper, it was positively stated that "the 12 reales stamp was issued early in the year." Mr. Trifet is certainly the only person who has been favoured with such exact information respecting this stamp. Some months after, it is true, he admitted it was suspicious; but if he had grounds for his positive statement as to date of emission, why did he so quietly yield his belief in this stamp?

With regard to the persons named by Mr. Pemberton: we know nothing of Bancroft, nor of C. P. Wright. Mr. J. M. Chute is an old correspondent of ours, and we regret to think that, as appears to be the case, he has been mixed up with a set of impostors. It is a fact that he gave us the information respecting the spurious San Domingo two reales, which we retailed to our readers, and it is difficult to reconcile his statements respecting the stamp with belief in his integrity.

Mr. S. A. Taylor is well known in both hemispheres, but the notoriety he has acquired is not altogether an honourable one. We have long been aware of his having been concerned in the fabrication of various "locals," "college stamps," &c.; and though we cannot *prove* his having been the "promoter" of the Ecuador and San Domingo, we *can* state that the copy of the Guatemala design, from which we wrote our original description *came from him*. The very fine engraving of this design thoroughly deceived us. We knew who was the sender, but did not doubt he had by chance lighted upon an early proof of a genuine emission. We all know the value of the Guatemala design; and as to Mr. S. A. Taylor, we must believe of him one of two things—either that he was the dupe of some more "designing" person, or was accessory to the manufacture of the stamp.

We should have given expression to our views respecting Boston stamp dealers earlier, but we delayed doing so, partly until we could arrive at something like certainty that those views were thoroughly well-founded, and partly until a fitting opportunity might occur. Such an opportunity has now arrived, and we feel it is time to take active measures against a set of people who do infinite harm to collecting. We anticipate our so doing will have the effect of drawing upon us unlimited abuse from the parties concerned, but, disregarding this, we shall continue our investigations, and do not despair of getting to the bottom of the matter, with the assistance (which we invite) of those American collectors who feel interested in the suppression of a fraud on the community.

OUR CONTEMPORARIES.

April 19, 1869.

The Philatelist for April opens with a short but interesting article by a Parisian collector, entitled *Notes on Reprints*. The writer, who has but recently commenced to give the public the benefit of his experience, has a thorough knowledge of stamps, and we therefore welcome his appearance in our contemporary's columns. In the course of his remarks he refers to a passage in our own article on reprints, which he quotes, and as he does not appear to understand the meaning of the last sentence therein, we beg to point out to him that the two journal stamps of 1861, lilac and blue, head to left, are intended to be indicated; at the same time we admit it would have been clearer had this sentence been made to form a separate paragraph. His information about the Austrian journal-tax stamps (arms, square) is of much importance; we give it in his own words:—

> On observing the discrepancies pointed out above, we applied to the Ministry of Finance at Vienna for information on the subject. The secretary, in reply, informed us that no reprints whatever had been made of any of the newspaper tax stamps, either for Austria or Lombardo-Venetia. On searching the archives in the ministry, he found no mention of any order for supply of the 4 kr. brown, and 4 kr. red, except in the year 1858; but he found that a fresh supply of 1 kr. black had been ordered so late as in January, 1866. As the 1 kr. black, and 2 kr. red, ceased to be used on the 6th October, 1866, it is not surprising that a considerable number of the 1 kr. stamps have remained on hand; the only wonder is that they have not fallen to the same price as the 2 kr. red.

This may be taken to set the matter at

rest once for all, and affords a satisfactory explanation of the sudden abundance of the 1 kr. black.

The correspondence column contains an interesting letter from M. Berger-Levrault, contradicting the report which appeared in *The Philatelist*, that his workshops and offices had been destroyed by fire. He says :—

It is true that I am in the act of rebuilding the offices and workrooms necessary for our business; not in consequence of a fire, but merely because the premises occupied by our family for more than eighty years, were insufficient for the accommodation of the large staff of workmen actually employed; and, moreover, allowed no means for the augmentation necessitated by the continual spread of our connexions.

The acquisition of additional ground, the settlement of plans for buildings, &c., besides my ordinary avocations, have, in truth, so engaged my attention during the past year, that I was regretfully compelled to neglect the English edition of my catalogue.

I trust, however, in the course of next month, to be able once more to bestow my attention upon it.

Our readers will be gratified to learn that M. Berger-Levrault has such a satisfactory reason for re-building; and the fact that he will shortly be able to go on with the English edition of his catalogue, is equally a source of pleasure.

Le Timbrophile for the 30th January is full of readable matter. M. Mahé discusses the origin of the N. Z. watermark on the New Zealand stamps, and is of opinion that the use of paper bearing this mark was purely accidental, or the result of an unexpected exhaustion of the star watermarked.

An extract from Dr. Magnus' *brochure* on the Moldavian and Roumanian stamps, in reference to the lately discovered 27 paras of Moldavia, forms the next article. The learned doctor gives a detailed description of this "resuscitation," and then his views respecting its worth. He is decidedly in favour of accepting this value as genuine, and we should be disposed to coincide with him.

Succeeding this is a capital list of the Guadalajara stamps, which, with varieties, number 32. It is carefully compiled, and neatly arranged, and is valuable as the first attempt towards a complete catalogue of these strange provisionals.

The current number was published, as appears by the date on the front page, on the 30th of February—a day peculiar to the present year. Will the next number appear on the 33rd of March? It ought to have been out already, but perhaps M. Mahé finds some difficulty in fixing the *date* of publication. Copying, with a little alteration, a sentence from M. Mahé's reply in the present number to M. Moens, we would observe, that, "*Une erreur est toujours une erreur, même dans le—Timbrophile.*"

M. Mahé, in his notice of new stamps, includes a description of a Great Northern Railway stamp, but adds :—

Each day witnesses the appearance of new series of railway stamps, the use of which seems to us rather problematical. We believe it then our duty to stop here, and from this day we shall pass in silence all such stamps of this class as may be emitted, unless a great number of our readers should wish them to be described; we will then take them up and continue the description, but until further orders we declare these stamps to be of very mediocre interest.

We quite agree with M. Mahé as to the amount of interest appertaining to these stamps. They are genuine enough, are issued by companies to whom the profit accruing by the sale of a few thousands to collectors would not be an object, and they *do* prepay the carriage of newspapers from station to station; but they are, as a rule, unsightly, and inconveniently large. Their number is now large, and their employment at most only semi-postal.

In his article on *Le Vieux-Neuf*, M. Mahé mentions the fact that the existence of the *red* circular Cashmere has lately been established. This fact has also been noticed by the "Parisian Collector" in *The Philatelist*.

Dr. Magnus, in the continuation of his article on local stamps, asserts his belief in the genuineness of the Livonian. The following are his remarks on the point :—

The authenticity of these stamps is no longer doubted by the majority of collectors. Their omission from the catalogues of *Le Timbre-Poste* and *Le Timbrophile* is due to the uncertainty which surrounded their appearance. M. Berger-Levrault, in his catalogue (June 1867), considers them as very doubtful, and states that he has never met with any obliterated copies. However, M. Mahé has declared to us that he has received from Riga, through a trustworthy correspondent at St. Petersburg, several used specimens, obliterated,—it is true with pen and ink only, but this kind of cancellation is found on the stamps of other countries, and does not prove anything [against these stamps]. We, for our part, are satisfied to accept the particulars given by our correspondents.

We are surprised that Dr. Magnus should so readily believe in these stamps. His

reasons are of the most unsubstantial kind. He appears not to have read M. Berger-Levrault's remarks at p. 109 of our last volume.

Le Timbre-Poste.—We have the March and April numbers before us, but do not find anything noteworthy in them. Their contents are simply the chronicle of novelties, and the continuation of Dr. Magnus' article on stamped envelopes, which now approves itself of great value. The stamps treated on in the current numbers are the Russian and Finnish.

The Continental Philatelic Magazine opens with an attack on *The Philatelist.* Our Brighton contemporary was rather hard on Mr. Van Rinsum for his mistakes in English, which decidedly are of an amusing character, and Mr. Van Rinsum does his best to reply. The best thing in the present number is decidedly an article by Mr. Pemberton, entitled the "Boston Forgeries," in which, amongst others, a new forgery of the 13 c. Sandwich Islands head is described. As this is a very fine and dangerous counterfeit, and likely to deceive even experienced collectors, we deem it well to give his description:—

Sandwich Islands, 13 c. head, red—may be told by the absence of a full stop after STATES (right side); by the top of the arch containing the word POSTAGE touching the border line above it for a greater length than in the genuine. The great difference is, this forgery is on a very slightly-bluish paper and gum white; the colour very much brighter, varying from very bright red to fine vermilion; originals are always on creamy paper, gum creamy, colour less intense, being red with rather a rosy tint, on thick paper. The forgery is slightly shorter than the genuine, and is from a fine steel die; the originals appear from a copper plate. This being so finely engraved requires some little description.

Against this latest result of American ingenuity we hope both collectors and dealers will be on their guard.

NEWLY-ISSUED OR INEDITED STAMPS.

THE omission of our usual article on novelties from our last number, coupled with the date of publication of the number, may possibly have led some of our readers to imagine we were endeavouring to hoax them on a comparatively large scale. We can soberly assure them, however, that nothing was further from our wishes than this omission, which was partly the result of accident, and partly of design. This, in brief, is the explanation which we feel due to our readers to give. On account of the Easter holidays, it was necessary that the magazine should be prepared some days earlier than usual; and we ourselves being, from circumstances over which we had decidedly no control, unable to send our manuscript so soon, our publishers had to choose between two evils—delaying the magazine beyond the first of the month, or issuing it without the article on "New Stamps;" and we think our readers will agree that, having regard to the value of punctuality (on which we ourselves lately had occasion to insist in speaking of our contemporaries), they accepted the lesser one. That such a mishap should occur again is at any rate very unlikely, and we trust that, taking into account its unique character, it will on this occasion be excused.

NORTH GERMAN CONFEDERATION.—A pair of interesting stamps reach us from the Confederation, being none other than the successors of the gold-beater-skin Prussian stamps of 10 and 30 groschen. The values remain the same, and so in their principal





features do the designs, but paper takes the place of skin, and the new-comers are perforated. The colours also are changed, the 10 groschen now appears in sober grey, and the 30 groschen in a much brighter blue. On examining the design, we find the following differences: the inscription PREUSSEN gives place to NORDDEUTSCHER POST BEZIRK, and SILB. GR. to GROSCHEN; and the finely-drawn Prussian eagle, which adorns the borders of the old, give place to little rosettes or florets in the new. There is one alteration perceptible in the new stamps which will be very unwelcome to collectors, and that is, they are obliterated with the

post-office clerk's signature, and the date, written across the face of the stamps. Concluding our notice, we must not omit to mention that the impression is on white paper, and that the two stamps were issued on the 1st of March.

We have had lent us a specimen of the current 2 gr. adhesive, purporting to be a variety, but which has no doubt been concocted for a fraudulent purpose. It is apparently printed on yellow paper, but we have no hesitation in saying that the paper was originally white, and has been coloured yellow by some chemical, which, acting on the impression also, has changed its colour from blue to yellowish green.

Danish West Indies.—A correspondent sends us a proof of a new emission by a private company running between St. Thomas and Porto Rico. It is rather a large stamp, nearly square, and containing within a transverse oval the representation of a steamer sailing to right, and above, the Danish crown, sword, and sceptre, posed as on the stamps. Beneath the ship, and within the oval, is a small label inscribed in dark letters, CLARA ROTHE, the name of the steamer, we presume. The border of the oval consists of two broad scrolls, the upper one inscribed ST. THOMAS, PORTO RICO; the lower, MEDIO CENTAVO. These scrolls give the stamp a very heavy appearance. Were they more tasteful, the fineness of the other portions of the design would render it more than passable. Our correspondent is informed that the following values have been issued: ½, 1, 2, 3, and 4 centavos; ½, 1, 2, and 4 reales. The centavos, he says, are all printed in black; the colour of the others are as follows:—



½ real blue,
1 „ orange,
2 „ mauve,
4 „ green.

He adds, moreover, that all are perforated. We are inclined to believe in these stamps, the more especially as M. Mahé, who usually errs on the side of incredulity, refers to them, though without giving any details, in his last number.

Since the above was written, we have read an account of these stamps in *Le Timbre-Poste*, in which it is stated that they have been made for a company under contract with the Danish government, and that the design has been engraved by M. Stern, of Paris. Our illustration, we find, is not quite correct, our engraver having omitted the ground of transverse lines within the oval, which may be taken to represent the clouds.

British Columbia.—Some months back we announced, on the authority of a trustworthy correspondent, the postmaster's intention to issue new values. The *Philatelist* now reports the following as being about to be issued:—

5 cents orange-red and black.
10 „ pink and blue.
25 „ yellow and violet.
50 „ violet and red.
1 dollar green and green.

These will all be printed from the die of the threepence, like the two cents already in existence; and of the two colours above mentioned for each stamp, the second indicates that of the surcharged value, the first that of the stamp itself. We shall give further details of this emission upon receiving ocular demonstration of its existence.

Bavaria.—In our usual review of our contemporaries last month we described the annexed design, and guessed, as we now find correctly, that it was that of a new Bavarian envelope. As will, we think, be admitted, it is very simple and tasteful. Only this value, which is printed on rose, has appeared as yet, but we may anticipate that others will shortly be emitted. The impression is on white paper, and above the stamp is the usual transverse inscription, this time consisting of the words, KÖNIGL. BAYER. POST COUVERT.



Fernando Po.—Shade of the ever-memorable Dockwra, what next—and next? Shall we soon have to describe the first series for

mythical Timbuctoo, or an emission for Juan Fernandez? We had begun to think that the age of new countries was past; that we should be forced to confine ourselves for the future to chronicling the emissions of states and countries already enrolled as stamp-patrons, and now we receive news of the appearance of stamps or series from no less than four almost unheard of African settlements. First came the Orange State, and now we have, in quick succession, the Transvaal Republic, Gambia, and, lastly, Fernando Po. There has been but one stamp emitted for this Spanish settlement, and that is already obsolete. According to the information given by M. Moens (on whose authority alone we chronicle this novelty), it was issued in September of last year, and was superseded on the first of January of the present year by the current Cuban type, which is now to be used, so he says, in all the Spanish colonies. We give an illustration of this stamp, which is a *fac-simile* of the engraving in *Le Timbre-Poste*, from which it will be perceived the value is 20 *centesimos d'escudo;* the colour, according to M. Moens, is brown on white. That it is, and will be, very rare, there can be no doubt; indeed, the fact that it was not heard of in Europe until after its suppression, proves how little it was used.



NEW GRANADA.—The second individual of the new series is now in circulation. From the annexed illustration, it will be seen that the design is substantially the same as that of the 10 c. The colour is the usual one for this value—orange.



URUGUAY.—The 1 centesimo journal stamp of this republic has been withdrawn from a most satisfactory cause—it is no longer wanted, the journals themselves being now carried by the post free of all charge. The decree for the suppression of the stamp is dated the 11th of November, 1868.

GAMBIA.—In a separate article last month we gave details concerning this country, and the two stamps—4d. brown and 6d. blue—which it has just issued.

FRANCE.—In our impression for May, 1868, we referred to the project for issuing adhesive journal stamps, representing the tax and the postage. These stamps, or at any rate a portion of them, are now before the world. They are all of the type represented at the side, and comprise two values, each of which appears in three colours. We say, *two* values, but in fact, by a rather complicated arrangement, these two different values are increased to six. The colours are as follows:—



2 c. and 5 c.		violet.
2 c.	,, 5 c.	blue.
2 c.	,, 5 c.	red.

The violet pair represent the journal tax only. The blue pair represents the tax and the departmental postage of 2 c. Their real values are, therefore, 4 c. and 7 c. The red pair, in conclusion, indicate the tax and the general postage of 4 c.: their values, then, are 6 c. and 9 c. With regard to the taxes or duties, that of 2 c. is charged, we believe, on provincial; and that of 5 c. on Parisian papers.

The decree authorising the emission of these stamps prescribes certain formalities in connection with their employment, as, 1.—That they must be stuck at the right upper angle of the first page, on the edge of the outside column, so that they may be obliterated by the print. 2.—That proprietors of journals must give notice fifteen days in advance, at the stamp office, what quantity of stamps they require; and this notice must include a statement of the average number of copies printed. 3.—The stamps will only be sold in sheets of 101; and the proprietors of journals must keep a book, in which account is kept of the quantities they purchase. The two latter provisions seem superfluous, and only made to give the government information, and the proprietors trouble.

These new stamps, or at any rate such as represent the postage as well as the duty, are, in our opinion, worthy of collecting, and philatelists will not require much excuse to add these handsome and novel impressions to their stores.

Turkey.—The entire new series is as follows:—

10 paras lilac, 20 paras green, 1 piastre yellow.

2 pe. vermilion, 5 pe. blue and lilac-blue, 25 pe. red.

United States.—We have now before us two individuals of the new series for this country—the 2 c. and the 12 c. They are both very finely engraved, as might be expected, but we do not think the designs are quite so tasteful as are the majority of those prepared by the National Bank-Note Company. There seems to us rather too much ornamentation in them, the framework as a result appearing heavy, and, to some extent, dwarfing the central device; this is more especially noticeable in the 12 c. In the 2 c. is represented a man on horseback, a kind of district postman we presume, though were we to write from "first impressions," we should say the figures were intended for racehorse and jockey. They are well drawn, and with them is introduced a pretty little bit of landscape. The inscriptions are in the upper and lower margins; in the upper, UNITED STATES POSTAGE; in the centre of the lower, a large figure 2; and on either side, the words TWO CENTS. The 12 cents has in the middle a representation of a steamship ploughing its way across the ocean—a capitally-drawn little picture,—enclosed in a transverse oval frame, of which, however, only the lower half has a wide margin. In the centre of this margin is the numeral of value, as in the 2 cents, and the value in words on each side; above, on a horizontal label, is the inscription—UNITED STATES POSTAGE. The colours are—for the 2 c., a warm brown; for the 12 c., green. Both are on white paper, and perforated, and have the quadrilled square at the back; they are, moreover, small in size and square in shape.

We have since seen the new 3 c., 6 c., and 90 c. The 3 cent is poorly designed; the central figure in it, the locomotive, does not stand out clearly, the surroundings are too many for it. It seems to have come to a stand-still in a very dull and sombre station, so that, looking at it, one's thoughts somehow revert to the underground railway and its twilight. The most prominent portions of the design are the word POSTAGE and the comparatively gigantic figure 3. The colour of this stamp is ultramarine, as is also that of the succeeding value, the 6 cents. The total dissimilarity in type, however, renders the two stamps quite distinguishable from each other. The 6 c. is the neatest stamp of the series, or rather of that portion of it which has come under our notice. It bears the portrait of Washington in the centre in a circle, which is contained in a square external frame, wherein are the inscriptions. The effect is very neat and pleasing. The 90 cents also looks very well. The portrait of Lincoln, which has hitherto adorned the 15 cents, is called in to fill the centre, and is enclosed in a chastely-ornamented framework. The portrait is in an oval; above is the inscription U. S. POSTAGE; on either side, and curving down to the lower margin, are scrolls, the one on the left inscribed NINETY, the one on the right, CENTS; and the numeral 90 in the upper angles completes the device. The appearance of the stamp is much heightened by its being printed in two colours—the centre in black, the frame in carmine.

Prince Edward Island.—The expected fourpence has appeared. It is a common-looking stamp, so common indeed, that an inexperienced amateur might well be excused for suspecting it to be a forgery. The old portrait is made to serve again. It is surmounted by two scrolls inscribed PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND POSTAGE, and another scroll below the portrait bears the value in words; the sides are occupied with a kind of diamond ornament. The colour (in the words of our New England contemporary, who was the first to describe it) is "black, not deep-black, nor light-black, nor yet grey-black, but just simply *black*, without qualification."

Servia.—In his current number M. Moens gives the following information: "The Austrian post-office at Belgrade is to be suppressed by July next. At that date the

Servian government, under the new treaties, will itself take charge of and transmit the foreign letters which have hitherto been forwarded through the Austrian post. At the same date we shall be favoured with the new series of stamps ornamented with the effigy of the young Prince Obrenovitch IV.

ROMAN STATES.—From the same journal we learn that very shortly a new series will be emitted for these states, which will leave nothing to be desired upon any point.

RUSSIA.—We have received from an old and trustworthy correspondent at St. Petersburg, a specimen of a new and peculiar local stamp. He says of it: "It is used in one of the circuits of the county or government of Moscow. The inscription on it reads, VILLAGE POST OF THE CIRCUIT OF BOGORODSK, 5 KOPEKS. I believe it must be genuine, as I have seen several others used for other places." It is a stamp of rectangular shape, rather above the usual size. In the centre is an upright oval, the upper half of which shows St. George and the Dragon, rather hazily drawn, on a ground of vertical lines; the lower half, a sun-dial on a dotted ground. The inscription, which is of course in Russian, is contained in the border of the oval, and is in dark letters. The outer frame is composed of two waved lines, and the space between them and the oval is filled in with colour, the denomination, 5 K, appearing in white, in the four angles. The impression is in blue on white paper, and the copy before us is obliterated with two faint penstrokes. That it is genuine we see no reason to doubt, though its exact use still remains to be explained. We trust our friend will be able to obtain and favour us with some information on the point.

The same correspondent writes us, that there is a rumour current at St. Petersburg that new adhesives with the portrait of the emperor will soon be issued.

NORTH GERMAN CONFEDERATION.—The one-third sgr. green has just appeared *perforated*, as also have the 1 and 2 sgr. The perforated copies of the 2 sgr. are of a much paler blue than their predecessors. The change from piercing to perforating has much improved the look of the stamps.

ROUMANIA.—We have just seen copies of two of the new values, 25 c. and 50 c., taken from a letter received from Bucharest. They are larger than the previously issued stamps, but the same portrait of the Prince Charles is employed. They are printed in two colours; the 25 c. has the central oval in blue, and the border in orange; the 50 c. has the oval in red, and the border in blue. The value appears in words in the upper and lower margins, and the words POSTA ROMANA are inscribed on curved bands at the side. In the lower angles are the numerals of value.

QUEENSLAND.—An entirely new watermark now appears on the 1d. and 2d. stamps. The cut herewith gives a good idea of the design, which has the merit of being appropriate. No doubt it will appear in due course on the other values.



MAURITIUS.—Our Brighton contemporary reported, some two or three months back, the emission of a lavender two shilling stamp for this island. The postmaster has, however, written to one of our correspondents, informing him that "there are no stamps of two shillings issued here, neither was it ever in contemplation to issue such a value." This is a pretty conclusive denial.

MEXICO.—We have been informed that the provisional 4 reales (Hidalgo), formerly printed in red on yellow, has lately appeared printed in red on white paper. The type having gone entirely out of use, this variety will no doubt be rare.

ROMAN STATES.—The 80 cents has now appeared perforated, thus completing the set.

WURTEMBURG.—On the authority of M. Moens, we chronicle as a forthcoming stamp a 14 kr. adhesive, yellow.

BELGIUM.—From the same source we get information of the appearance of the 2 c. stamp, of the same colour as the 20 c.—pearlish-lilac.

RIGHT AT LAST.—The provisional constitution of Spain has decreed that for the future the letters of its subjects shall not be seized at the post-office, and that should it be necessary to open them, it shall be done by a magistrate in the presence of the accused party.

POSTAGE STAMPS IN PARLIAMENT.

BY OVERY TAYLOR.

"I HOLD in my hand," said Mr. Graves, in the course of a speech made by him on the 6th ult., in the House of Commons, "a sheet containing the stamps of twenty-five countries. Every one of these stamps is under the value of a penny: the lowest being one-thirteenth of a penny; and the highest, three-farthings."

A very powerful argument this on behalf of a reduction in the rates for circulars and printed matter. What man has done, man can do; and the same holds good as to nations. Better proof of the feasibility of Mr. Graves' proposal could hardly be given than the fact that five-and-twenty countries, great and small, had been able to carry its principle into practice. "Go thou and do likewise" was a very easy moral to tack to such a story; and though its force may not be at first appreciated, we have little doubt that in a short time the public will force the government to take action upon it.

A much-esteemed correspondent incidentally remarked to us a short time since, that "linguistic, historical, and geographical investigation alone seemed to him to render postage-stamp collecting a worthy pursuit." If this were true, in the sense that no *other* benefit is derivable from collecting, the pursuit would be entitled to take at once the highest rank amongst the lighter studies; but, as it appears to us, the attractions he names are far from being the only ones appertaining to philately. The study of engraving, of paper, and of design, may be mentioned amongst the collateral advantages; but, as touching more upon our present purpose, we would insist, now more especially, upon the interest which collectors are gradually led to take in the great subject of postal progress itself. They cannot regard the emissions of far-off and even semi-civilised countries without astonishment at the rapid spread of the most beneficent of "liberal ideas," nor can they help feeling the liveliest satisfaction in witnessing their further adoption and extension. Hence, then, to us and to our readers, the recent discussions in parliament, to which we have referred above, are fraught with interest, and we are sure that our readers will regret with us the somewhat unsatisfactory termination of the debate.

There was a great deal of truth in what the Marquis of Hartington urged against the *immediate* execution of Mr. Graves' plan; but what we were sorry to find was that, instead of heartily *adopting* it, and promising his influence and exertion towards its being tried as early as possible, he confined himself practically to giving a promise that he would take the matter into consideration. "Oh, I'll think it over" is the answer not unfrequently made to a request to which it may be hardly prudent to give a direct denial. What political complications may occur between this and the next financial year is more than we can say, but we may safely predict that, unless the post-office officials should be driven to propose some plans to carry out Mr. Graves' suggestion, there will not be wanting some pretext or other to stave off the "consideration" of the matter for another year or two after. Come the reform must, sooner or later; this even the most obstinate of officials must see; but the obstructives will no doubt do their best to put back its advent as far as possible.

One would have thought the reduction of a postal rate could hardly have been made a party question, yet it is evident from an examination of the division lists that it was virtually made one. The small minority which supported Mr. Graves principally consisted of conservatives; the majority which followed the Marquis of Hartington into the lobby, of liberals. Strange inversion! we are accustomed to think of liberalism and progress as synonymous terms, but in this instance we find the professors of the former substantially opposed to the spirit of the latter.

The question, however, is now fairly started; it is long since it was first mooted, but such changes are slow to recommend themselves, until the inconvenience of existing arrangements presses strongly on the community. From time to time there have appeared, in sundry journals of more or less importance, well-sustained arguments for a reduction on the postage of printed matter,

wherein the existence of so many low-priced stamps has been over and over again urged in proof of the success of the scheme; but the attention of the public had never been strongly drawn to the matter until Mr. Graves brought it before the House of Commons. There is little likelihood, however, of its now dropping out of notice. The member for Liverpool showed, in the course of his speech how strong is the desire for a reduction among those classes who have had most experience of the value of postal facilities; and how strong also is their belief in the ultimate pecuniary benefit from such reduction; and with this nucleus to commence on, the agitation must continue, increase, and finally succeed.

For our part, we quite appreciate the temporary loss. £300,000 is not to be laughed at. But it appears to us that even had the House of Commons pledged itself to the principle of Mr. Graves' motion, it would hardly have been possible to have acted upon it immediately. The consideration of the plans to be adopted to carry out the many and various arrangements, which would have to be completed before the thing could be got into working order, would necessarily occupy no slight space of time. The reform could not have been in any event, then, carried out during the present financial year, perhaps hardly in the next. It might even, taking into account the Postmaster-General's complaint of want of room, have been considered in conjunction with the scheme for erecting a new Central Post-office, and its actual operation postponed until the completion of the proposed building. But the premier objected to the House voting an abstract resolution, affirming the necessity for change, without indicating the time when the change ought to be made. He appeared to forget that the House has not unfrequently affirmed by resolution the desirability of reducing various duties, that on tea for instance, without prescribing any period for the making of the reduction; and Mr. Graves' motion was, in fact, for the reduction of a tax, as the money earned by the post-office goes toward the revenue of the country.

As a temporary objection to the lowering of the postal rates on newspapers and other printed matter, the assertion, that it would result in an immediate loss of £300,000, at a time when such a loss can be ill afforded, has force; but the worst of such an objection is, that it can easily be repeated year after year by economical chancellors or obstructive officials, and unless and until the change is made by the government, it will be repeated. They manage these things differently, not only in despotically-ruled France, but in constitutionally-governed Prussia. There, upon the formation of the confederacy, a general post-office was established, and low uniform rates were made for the carriage of letters. A few weeks ago the postal report came before the federal parliament for discussion, and Count Bismarck, after giving statistics showing the activity of the post-office, and the amount to debit and credit thereof, whereby a deficit of £20,800 was shown, added, "This deficit is much smaller than was universally expected, and it will doubtless, in 1869, turn into a large profit." We see, then, that without fear of the probable loss, and in a newly-formed state, the government boldly initiated a new and much cheaper postal service, facing the consequences for the sake of the benefits; and it has had its reward. The deficit turns out a mere flea-bite; and most likely the predicted deficit on our reform would prove in the result much above the actual one.

It is worth noticing in this connection, that the proposed reduction is far from being so sweeping as that of 1839, when penny postage was introduced; then very few letters were carried under 4d., and the great majority went at 9d., and upwards. A halfpenny postage is a reduction by one half, the penny postage was a reduction to, on an average, say, one-sixth of the previous rates.

Again, Mr. Graves' proposal was very moderate with regard to weight; circulars, and newspapers under two ounces, he suggested should be charged a halfpenny. Well, we have always understood that a letter from London to Edinburgh costs the post-office, for carriage, &c., the thirty-seventh part of a penny; weight, up to half-an-ounce, making no difference. Assume, then, that two circulars together would weigh half-

an-ounce (in fact, limit their separate weight to ¼ oz.), at present, their postage would be twopence, under the new system, a penny; the post-office would then lose a penny; but supposing four to be sent in place of two now (in other words, that the number sent were to be doubled, *as the consequence of the reduction*), the post-office would lose nothing, as the four circulars would together only weigh as heavy as two letters, and would cost therefore no more for carriage, and the post-office would, for either the four circulars or the two letters, receive twopence. Were the number of circulars to be trebled—*i. e.*, say six instead of two (again as the *consequence* of the reduction), the post-office would be the gainer of a penny, *less* about an eighteenth, the cost of carriage of the third couple; and so on for any further increase. To this, it is true, may be opposed the probability of an increase in the working expenses, for sorting, &c. The Marquis of Hartington, indeed, drew a sad picture of the mail-bag apparatus at the stations proving utterly useless under the pressure of extra matter, and of the travelling post-office coming to a dead lock from the same cause; but, for the credit of the service, he was bound to admit that these difficulties were not insuperable. Speaking, it may be said, with the boldness of outsiders, we venture to coincide in this belief. As to circulars, immediate delivery is not so important for them as for letters. Let them, if necessary, be delivered over the post-office counter within specified hours (as is done in France), kept separate from the letters, sorted separately, and sent on by a later mail. The post-office now stipulates that newspapers may be delayed, at the option of postmasters, twenty-four hours, and this stipulation might be extended to circulars. Some expense would undoubtedly be incurred, but it need not be incurred all at once; let the extra buildings, bags, or railway post-offices, be added as required, and the cost would be in all probability almost immediately reimbursed by the traffic.

We have suffered our reflections on this matter to run to a considerable length, for which we claim and hope to obtain our readers' indulgence. We have, indeed, been compelled to leave some points untouched, and will therefore, with their permission, return to the subject again next month.

REVIEWS OF POSTAL PUBLICATIONS.

Alfred Smith & Co.'s Descriptive Price Catalogue of the Postage Stamps of all Nations. Illustrated with upwards of 100 Engravings. Twelfth Edition. London: E. Marlborough & Co. Bath: Alfred Smith & Co.

THE TWELFTH EDITION! We might stop with these words, as no commendation of ours can add force to the testimony they convey. We have really nothing to add to our remarks on the previous editions, but we feel it would be unjust to make the popularity which causes so rapid an exhaustion of successive editions a reason for passing unnoticed the appearance of this new one. We, however, shall fulfil our duty if we call our readers attention to it, and mention the fact that it has been brought up to date.

Oppen's Postage-stamp Album and Catalogue. Revised, corrected, and brought up to the present time, by Dr. VINER. Twelfth Edition. London: William Stevens.

[SECOND NOTICE].

IN our review of this edition we stated that "it offered no special feature on which to remark." This statement was not quite accurate. The perpendicular lines which were expunged from the preceding edition, have, in the one before us, been partially restored, and the sizes of the squares formed by their re-insertion, regulated according to the sizes of the stamps. This return to, and improvement on, the old arrangement, entirely meets our views, as we think if an album be ruled at all, it ought to be ruled both ways for the sake of appearance, and also as a guide to the collector.

A KENTISH PAPER says that at a village not many miles from Ashford, the post-boy can neither read nor write. How he manages to deliver his letters is a mystery, known only to himself and the postmaster.

THE DISUSE OF ENVELOPES is becoming fashionable in Paris. The sheet on which the letter is written is folded in the old style that was in vogue before envelopes were invented.

CORRESPONDENCE.

THE CASHMERE INSCRIPTION.

To the Editor of "The Stamp-Collector's Magazine."

Dear Sir,—The Cashmere inscription is still a mystery. I have consulted Cashmere merchants who cannot decipher it, and the best oriental scholars whom I have consulted are of opinion that the *upper part* consists of *private marks*. Others, however, fancy they detect some Nagri written characters. If it is in any known characters, I am inclined to think it is Kohistani, which, with Pahari, are the languages spoken in the Himalehs; but Pahari, I believe, is not written.

Yours faithfully,

Madras. F. H. H.

PERMANENT STAMP ALBUM.

To the Editor of "The Stamp-Collector's Magazine."

Sir,—Allow me to give my opinion on this much-vexed subject, again broached by W. H. S. in the April number of your magazine. The permanence of that correspondent's album seems to me to be very precarious, and, moreover, its plan is not that which now seems to be generally considered best.

I.—Stamps Already Issued.

Blank pages are decidedly to be preferred, as giving greatest liberty of arrangement. A simple edging of double wavy lines would look very well. The best size for a page would, I think, be about 7 inches by 8½ (I mean within the edging). This would easily hold in a row six ordinary-sized stamps, perhaps the average number in a separate issue. I decidedly disapprove of a catalogue being interleaved, or even bound up at the end of the volume. It is far better for every philatelist to collect according to his own views, and not be restricted to the arrangement of another. It is, however, objectionable to face the stamps, so, in my opinion, the best plan would be to leave the *left*-hand side of the pages entirely blank. The collector himself might write on these short notes relative to the stamps on the opposite pages, or in after years, if hard pressed by new issues, might mount new varieties on them. At the top of each page the name of the country should be simply printed, without anything else—no arms or portraits—let there be stamps, and stamps only. A separate page should be devoted to every country, &c , however few stamps it may possess. It can never be foreseen how many new stamps may be issued. The only exception to this would be in the case where the country is dead in a philatelic sense—as for instance, the Ionian Islands, Bergedorf, &c. I may add, in conclusion, that I think there should certainly be a separate volume for uncut envelopes, similar in every respect to that for adhesives.

II.—Future Issues.

Besides leaving ample room at the end of every country (especially ample room for Spain and New Granada), there should be at least *one* blank leaf inserted between every two countries, to admit of new additions to the philatelic ranks being inserted in their proper alphabetical order (I think the geographico-alphabetical order by far the best). Taking into consideration the great number of leaves to be thus inserted, and the fact that stamps are only to be mounted on the right-hand side, we see the necessity for having two volumes (for adhesives alone). This is no doubt objectionable, but it cannot be helped—it would be impossible to make a permanent stamp album in a single volume at all neat or handy. The best division of countries would be:—vol. 1, Britain and its colonies; vol. 2, rest of the world (both of these to be for adhesive *postage* stamps); vol. 3, whole world (envelopes). A fourth volume might be added by those who collect railway, fiscal, or other stamps.

III.—Paper, Binding, &c.

A pure white paper with names and edging printed in black would be best, as not at all tending to kill the colours of the stamps. Maps I consider superfluous. The binding should be strong, and capable of allowing the book to open flat. There should be two firmly-secured clasps.

Such an album as the one described above, would, if we suppose its owner to consent in time to mount stamps on the left-hand side of the leaves, and also to insert additional leaves on the guards (to prevent bulging, when the book might be re-bound with new guards), be capable of holding, in addition to the stamps at present in existence, about 19,000 new varieties. Supposing at a rough estimate about 200 new stamps to be issued every year (which average, however, is not likely to last long), this album would afford room for the new issues of the next century, and would, I think, be fairly entitled to the appellation of a *Permanent Album*. Any philatelist of the present generation would surely consider it sufficient, and it would suit any of the different schools of philately—affording abundant space for the followers of either the English or French schools, or for those who prefer to cut their envelopes, to mount them in the first two volumes; while for those who prefer the plan proposed by Mr. Weare (*Philatelist* for February), the first volume would be sufficient.

Apologizing for trespassing so much on your space,

I am, Sir, yours faithfully,

Nairn, N.B. P. I. A.

MR. PEMBERTON ON PERFORATIONS, &c.

To the Editor of "The Stamp-Collector's Magazine."

Dear Sir,—You occasionally quote what I wrote in *The Philatelist* upon reprints, giving such as *my* recipes for distinguishing between reprints and originals; in common justice to Dr. Magnus, I must tell you that these tests were, with few exceptions, borrowed from him. To all readers of the French papers, Theta's article, "On Varieties of Perforation," will appear very meagre and inaccurate, after the justly-celebrated series of papers, entitled "Dentelés et non dentelés," by Dr. Magnus, in *Le Timbre-Poste*, of 1866-7. Theta certainly is no reader of the French papers, though he can hardly go to the absurd length of saying, with Mr. Greenstreet, that he does not "place much confidence in their statements when quoted" (such an opinion could only come from Birchin Lane, and it is a great pity that it and its promulgator ever left there). On page 81, No. 46, of *Le Timbre-Poste*, Theta will find two common, and one uncommon, perforations engraved, which he ignores. They are the *arc*, found on all perforated Hanover, and on the last set of Brunswicks; the *scie*, as on the Bremen 2 and 10 gr.; and the *obliqueparallel*, found on some of the La Guaira 1 and 2 rls., and on a few—very few, and amazingly scarce—early New Zealands. These things, however, are omissions, yet, as the same engravings occur on p. 101 of *The Philatelist* for June, 1867, there is no reason why Theta, when writing "On Varieties of Perforation," should not have referred to an English magazine, even if he did not put faith in the French ones. When a writer considers himself competent to compose a paper as a guide to collectors, there is no excuse for omitting what *all well-informed* collectors know, and what an English magazine has published sixteen months ago. In Theta's

so-termed imperfect perforations, the notices of all are good, except the "serpentines," which are not made at all clear. The serpentine in use on the Finlands is large and fanciful in appearance; the same occurs on the Helsingfors (both on the old green and the new brown), but very much reduced in size. The serpentines of Victoria have not the slightest affinity, either in the cut or in the effect when severed, with those of Finland.

Respecting roulettes of the 2 shilling Victoria, two varieties are known—1st as well as 4th class. South Australia are all given as of the 2nd class, but there are many varieties of these, which I possess, but have not time to describe; the same applies to Western Australia, &c. Theta is at great pains to inform us that the fancy serpentine, in present use in Finland, was "at first adopted for the La Guaira stamps;" and to keep such valuable information before our minds, he mentions further on, "the large serpentine method originally adopted by the same country" (which was La Guaira). The account is precise, but who ever saw serpentined La Guaira? If such exist, they have been reserved for "the keen, detective eye" of Theta; or, perhaps Mr. Green-street, when profitably engaged in "hocussing" the French school, may have found this variety whilst studying to qualify himself for that laudable purpose.

Another series of errors, for which there is no excuse, is his description of "Class 1.—Perfect perforation." His account gives them as only of three values, and as being officially perforated. The history is this, as every reader of the stamp papers must know: they were a private perforation, by the firm of Susse Frères, and the complete set exists. Their whole history is to be found in the English magazines, and in all the French ones, and the whole set is catalogued by every recent writer who acknowledges perforations; so there is no excuse for such a wholesale blunder on the part of one who professes to write for the instruction of his fellow collectors; such writings only mislead. Sundry French exist perforated by roulette, but these are far rarer than the *Susse*. Levrault chronicles the set, and also a 1 and 20 c. *percé en scie*, a small, pointed perforation.

In English stamps, besides the small perforation with large crown watermark, there is an equally-scarce 2d., large perf., with small crown watermark; the 1d. also exists, but is common.

Respecting the South Australians with mixed perforation and roulette, there are, besides 1d. in three shades, both 6d. and 1s. Of the set with perforation all round, there are, up to this date, 1d., three shades; 4d., two shades; 6d., two shades; with 10d. and 1s., one shade each; these are all star watermarked; the 10d. has recently appeared watermarked crown and S.A., and perforated all round; the 2d. and 2s. alone remain rouletted.

Some time back, a question was raised as to the existence of a postmarked Honduras; I certainly never saw one myself, but your correspondent, Mr. Lomler, of San Francisco, tells me he has seen a postmarked specimen, which came from a letter; the specimen is pink, and is penstroked as well as postmarked.

Yours truly,

Birmingham. EDWARD L. PEMBERTON.

The Philatelic Society.—The adjourned meeting of the Committee was held at Mr. Philbrick's chambers, on the 17th ult.; the President in the chair. The chief business done was the altering of the date of the Annual General Meeting (for this year) from the 1st to the 15th of May. The arrangements necessary for the furtherance of the objects of the society were discussed at considerable length, and the meeting then adjourned till the 1st of May.

ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS.

Geographical.—Wien (pronounced Vien) is the German for Vienna; Firenze, the Italian for Florence.

Miss B., Colchester.—The 50 soldi Austrian (current type) is very scarce, but we do not see reason to question its being in circulation.

Beginner, Ipswich.—The Servian stamps (head series) are found on thin and on thick paper. They vary considerably in colour.

H. F. Knowsley, Prescot.—The twelve "stamps" that you purchased from a Glasgow dealer, are, as you rightly suspect, badly-executed forgeries, and therefore of no value whatever.

F. S. P. S., Queenstown, South Africa.—Your fourpenny triangular Cape stamp, has evidently been changed from its normal colour, blue, to its present green appearance, through the action of some chemical agency.

Collegian, Winchester.—Your lilac Turkish, about which you have been so puzzled, is none other than the new 20 paras. In the general change of colour which has lately taken place, lilac has fallen to the lot of this value.

W. E. K., Stockport.—Yes. All kinds of crest albums—from 6d. to 50/—may be had of our publishers. The cheaper qualities are usually ruled in squares; but the better ones may be had in elegant designs and rich bindings.

Fentonia.—Replying to your letter in our last, *re* the Swiss stamps, we beg to point out to you that we *did* give the substance of M. Moens' second article on these stamps in "Our Contemporaries" for March. We regret the subject has not been taken up by English collectors.

R. C. M., Torquay.—The rarest Cape of Good Hope stamps are the one penny *blue* and fourpenny *red*, wood-blocks, which have been sold for as much as 50/ each.—The 3 lire provisional Tuscany (arms of Savoy) is also very scarce. We have never met with more than one *unused* specimen.

J. Kirby, Southampton.—Up to the present time we have only seen the 1 kr. green, 3 kr. rose, and 7 kr. blue, of the new Wurtemburg issue, but no doubt the other values will follow in due course.—The halfpenny green Barbados on bluish paper is much more scarce than the same value on white paper, and should certainly be collected as a distinct variety.

Dr. C. W. V.—We think you are hardly warranted in positively asserting that the head on the Chilian stamp is that of President Freire. This hypothesis has been put forward, but has been controverted in our pages (see p. 32, vol. v.). *Le Timbre-Poste* for March of last year, also contained a letter from M. Eugene Gabarret, a very well-informed collector residing at Valparaiso, complaining of the adoption of Columbus' head as the type for the new series, and decidedly the head on the new is the same as that on the old. M. Gabarret is very well placed for ascertaining decisively the fact of the matter, and we trust he will apply himself to its settlement.

A Student of the Album Question, Chester, propounds a curious method of collecting. He would have a book of ample dimensions, and make it a kind of stamp-sarcophagus, placing no stamps in it except those belonging to countries which, from one cause or another, had ceased issuing. Thus he would begin with the emissions of the absorbed German states, the Ionian islands, &c., and he anticipates that, from political causes, the number of stamp-issuing countries will rapidly decrease, his book filling in inverse proportion. It will be seen our correspondent's political notions have strangely influenced his ideas about stamps.

POSTAGE STAMPS IN PARLIAMENT.

[SECOND ARTICLE.]

BY OVERY TAYLOR.

Resuming our consideration of the subject brought under the notice of Parliament by Mr. Graves, let us just take a glance at the countries possessing stamps below a penny in value, and at the circumstances connected with their adoption.

Austria commenced issuing postage stamps in 1850, and a 1 kreuzer label formed one of the stamps of the first series. In 1851, it issued a separate series for newspapers—the well-known Mercuries, the lowest value of which is again 1 kreuzer (rather less than a farthing), which sum franked a single journal through the post. This value has been used ever since, and, in addition, there is a 2 kr. stamp for circulars. If we mistake not, two of these latter prepay a circular to England.

Baden.—The first series of stamps for this duchy, issued in 1851, comprised a 1 kreuzer, and the same has been included in every subsequent emission.

Bavaria commenced issuing in 1849, and with a 1 kreuzer stamp.

Belgium in 1850 produced a 1 centime, to which, in 1865, were added 2 and 5 centimes. The latter value prepays a journal to England or France.

Bergedorf.—This little town issued a ½ schilling stamp in 1861, either for circulars or local letters.

Brazil, honourably distinguished among foreign countries by its early adoption of the cheap postage system, issued its first series in 1843, the lowest value in which was 30 reis (rather more than three farthings); and in 1846, it issued a 10 reis stamp for newspapers or circulars. To this, on the first of January, 1850, was added a 20 reis stamp; and these two values have since been continuously used.

Brunswick brought out its ¼ and ⅓ sgr. in 1856 (the former equalling three-tenths, the latter four-tenths of a penny).

Canada, one of our most important colonies, included in its first series, issued in 1856, a halfpenny stamp for journals; and the new Dominion advanced the circulation of literature still further, by issuing a half-cent stamp.

Cashmere.—Even this oriental state has, for some years past, possessed a half-anna stamp (¾d.) for district letters, and has recently added a quarter-anna stamp (three-eighths of a penny) for, we presume, a similar employment.

Ceylon, again, has used a halfpenny stamp, since 1857, for newspapers; and

Chili, a one-centavo stamp, since 1861, for the same purpose.

The Confederate States, almost as soon as they had established their administration, issued a two-cent stamp, and afterwards gave orders for the preparation of a one cent. That it was never actually in use, is due to circumstances with which stamp collectors are well acquainted.

The Danubian Principalities.—Moldavia emitted a 5-para stamp for newspapers in 1854; united Roumania, a 3 para in 1862, under Prince Couza, and a 2 paras in 1865, under Prince Charles.

Denmark has had a 2 skilling (halfpenny) stamp for, we believe, local letters since 1851.

Egypt, though late in its adoption of the postal system, deserves the credit of accepting it at last in its integrity, as evidenced by the inclusion of 5 and 10 para stamps in its first series, issued in 1865. These represent, respectively, a farthing and a halfpenny.

France produced its 1 centime stamp in 1860, somewhat late in the day: but soon followed it up with the 2 and 4 c. stamps, both intended for newspapers, and also for circulars of comparatively high weight. In addition to these, it has a 5 centime stamp, prepaying *cartes-de-visite*, sent in open envelopes, from one part of a town to another. The French colonies likewise possess 1 and 5 centime stamps.

Germany.—The Thurn and Taxis office issued ¼, ⅓, and ½ sgr. stamps in 1852, and a 1 kr. stamp in 1850; and these values are still used throughout the new Confederation.

Greece issued 1 lepton and 2 lepta stamps in 1861; and it should be borne in mind that the lepton is even of less value than the centime: the drachma, composed of 100 lepta, equalling only 88 centimes.

Hamburg issued a ½ schilling stamp in 1849.

Hanover, a 3 pfennige in 1856.

Heligoland, a ½ schilling in 1867, and

Holland, during the present year, 1, 1½, and 2 cent stamps, which respectively equal in value the 2, 3, and 4 c. French. The postage of a journal from Holland to England or France is 8 French centimes.

India has been using a half-anna stamp since 1854, and even the

Ionian Islands possessed a stamp value an obolus (a halfpenny).

Italy (or, more properly speaking, Sardinia) included in its first series, issued in 1851, a 5 centesimi stamp; and in 1863, after the union of the kingdom, 1 and 2 c. stamps, for newspapers, were put in circulation.

Lubeck has employed a ½ schilling stamp since 1859.

Luxembourg (the duchy) brought out 2 and 4 centime stamps in 1860, and a 1 centime in 1863.

Mecklenburg-Schwerin issued its well-known "mite"—the ¼ schg.—in 1856.

Mecklenburg-Strelitz, its ¼ sgr. in 1864.

Modena emitted its 5 centesimi stamp in 1852.

New Brunswick, following rather tardily the example set by Canada, issued its 1 cent stamp in 1860.

New Granada, in 1865, emitted a 1 centavo stamp.

Norway, in 1867, a 1 skilling.

Oldenburg, like the other German states, has used low values for many years. Its ⅓ sgr. appeared in 1852, and to this, in 1861, were added the ¼ and ½ sgr.

Parma's first issue, which saw the light in 1852, included a 5 centesimi.

Portugal has used a 5 reis stamp (equalling about a farthing) since 1853.

Prussia issued 4 and 6 pf. stamps in 1850, and a 3 pf. in 1865. These were all used for papers and circulars.

Roman States.—The first series, issued in 1852, for these states, comprised a ½ bajoccho stamp (equalling one farthing), and the new decimal series of 1867 includes 2 and 3 c. stamps.

Russia.—Since 1864, a 1 kopek stamp has been used for the postage of newspapers, &c. The far-off

Sandwich Islands have had the benefit of a one-cent stamp since 1859.

Saxony issued a 3 pfennige stamp in 1850; and this value, together with a ½ sgr., was in use until the separate service of this country ceased.

Schleswig-Holstein.—The provisional issues for these duchies comprise three ½ schilling stamps.

Shanghai.—The local post included in its first series, issued in 1865, a 1 candareen stamp, a value equalling three farthings.

Spain.—A 1 cuarto stamp was issued in 1852, for the prepayment of Madrid local letters; and every series since that of 1853 has comprised a 2 cuartos stamp (value equalling rather more than a halfpenny). Among the stamps of the new decimal series are those of 5 and 10 millesimi—equalling respectively one-eighth and one-fourth of a penny, and specially intended for circulars and journals.

Sweden.—From 1855 to '62 cheap stamps were used for the local service of Stockholm, and now another value—3 öre (⅜ of a penny)—is used for similar purposes.

Switzerland.—The canton of Geneva issued a 5 c. stamp for local letters in 1843; Basle, a 2½ rappen (equal to 2½ c.) in 1845; and the other cantons equally low values. At the present time, 2, 3, and 5 c. stamps are in use in the Republic.

Turkey has used a 10 para stamp (worth less than three farthings) since 1865.

The Two Sicilies under the old *régime* used a ½ grano stamp for the prepayment of newspapers and circulars—value 2 centimes.

Uruguay emitted a 1 centavo stamp in 1866, and, as lately mentioned, it has been withdrawn, as the newspapers which it was originally employed to frank are now carried free.

Wurtemburg, in conclusion, issued a 1 kreuzer stamp in 1851, and this value has been always in use since.

This list is a long one, longer even than we had expected; but as we hope to address non-collectors as well as our usual readers, we do not think it can be considered out of place. Even to philatelists,

such a catalogue may indicate a fact of which they were before only partially aware; and towards the general public, stamp collecting stands vindicated, and its utility demonstrated, when collectors can produce, in proof of the benefit of the scheme now discussed, such a logical array of facts; for certainly, but for the study of stamps, the existence of these powerful arguments in favour of a reduction of postage would have been known, at most, only to a few officials.

Mr. Graves exhibited to Parliament a sheet containing, according to some, the stamps of 15, or, according to others, of 25 countries, all under a penny in value. But, as will be seen, he was far from including all on his sheet, for the above list (from which we find we have omitted Malta Barbados, and British Guiana) comprises 49 countries, and among them are nearly all the most powerful states of the world, together with many of the minor ones. The experiment, then, of carrying newspapers and circulars at a sum less than a penny has been, we may say, almost universally tried, and found successful.

Whether or not it has been a monetary benefit to the governments we cannot say. The *History of the Postal System*, which has yet to be written, should give details as to the income of every state post-office; but without such details, one can only reason from probabilities that the system has been found a paying one. The mere fact, however, that many countries have maintained in use for several years from two to four stamps, all value less than a penny, is evidence in proof of the financial success of the system, for they would never have elaborated it had it been a failure. Again, we know not whether, assuming it to be profitable, the post-offices of other states have netted as large a profit proportionally as our own; but whether or not, we may well assume that, in a country like England, which does a greater amount of business than any other, a measure intended to give the mercantile public increased facilities for selling goods is not likely to be other than a success. Neither is it likely that a nation which reads more than any other, except the United States, and perhaps Canada, would neglect the opportunity which a halfpenny postage would give of obtaining a larger number of papers or periodicals.

We are glad to find that within the last few weeks the Marquis of Hartington has instituted inquiries, with a view to test the feasibility of Mr. Graves' proposal; among other things, he has instructed the postmasters of the principal towns to inquire of the chief business houses what additional number of circulars they would be likely to send were the postage reduced. This, though a very cautious way of going to work, considering the proofs of success already in existence, is more than we expected, taking into account the tenor of the Postmaster-General's reply in the House. We hope and believe, however, that the result of his inquiries will prove even to him that the scheme is a good one, and deserves to be tried.

The proposition has been on the whole well received by the press, though there are some croakers who would fain prophesy an evil result from its adoption. The *Times*, which has the reputation of following public opinion, speaks strongly in support of it, and comes to the conclusion that the "arguments in favour of further reform are so convincing, that there can be no doubt of the result."

The *Standard* puts in a strong light the reasons for a reduction, but has some doubts, which we give in its own words:

> But with all this the case is not without its drawbacks. It seems inevitable that the half-penny postage for circulars and newspapers would bring odium on the penny postage for letters. Mr. Graves contends that it would give it increased stability; but when once the reduction has been conceded in the case of the former, it will not be easy to draw the line at the letter postage. Why is a sheet of paper bearing characters printed by the hand entitled to more favour than the sheet the characters on which are written by the hand? Why, in the latter case, is the charge to be a penny for half an ounce, while the printed circular is charged at the rate of a halfpenny for two ounces? If once the halfpenny rate is established in the case of circulars, no long time will elapse ere the penny rate for letters has to undergo a similar reduction. Trade and commerce have their claims, but the nation will not tolerate an arrangement intended for their exclusive benefit.

Well, if the agitation were to culminate in a demand for a halfpenny postage for district letters, we do not think it would be greatly to be regretted. By district letters,

we mean letters posted and delivered in one and the same town or its suburbs. Such a thing is already done in other countries, and we do not see why it could not be done here. There is no expense for carriage whatever. A district letter would be posted either at the chief office or at a pillar-box, so that it would only have to be sorted (and if put in a pillar-box, collected), stamped, and delivered. But such a reduction is the furthest extreme to which reform could go. The idea that because circulars might be carried all over the kingdom for a halfpenny, letters should be, is not likely to be mooted. If people were possessed of such a notion, they would have quite as great an argument for a lowering of the rate in the fact, that four ounces of printed matter, against half an ounce of written, are carried for a penny *now*. It is very easy to understand that letters, being more important and more private communications, always require greater care than mere circulars.

The *Morning Star* concludes an article strongly in favour of the reduction with the following forcible remarks :—

All testimony shows that, having once got the idea of the penny postage from us, foreign countries have developed it to an extent and with a nicety which we have never achieved; and that cheapness—the leading idea of our penny-post system—has also been the leading idea of the foreign improvements upon it. A newspaper goes from Palermo to Aberdeen for a less fee than would frank it from Fleet-street to Hornsey. This proves, not that the Italian government have adopted a whimsically low scale of charge, not merely that the British government have given a foreign power by treaty advantages which they do not reciprocate, but that our post-office, with all its efficiency, has not grasped the real extent of the service which it may render to the public. The question of bulk is undoubtedly a serious one, but it is too late to permit it to stand between us and a copious extension of the parcel service of the post-office.

The *Morning Post*, the only paper we have seen which speaks at all seriously against the plan, objects to it on the ground that it would impair the efficiency of the service as regards the delivery of letters. Its strictures, which are worth quoting, are as follows :—

We have quite as much admiration as Mr. Graves for the manner in which the post-office discharges its gigantic duties, but we cannot conceal from ourselves that of late years a feeling has grown up that the business of the post-office has not been conducted so accurately and carefully as it used to be; and, rightly or wrongly, there can be no question that this tendency to inaccuracy is traced to a comparatively novel portion of the business of the post-office—the book and parcel post. If there be any justice at all in this supposition, surely the letter-writing public should regard with suspicion any proposal having a tendency largely to increase the bulk of the letter-bags. Nor are the examples of continental countries likely to allay this apprehension. Mr. Graves must surely have seen the complaints which have been addressed to English newspapers of the delay in the delivery of letters in Italy; and it is almost impossible to resist the conclusion, after reading his speech, that this delay may be partly due to the extraordinarily low rate at which the Italian post-office undertakes the distribution of newspapers.

The *Morning Post* certainly gives us the first intelligence that the English public are dissatisfied with the post-office. We have never been aware of the existence of any feeling that the service was less accurately performed than before the addition of the book and parcel post to the duties of the office, and we doubt if our readers have either. That some errors, some "neglects" occur, is not surprising, considering the vast number of letters which pass through the post, but the thorough excellence of the service is not impaired by them, and has never been impeached. The argument drawn from Italy has no force, as it is founded on the supposition that the Italian post-office delivers newspapers at an *extraordinarily* low rate, whilst, in fact, as we have shown, that rate is no lower than those of many other countries from which no complaints are received. We should have thought, too, the *Morning Post* would have been aware of the real explanation, which has been repeatedly made public, that the delay is due to the French government, which has endeavoured in every way to prevent, or at least impede, the transit of letters viâ Mont Cenis, because it does not wish Italy to profit by them.

In conclusion, we must again express our gratification at the apparent probability of a settlement of the question. The Marquis of Hartington—the first Postmaster-General, by the way, who has ever sat in the lower House—has acted more vigorously than we expected; but it is, after all, no great credit to the department that it waited until prompted by Parliament before even initiating inquiries preparatory to the extension of the system, for it has had before its eyes for years the working of the proposed plan in other countries. Such a reform ought to have been spontaneously suggested by the post-office itself.

AN INTERESTING EMBRYO.

BY A PARISIAN COLLECTOR.

Reprinted from *The Philatelist.*

The perusal of that portion of the article in *The Stamp-Collector's Magazine*, for January last, which treats of the reprints of the French Republic series, leads us to mention a circumstance which may not be known to many of our readers, and, in fact, does not appear to be known to the author of the article. The author says that the reprinters went out of their way to make a 20 c. blue republic; that it must have been done purely by error; and that it is not entitled to rank as an essay, but "must be degraded to the pariah rank of a fancy stamp." This sweeping condemnation appears to be rather hard upon the 20 c. blue, for there seems to us to be more of reason in regarding this as a reprint than collectors are ordinarily inclined to admit, considering that no fewer than from eight to ten millions of stamps were printed in blue from the die of the 20 c. republic, previously to the issue of the 25 c. blue, but were never issued. The history of this contemplated issue is well known to stamp collectors in France, and is partially mentioned in a lucid and delightful paper on the French essays by M. Herpin, but we have never seen the subject referred to in any of the English philatelic journals.

The law of the 15-18 May, 1850, raised the single inland rate of postage in France from 20 c. to 25 c., from and after the 1st of July then next. When the law was passed, the Minister of Finance informed Mr. Hulot, the printer of the French postage stamps, that he had decided that the stamps for the single inland postage should, for the future, be printed in blue; and he desired to ascertain whether a sufficient number of stamps of the value of 25 c. could be furnished for the service of the post-office previously to the 1st of July. Mr. Hulot not being able to assure the Minister that this could be accomplished within the time, it was agreed that he should print a supply of stamps in blue from the 20 c. dies, to the nominal value of two millions of francs, and surcharge them with figures in red of 25 c. This was accordingly done, and a machine was employed to print "25 c." in red on each stamp, the machine being a wheel with types of the figures at the extremity of each spoke, so arranged as to fall on each stamp in the process of ruling. However, by dint of great exertions, Mr. Hulot was enabled to complete the order for the 25 c. blue within the time, and the provisional issue of surcharged 20 c. blue was, in consequence, entirely destroyed, with the exception of some very few copies which have attained such a superlative degree of rareness, that, beyond the copy which is in our own collection, we do not know of more than two or three others.

It would appear to be probable that, in the confusion consequent on printing at almost the same moment a supply of 20 c. and 25 c., both in blue, one or more sheets of the 20 c. were mixed with those of the 25 c., for we possess a 20 c. blue republic of precisely the same tone of colour as the 20 c. surcharged, and the first issue of the 25 c. This stamp was found in a mass of many thousands of 25 c. republic stamps, and appears to have passed through the post-office in a regular way, being obliterated with the mark in use immediately after the "gridiron" obliteration.

But we have not quite exhausted this subject of the French reprints, unless we reply to the remark of the author of the article above referred to, as to the reason why the 1 franc vermilion was not included in the number of the reprints.

It appears that the first issue of 1 franc republic stamps was made in a vermilion tint of red; but, about the middle of 1849, the vermilion tint ceased to be used in the composition of the colour, and in December, 1849, all the stamps of that tint were called in and destroyed. We have before us a circular issued on the 1st December, 1849, by the then postmaster-general to all the postmasters. On the side of this circular are the halves of two stamps, one of which is ordinarily called the vermilion, and the other the carmine, but which are simply called in the circular *couleur rouge claire* and *couleur rouge foncée.* The circular states that the post-office was about to issue stamps of the value of 40 c. orange, and being appre-

hensive that mistakes might arise, from the similarity of colour between the new 40 c. and the light red 1 fr., the postmasters were requested to examine carefully their stock of 1 fr. stamps, and to transmit to the head office all those which were light red, similar to the portion of the stamp attached to the circular. From other subsequent circulars, it would appear that the various post-offices were supplied with the 40 c. orange during the first ten days of February, 1850, though the order for their issue had been given by the Ministry of Finance in the previous April. The various catalogues fix the date of the issue of the carmine 1 fr. as August, 1849, but we have not been able to find any official order for the issue of the 1 fr. stamp in this colour; it is probable, therefore, that, after the issue of the 40 c. had been decided on, directions were simply given to the printer to print the stamp for the future in a colour with less orange in its composition; the vermilion tint has not, therefore, we imagine, been regarded by the administration as a separate issue, but only as a lighter species of red.

[We doubt not this article will be read with interest by our readers, as the facts it narrates must be as new to them as to us. We do not dispute the writer's statement, that French collectors are well acquainted with them, though in that case we think it surprising that they have only on one occasion been incidentally referred to by a French writer on stamps, even Dr. Magnus being quite silent about them. As for us, it can hardly be surprising that we ourselves should have known nothing of an incident in the history of French postage stamps which has practically never been made public before. —ED.]

OUR CONTEMPORARIES.

MAY 24, 1869.

The American Journal of Philately.—Of this journal we have two numbers before us—those for March and April—and both, we are bound to say, containing a fair quantity of readable matter. We place as little faith as ever in the mythical New York Philatelic Society; at the same time we think that apart from this unworthy feature, the paper is by no means a bad one, and capable of being made very useful. We only give it its due in acknowledging that no "bogus" stamp has ever been puffed in its columns, and we trust it will, by careful management, become a trustworthy philatelic magazine.

The March number opens with an article on "Franks and Franking," in which the American system is more especially referred to. Following this is a paper on the Rivadavian series of the Argentine republic, wherein the writer endeavours to establish the existence of large and small figure 5 c. stamps. We, however, think the alleged difference a rather fanciful one, or at best, no more than could be found between two editions of any stamp, one obtained from new, and the other from worn plates. The remainder of the number is occupied with the monthly chronicle of novelties, a notice of the new American series, reviews, and the "transactions of the philatelic society." The report of the latter ends with the following curious sentence:—

The Society adjourned at half-past six o'clock, until called by Board of Directors.

This is too abrupt. We should like to know at what hour the society was called or re-called by the "Board," and why the Board called it. If it were not utterly impossible, the form of the sentence might be taken to indicate that the society went on from half-past six o'clock adjourning and re-adjourning, "until called by Board" to cease from such irregular proceedings.

The April number comprises among its contents the continuation of an article on the United States local stamps, a well-written "Plea for Philately and Philatelists," and a letter from Mr. L. W. Durbin, on the Saint Louis stamps.

The Philatelist—The most notable article in the May number is that on reprints, in which the circumstances connected with the fabrication of a provisional 25 c. French Republic are detailed. We deem these details of sufficient interest to be presented in their entirety to our readers, who will find them under another heading in the present number.

An extract from the *Pall-Mall Gazette* follows, subject: "Registered Letters in France," in which the difficulties connected with the registering letters on the other side of the channel are amusingly set forth. The writer especially remarks on the rules of the French post-office that coin can under no circumstances be sent by post, whether in a

registered or an unregistered letter. This reminds us that in France the railway is a powerful competitor with the post-office on this point, as they accept and carry sums of money for a small fee. Of course their medium is not used for the transmission of a single coin or two, but for larger amounts the facility it affords is of much importance to mercantile men who have to make remittances to correspondents residing in the country, at a distance from any bank.

In the course of the article on "Recent and Undescribed Emissions," the editor observes: "We do not recollect seeing it remarked anywhere, that our first sixpenny adhesives of the current type, emission of 1856, lacks the hyphen between the words of value, which is found in succeeding issues," adding, "We are induced to note this peculiarity in consequence of having just received from a correspondent a specimen of that value, evidently just out, from which the hyphen is again lacking." If reference be made to p. 36 of our vol. iv., the peculiarity to which our contemporary refers will be found stated in the course of a short paper entitled "Notes on the British Stamps."

Le Timbrophile, for April 30, opens its article on "New Stamps" with the following pregnant remarks on the new St. Thomas locals, the "Clara Rothe" series:—

> Let us speak first of the series of stamps of which we gave an engraving in our February number. Were these stamps really required by the Clara Rothe Company, *which has ceased to exist*, or are they the fruit of a speculation, like so many others that we have seen? We should be inclined to adopt the latter opinion, the prices, more than moderate, at which we have seen these stamps sold, give us good reason to think that they have never made the voyage from St. Thomas to Paris, and that they ought to find place in that "timbro-postal mythology" which we purpose shortly to write.

If, indeed, the company no longer exist, then grave is the suspicion which must attach to the character of these stamps. It is said that the design is the work of M. Stern, the Parisian engraver. In that case it would seem that he has been as much behind the occasion with this, as with his Roumanian stamps, made for Prince Couza's government.

Dr. Magnus continues in this number his paper on "Italian Essays," and also that on "Local Postage Stamps." In the latter he speaks of the Levant stamps, and confirms the statement that all the series issued by the company have been authorised by the emperor, and have been fabricated in the *ateliers* of the imperial printing office at St. Petersburg. He adds, that these stamps are not to be had in Russia. They can only be procured at the ports served by the company.

He gives, further on, the description of a local Holstein stamp, which we never remember to have met with, nor to have seen any notice of before. The centre is occupied with a horse's head, and beneath that the numeral $\frac{1}{2}$; in the border, the inscription HESSE ET MEERWEIN—ALTONAER BOTEN INSTITUT, 1865. This design is lithographed in black on blue paper. Dr. Magnus, commenting on this stamp, says:—

> The figure $\frac{1}{2}$, placed beneath the horse's head, indicates, without doubt, the value; but it would be impossible to say whether it refers to the $\frac{1}{2}$ skilling of Denmark, or the $\frac{1}{2}$ schilling of Hamburg. The latter is more probably the case, as at that period (1865) Holstein had ceased to belong to Denmark. The authenticity of this stamp requires confirmation. It would appear to have been emitted by the firm or office of Hesse & Meerwein, specially for the town of Altona, and the commercial importance of that city would tend to suggest its having been employed in the same manner as the Hamer stamps of Hamburg. On the other hand, one may suppose that it is but a simple trade label.

The learned doctor admits he is quite without information as to the character of this stamp, and does not mention whence he obtained it. For our part we should hesitate to accept it as a thing worth cataloguing and collecting, without good guarantees of its genuineness.

Le Timbre-Poste for May, like the numbers immediately preceding it, contains nothing which requires comment. Its contents comprise another instalment of Dr. Magnus' paper on "Envelopes," and also the continuation of an article on the "Cashmere stamps." Of this latter we shall speak when it is completed.

The Continental Philatelic Magazine this month contains very little worthy of note; but the editor's mistakes in English seem rather on the increase. Some of these must proceed from his too great confidence in his knowledge of our language; an occasional reference to a dictionary would set him right on many little matters respecting which he is now in error. "The *Chronicle* System" is really too ludicrous, and it is unpardonable

to quote Mr. Pemberton as saying, that he will "extinct those vermin;" finally, "Suctonius," the historian, is an authority new to classical scholar and ordinary reader alike.

NEWLY-ISSUED OR INEDITED STAMPS.

CONFIRMING (in commercial parlance) our last respects, we have pleasure in laying before our readers a representation of the new type for

ROUMANIA to which we referred last month, and which forms the most prominent item among current novelties. The design is bold in its conception, simple, and, though roughly treated, effective in the main; the colours are of the most brilliant. The values are as follows:



5 (*cinci*)	bani	orange.
10 (*dece*)	„	dark blue.
15 (*cincis predece*)	„	red.
25 (*douedeci si cinci*)	„	oval blue, frame orange.
50 (*cinci deci*)	„	red and blue.

The denominations of value are curiosities in themselves, and give one a peep into the Roumanian dialect. The colours are again the national ones—red, orange, and blue—and those only. Besides these new values, we are favoured with another edition of the preceding type, as follows:—

2	bani	dark orange.
4	„	dark blue.
18	„	carmine-red.

The 2 bani we have not yet seen. The 4 b. is of a very dark, strong blue, and the 18 b. of a shade very distinct from its predecessors.

Album-makers must take note of the tendency on the part of the Roumanian states towards frequent emissions, and provide accordingly.

UNITED STATES.—We regret not to be able to redeem our promise, to give engravings of all the stamps comprised in the new series, this month. Our engraver, however, finds that from their unusual fineness they require an unusual time to copy; and as he is desirous of producing illustrations worthy, in their degree, of the originals, we have not been unwilling to give him a longer period for their completion.

Meanwhile, that we may not ourselves be "behind the times," we deem it best to give at least a brief description of the remaining stamps of the series.

But, first of all, we must enter a strong, though no doubt ineffectual, protest against the system of stamping the square of raised lines on the back. It greatly mars the effect of the design on every one of the values, and yet answers no really useful purpose. It is a fanciful invention, which, it is much to be regretted, the American postal authorities were seduced into patronising.

Recommencing now the descriptions, we come first to the one-cent stamp. This we cannot say we greatly admire. The design consists simply of the head of Franklin in a circle, the border of which is inscribed, and of the numeral of value, which breaks into the circle. It is thoroughly insignificant, on too small a scale, and without any feature in the design which merits praise. It is a trumpery stamp, and no one, who in its native country lays out a cent for the purchase of a copy, will be able to say that he has got more than his money's worth in appearance.

The 10 and 30 c. stamps may be described together. In the lower value, the bird of freedom is represented, flapping his wings above a shield, whereon is a rather minute inscription—UNITED STATES POSTAGE—and a rather large numeral of value. A scroll, on which the value is repeated in words, and some rather indefinite shading, complete the picture. The 30 cents has the advantage of being printed in two colours: the eagle and shield in rosy red; the rest of the design, which, in brief, consists of supporting flags on either side, in blue. The words, THIRTY CENTS, which cross the flags and the lower part of the shield, are in red. Both stamps look poor, the 30 c. especially, as the colour not being well laid on, many specimens look smudged. Both would be very respectable as a New Granadian emission, but as the work of the American Bank-Note Company, they are beneath notice.

The 15 cents is by far the most successful stamp of the series. It is one over which an engraver might go into ecstacies, so beautiful is the design, and so finely is it carried out. If the 24 c., which is kindred to it in type, is not equally as successful, the fault rests entirely with the colours. It is impossible to give a good idea of the appearance of these two stamps, by dry verbal description. They must be seen, and seen in an "immaculate" state, to appreciate their beauty. The 15 c. represents the landing of Columbus on American shores. The representation occupies an oblong space in the centre of the stamp, of the same width as the stamp, and about one-third of an inch in depth, and within this space are some dozen or more figures in various attitudes, Columbus standing in the foreground, a sword in his right hand, touching the ground, and his left hand raised above his head. The picture, as it may be truly termed, is printed in Prussian blue, the rest of the stamp in brown, and the harmony of the colours produces an inconceivably fine effect. The 24 c., in which the parts of the design are similarly arranged, and wherein the picture occupies about the same space, is, if anything, still finer than the 15 c.; but, as we have already said, the effect is not so good. The colours which have been chosen are: for the picture, black; for the framework, a delicate green. The contrast is too violent, hence the picture looks at a distance like a little microscopic photograph pasted on the stamp, and does not blend at all with the other portions of the device. Nor does the picture tell its story so well as that on the 15 c. We know, simply because we have been told, that it represents the surrender of Sir John Burgoyne, but without prior information we should just as soon have supposed it to be the signing of the declaration of independence, or almost any other great political act which might be performed by a number of persons sitting round a group, of which three or four of the figures are standing, and the remaining one sitting. The original picture at the capitol may plainly enough tell its tale, but in the minute copy before us the colouring of the uniforms of course is not repeated, and there is nothing at a casual glance to indicate that the personages represented are military men. The dreadful quadrille square, too, comes in to obscure the background, which, for a just understanding of the picture, cannot be too clear. Of such a stamp we should like to have a proof impression, unspoilt by these uncomely lines.

In spite, however, of these external deficiencies, these stamps will always remain marvels even of steel engraving, and most creditable to their fabricators. We sincerely wish that the example which has been set, in the reproduction on postage stamps of great historical events, may be followed by other countries; our collections would then become even more interesting than they are at present.

GAMBIA.—The annexed illustration will make our readers acquainted with the type of the two stamps which have just been issued for this colony. The whole design is in relief. The colours and values are, fourpence dark brown, and sixpence dark blue.



PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND.—With the appearance of the new value for this island many of our readers must be already aware by this time. Still, for regularity's sake, we must not omit our usual practice of giving an illustration. Here, then, is the fruit of the Prince Edward Island engraver's skill and ingenuity, from which it will be evident that he has not yet attained the *ne plus ultra* point. For our part, whenever we look at the side embellishments of this design, we cannot help thinking of the marvellous ornamental letters which it was the custom in our young days to print at school, and which were very frequently distinguished by just such "diamonds" as appear on the stamp.



ANTIOQUIA.—Advices received by a late South American mail state that the peaceful citizens of that abode of bliss, New Granada, are again in a state of agitation, this time

it is Antioquia that is trying to cast off the yoke of the Republic, not caring, we may presume, to come to the "union" in their old age.

We do not know how far these oppressed people have succeeded in their attempt to run alone, but conclude that the revolution has acted as a prelude to the emission of postage labels. However that may be, there *are* the stamps, and it is our pleasing duty to describe them.

They partake somewhat of the type of the last issue for the Granadine Republic, and are five in number:—

2½ centavos,	blue.
5 „	light green.
10 „	mauve.
20 „	chocolate.
1 peso,	dark rose.

In an oval are the arms of Colombia, surmounted by the typical nine stars, and encircled by the inscription E. S. ANTIOQUIA; EE. UU. DE COLOMBIA. At the top of each label is the word CORREOS, and at foot is given the value.

A rather novel method of placing the figures has been adopted in the lowest value. In the right-hand upper corner is 2, in the left ½, the lower angles being given *vice versâ*, so as to cause the value to read as ½ 2 c. The five cents has the figure in all four corners; but the 10 c. and 20 c. have them in the lower ones only. The one peso is innocent of numerals altogether.

We are indebted to the Philatelic Society for the above particulars, they having been read at their last meeting.

TRANSVAAL REPUBLIC.—Although the promised stamps are still among the things which are to be, we begin to hear a little more of them. Thus M. Moens gives a quotation from the *Transvaal Argus*, of the 8th Sept., 1868, in which reference is made to the fact that a stamp-printing press, colours, and paper, had been ordered by the postmaster from Europe, and was expected to arrive in time to admit of the stamps being issued at the commencement of the present year. Following this up with the conjecture, that the first supply of stamps would be printed in Europe and sent out with the *matériel*, he argues that it will be easily distinguishable from subsequent workings by the general superiority of the impressions, as contrasted with these latter.

ST. DOMINGO.—There has been a variation in the colours for the two stamps of this republic. The medio real is now printed on very thin dull green paper, and the one real, with the word *un* printed thus: UN, on similar paper, rose coloured.

Mons. Moens also chronicles, as resuscitations, a medio real, of the current type on straw-coloured laid paper, and an "un real" on green, laid paper, this latter being distinguished, like the novelty above described, by its having the word *un* in large capitals.

ITALY.—The old *segna tassa* stamp is, or rather is about to be, superseded by the annexed design. Supplies were sent round to the post-offices at the end of last, or the beginning of the present year; and some of the offices commenced, inadvertently, to use them at once. It is intended, however, that the new type shall be kept in hand until the stock of the old kind is exhausted, so that they will only gradually come into circulation. The new design is printed yellowish-brown on white paper, and perforated. Its appearance, to which our cut does full justice, is neat and effective.



FRANCE.—A peculiarity worth noting about the new journal stamps is, that they are sold in sheets of 101. These sheets are made up of ten rows of ten, and an eleventh row on which is one stamp and nine blank perforated spaces; the hundred-and-first stamp occupies the left corner of this row. Collectors will remark in this arrangement a great resemblance to that adopted for the Austrian series of 1858, which gave rise to the "complementary stamps;" but the odd stamp is not added on this occasion to make up a round value: it is simply given in gratis, and in fact represents the percentage allowed to the buyer.

TRINIDAD.—We have received intelligence of the emission of a five-shilling stamp for this island, of which we hope to give an engraving shortly. In size and general

appearance, we are informed, it resembles closely the five-shilling stamp of this country, but its colour is deep lake, a hue better adapted, we imagine, for so large a stamp than that employed for the same value here. Without a specimen before us, it is useless to give secondary details; we therefore reserve further description until next month.

BAVARIA.—Our copy of the new envelope stamps bears the denomination of value spelt thus, DREY, which is the old-fashioned way of writing this word. Our engraving and, as a matter of course, the specimen from which it was made, has the word spelt DREI. It would seem, then, that there are two dies, but which of the varieties is the more common remains to be seen.

PARAGUAY.—The editor of *Le Timbre-Poste* gives information that he has lately seen a five c. dark green of the same design as the already known red stamp of the same value; and also a dark blue of the same value with the figure 20 in black. The appearance of these varieties renders the whole series, to our mind, more suspicious than before.

HOLLAND.—A $1\frac{1}{2}$ cent stamp, for which Mr. Van Rinsum so earnestly pleaded in a recent number of his magazine, has appeared, —shall we say, thanks to his appeal? It is of the same design as the 1 and 2 cents, and printed in a delicate and pleasing rose. Like the others, also, it is perforated.

CEYLON.—The innovation of "Service" postage stamps has been adopted in this island. The 1d., 2d., 3d., 4d., 6d., 8d., 10d., and 2s. stamps are found with the word SERVICE printed across the face in red on the 6d. and 2s.—in black on the others.

NEW GRANADA.—The current 10 centavos is now printed in bright violet, instead of lilac, and the 50 c. in bluish-green, in lieu of yellowish-green.

ROMAN STATES.—The 20 cent stamp, perforated, is now issued on paper of a Solferino colour, instead of deep red as hitherto.

PORTUGAL.—The 80 reis has appeared perforated. The 20 r. alone is now required to complete the perforated set.

GERMANIC CONFEDERATION.—The 3 kr. and $\frac{1}{3}$ and $\frac{1}{2}$ gr. are now perforated.

PERU.—The green one dinero is also perforated.

OUR WEST INDIAN STAMPS.—I.

BY EDWARD L. PEMBERTON.

UNDER this heading it is proposed to bring together a series of critical papers upon the stamps of the British West Indian Islands, which, in common with those of many of our other colonies, are little known and less understood. The islands under British rule which issue their own stamps, are (taking them in alphabetical order)—

Antigua.	Nevis.
Bahamas.	St. Lucia.
Barbados.	St. Vincent.
Bermuda.	Trinidad.
Grenada.	Virgin Islands.
Jamaica.	

The stamps which are least known are those of Barbados and Trinidad, though those of each of the other islands, excepting perhaps Bermuda and Jamaica, are well worthy of a careful investigation. Those who desire historical and geographical accounts, must not expect them in these papers: attempts at condensing such facts are neither pleasant to the writer nor the reader; so I would suggest a few dips into an encyclopedia, on the part of any one interested. In the first papers I propose to treat of Antigua and Barbados; though I am not able to make these accounts so exhaustive as those of the Australian colonies, still, they must prove of service to all amateurs of the French school; and the remarks on perforations will, perhaps, save many from wasting valuable time in trying to determine that which, when found, is without significance, and marks no phase in the history of the stamp; this will apply in other cases, but notably to Antigua and parts of Barbados.

ANTIGUA.

Issued autumn of 1862. Design, Queen's head to left, diademed, on an engine-turned ground; name at top, value below, in white letters on solid coloured labels; the whole within a rectangular linear frame. Values: *one penny, sixpence*; wmk., a six-rayed star; perforated.

1. *Of design.*

There being but one type, we have few

observations to make. Like all other stamps, they vary much in the fineness of impression. This generally results from the quality of the paper, the consistency of the colouring matter, and the care used in printing. Very few, if any, are from worn dies.

2. *Of colour.*

The more specimens one sees, the more the penny value seems to differ in shade. The following are chronicled by the French:

Levrault: 1 p. violet rougeâtre, carmin; 6 p. vert.

Moens: 1 p. rouge violet, rouge, vermillon; 6 p. vert.

Mahé: 1 p. viol. rouge,cc. rouge carmin,cc. vermillon; 6 p. vert foncé.cc.

The latter is the most accurate. The letters cc. after the colour denoting that there are many secondary shades, but that the most prominent have been selected. This is the only way to act in such cases. In the 1 p. the oldest is undoubtedly that peculiar shade of chalky rose violet, which varies from a very dark dull tint to a pale shade; from thence the rose begins to predominate, but still with a chalky cast; the violet shade gradually disappears, and the stamps run into soft and delicate shades of rose and dull carmine rose. The present shade is something of a vermilion and an intense orange-red combined, and is of dazzling brightness.

The first shades of this came from a dark dull carmine to deep carmine-red and crimson, dull rose-red and dull brick, getting gradually brighter until the orange-vermilion shade was reached; these progressive shades are well marked and very beautiful, but it is *quite impossible* to describe their peculiar mixed tints, so that they may be easily recognized. The 6 p. value is not so variable. The first shade is a very deep rich green, gradually becoming colder in tone until it was simply dark green. Later specimens have washy colours: they are all warm tints of green, varying to yellow-green

3. *Of paper.*

None exist without the star watermark. The sheets are bordered with a watermarked frame of five lines, and the words POSTAGE, &c. The paper varies greatly in tone and thickness, but, except that the later stamps are printed on paper which appears to get thinner by each mail (some specimens which I have being exceedingly thin), these variations are of little moment, as they indicate nothing.

4. *Of perforation.*

According to the French, there are four varieties of perforation.

Mahé: 15, 14, 14½, 15½.

Levrault: 14, 15, 15½.

It would be a natural conclusion to form, from the above manner of quoting these, that these three or four perforations only occur one at a time on one stamp. It was only when I had made a wearisome examination of them, that I arrived at the facts which I am going to communicate. A simple perforation I call one which occurs on all sides of a stamp, and happily this is the rule. A compound perforation is an exception, and shows two or more perforations upon one stamp. I found that the great majority of the Antiguas had a compound perforation; the simple perforations I discovered were 14, 14½, and 15. Of these, 15 alone was common. As a rule the compound perforations were two on one stamp; one top and bottom, another at sides. For the purpose of arriving at all the facts of the matter, I guaged an immense number of specimens with the following bewildering results:

Simple perforations, 14, 14½, and 15.

Compound perfs., 14 by 14½, by 15, by 15½.
14½, by 15, by 15½.
15, by 15½.

From the above table and the specimens examined, I come to the conclusion, that there are but two perforating machines used, but which, from being of inferior make perhaps, vary a trifle, causing these bewildering combinations. The two machines, I take it, are: 14½, varying from 14; and 15, varying to 15½. In addition to this, I conclude that these two are used in combination, for the perforating of all the Antiguan stamps; and, from unsevered part sheets, I can positively affirm that this is so. I am not publishing this in the expectation that it will give even earnest philatelists unmitigated delight to collect these varieties; simply to deter them from wasting valuable time, in seeking to make into separate sets

the perforations as given by previous catalogues: it is impossible to do it. Only one conclusion can be arrived at, which is, that in the case of Antiguan stamps, the perforations are of no assistance to classification; and that, as they occur in combinations, their study is to be deprecated, as a waste of time, and as productive of no good results.

5. *Of obliteration.*

This is a subject upon which I intend to touch in all my future papers. Obliterating marks have been sadly neglected by most of us. If we consider the number of collectors who make used stamps the general rule for their collections, we shall see that we open a fresh source of inquiry to them; and the greater our knowledge, the less our liability to be victimised by forgeries and such like vermin. I am not aware of any other postmark than the well-known A02 occurring; The mark is transverse oval, three lines above and below, with two on each side.

REFERENCE LIST OF THE STAMPS OF ANTIGUA.

§ One penny; perf., 14 to 15½, usually compound; wmk., star.

a. Paper varying in thickness, but never thin.

1.—Chalky rose-violet all shades.
2.—Dull peach-rose ,,
3.—Chalky-rose ,,
4.—Dull carmine-rose ,,
1868. 5.—Crimson-rose (light) ,,
6.—Brick-red ,,
7.—Orange-vermilion ,,

b. Very thin paper.

8.—Pale crimson-rose (dull) varying.
9.—Brick-red ,,
10.—Orange-vermilion ,,

§ Sixpence; perf., 14 to 15½, usually compound; wmk., star.

a. Paper varying in thickness, but never thin.

11.—Rich dark green, varying to
12.—Dark cold green.
13.—Deep warm green, varying to
15.—Washy yellow-green.

AN EXTRAORDINARY POSTMAN.—A postman has just died at Northleach who had been in his office upwards of twenty years past, and before he entered the service it appears he had lost both his hands.

THE PHILATELIC SOCIETY.

THE Committee having met on the 1st of May, at Mr. Philbrick's chambers (Temple, E.C.), the president in the chair, the minutes of the preceding meeting were read and approved.

A letter was read from Mr. Pemberton, on the subject of raising the subscription, and in favour of electing members at present without ballot.

It was proposed by Dr. Viner, and seconded by Mr. Speranza, "that the subscription should be increased to ten shillings." This was agreed to, it being considered that the original rate was not high enough to cover the expenses of a really useful society.

On the proposal of the President, it was decided that the election of members should be carried on according to the fourth rule.

It was agreed that the general meeting be again postponed to the 29th May, in order to give amateurs time to enrol themselves as members of the society. After the proposal of various names, the meeting adjourned till the 15th ult.

The committee again met on the 15th ult., the President occupying the chair. Mr. Atlee read letters from gentlemen desirous of joining the society, and their election was then proceeded with.

Mr. Speranza then raised the question as to the expediency of increasing the subscriptions for lady members above the original rate of six shillings, and after a discussion, joined in by all present, it was proposed by Mr. Speranza, seconded by Mr. Hayns, and carried *nem. con.*:—

"That ladies be admitted as members on payment of a subscription of six shillings."

Mr. Atlee stated, that in consequence of having to leave town upon business, he was compelled, much to his regret, to resign the office of secretary, but would act until the general meeting.

Mr. Hayns, on being asked, kindly consented to fill the place vacated through Mr. Atlee's resignation.

A letter was read from Mr. Hughes Hughes, giving a description of a series of stamps for the Columbian State of Antioquia.

The following were placed on the agenda

for the next meeting:—A paper to be read by the President, on "The discovery of the *earliest* Sydney stamps," and on "Proofs of the Sydney views;" and a description of a stamp for Borovitchi, by Mr. Hayns.

The meeting then adjourned until the 29th of May.

THE HAWAIIAN FORGERY.

IN "Our Contemporaries" for last month, we quoted Mr. Pemberton's description of a very fine and dangerous forgery of the Hawaiian 13 c., head. We have since examined a specimen, and can safely say we never saw a counterfeit so well calculated, from its exact imitation of the original, to deceive the unwary.

We are happy to be able, on the testimony of a thoroughly trustworthy stamp dealer, to trace home this forgery to its source. We need not give our informant's name, as we are quite prepared to take the responsibility of our statement upon ourselves. He states, then, that he has received from CHARLES A. LYFORD, of BOSTON, Massachusetts, the publisher of *The New England Journal of Philately*, a large quantity of these forged thirteen cents, and as he is the person making a trade of this imposture, it now lies on him to show he is not also the fabricator.

We publish the name and address of this gentleman, that the dealers of this country may be duly forewarned, and accept nothing which comes from such a source. There are plenty of genuine stamps in existence, out of which any dealer, with ordinary caution, can make a fair profit; and we hope that by putting a stop to Mr. Lyford's illicit gains, we may inculcate in him a belief that honesty is, after all, the best policy.

POSTAL CHIT-CHAT.

THE LONDON LETTER CARRIERS have adopted a new style of uniform. For the open tunic hitherto worn, a button-up tunic, with a stand-up collar and the district initials, instead of the letters "G.P.O.," has been substituted. A handsome leather waist-belt has been added to the uniform.

NEST BUILDING IN LETTER-BOXES.—At Bangor-Isacoed, near Wrexham, a tom-tit commenced building its nest in the letter-box of Dr. Price, and although its materials were continually removed, the little bird still persisted, and there reigns undisturbed, having laid several eggs. Another, possessing the same instinct of liberty, has taken up her abode in the letter-box of Mr. E. Lewis, and is quite undisturbed by that gentleman and the postman.

LONG WALKS AND THEIR REWARD.—The inhabitants of the Oswaldkirk postal district have presented their post-messenger with a silver teapot and stand, and a purse of gold, as a mark of their esteem. He has held his situation twenty-one years, and has never failed to walk seventeen miles per day in all kinds of weather. In acknowledging the gift, he said he had walked a distance in the twenty-one years equal to four times round the world, and 11,000 miles over (111,000 miles).

BILL OF EXCHANGE STAMPS.—Among stamp (though not postage-stamp) curiosities the lately-issued provisional bill-stamps for Mauritius are well worthy of note. Three of these stamps in a row are united by an external frame of a single line. Each of the three is exactly like the others in point of design, which is of the simplest: in the centre, on a square disk of colour, are the words, ONE PENNY, MAURITIUS; the marginal inscriptions at top and bottom, read together, are respectively: FIRST OF EXCHANGE, SECOND OF EXCHANGE, and THIRD OF EXCHANGE—the word "exchange" occupies the lower, and the other two words the upper margin. These three stamps when required for use have only to be separated from each other, and placed each one on the bill of exchange to which it refers. The system is simple and sensible, and likely to be more widely adopted.

Our Mauritius correspondent, who sends us specimens of the above described stamps, says that a new series has been ordered in England, the design of which is to include a representation of the Peterbotte mountain, and of the now extinct dodo.

CORRESPONDENCE.

THE AUSTRIAN JOURNAL-TAX STAMP—FOUR KREUZER, *BROWN*.

To the Editor of "THE STAMP-COLLECTOR'S MAGAZINE."

SIR,—Passing through Vienna towards the middle of last month, I had occasion to call at a bookseller's. While waiting to be served, I noticed on the counter about a dozen copies of a recent number of the *Illustrated London News*, on each of which was affixed an unused 4 kr. brown Austrian journal-tax stamp (arms, square). How can this be reconciled with a statement of the Minister of Finance, quoted from *The Philatelist*, in the May number of your magazine, page 69? The papers were only for sale to subscribers, or I should have had much pleasure in sending for your inspection a specimen of the stamp in question. The only way I can account for its re-appearance is, by supposing that it has been reprinted for use, and that the Minister of Finance must be mistaken.

I am, Sir, yours faithfully,

Boulogne-Sur-Mer. E. S.

FORGED WATERMARKS.

To the Editor of "THE STAMP-COLLECTOR'S MAGAZINE."

SIR,—Among the many expedients employed by stamp fabricators, I do not remember having seen the manufacture of watermarks described. The following case, therefore, which came under my own observation, may convey a wholesome and welcome caution to collectors.

A short time ago, a stamp, professing to be a 60 crazie of Tuscany, was sent to me for my acceptance, at a moderate price. On the face of it, it had a fair and inviting appearance; and on holding it up to the light, a watermark of three nearly parallel lines, at unequal distances and different breadths, was very distinctly to be

seen. But on handling the stamp, it seemed to be somewhat weak in the back, and this weakness, I observed, lay in the direction of the widest and most distinct line of the watermark.. This led me to examine the watermark more closely; and then it was evident to me that the paper had been thinned away along this line by some mechanical process—as also in the other two lines, though not to the same extent,—the surface along the lines being somewhat rough and fibrous, as would be the case, for instance, in thinning away the paper with the edge of a fine file. This trick, of course, could not be easily practised, except in cases where the watermark consisted of straight lines, as in some of the Tuscany stamps.

I am, yours truly,

Wirksworth. F. H. B.

PROPOSED NEW ISSUE FOR MAURITIUS.

To the Editor of "THE STAMP-COLLECTOR'S MAGAZINE."

DEAR SIR,—A paragraph in your article on novelties for last month says that the postmaster at Mauritius denies the issue of 2s. stamps, or that such an issue was ever contemplated. Seeing this, I have made inquiry upon the subject, and I find that the Colonial Secretary wrote to the crown agents for the colonies on the 18th January this year, and asked for a supply of adhesive stamps of each of the following colours and denominations :—

2d.—Mauve.	1s.—Canary.
3d.—Green.	2s.—Pink.
4d.—Crimson.	3s.—Orange.
6d.—Violet.	4s.—Blue.
8d.—Brown.	5s.—Magenta.

An entirely new issue was intended, and a design suggested to De La Rue—the subject, Pieter Botte, a mountain in the island. De La Rue recommended that this should not be engraved, but the present Queen's head preserved, as less expensive, and altogether more suitable. Some alterations are, however, to be made in the die, I believe; so, although we are done out of a new design, we may have, at any rate, what will be called a new issue.

Yours truly,

London. G. B.

THE PERMANENT ALBUM.

To the Editor of "THE STAMP-COLLECTOR'S MAGAZINE."

DEAR SIR,—Allow me to say a few words in reply to your correspondent, "P. I. A.," on the above subject. First, he states that the permanence of my album seems very precarious. If he refers to my letter, he will see that I said, "I am aware that the album above described would not be a truly permanent one." Certainly, no *one* book can be permanent. It may suffice, as mine would, for ten or fifteen years, but not more, without making it of an unwieldy size. P. I. A. does not seem to be very confident respecting the permanence of his own album, although it is to consist of three volumes, or possibly more, for he remarks that in time the collector might put stamps on the left-hand page, "if hard pressed by new issues." Now it is self-evident, that if the owner of an album is ever "hard pressed by new issues," that album cannot be permanent.

Secondly, P. I. A. remarks that the plan proposed by me is "not that which now seems to be generally considered best." I think that if he will take the trouble to refer to the numerous letters in *The Stamp-Collector's Magazine* on this subject, he will find that prepared spaces and a catalogue are there favoured by the majority, as also are maps and toned paper. An album like that proposed by P. I. A. would need great care and accuracy of eye to set the stamps evenly, as there are to be no lines. Again, he says that the collector could annotate on the otherwise blank left-hand page, or, in after years, mount new varieties on them. So that he would have some pages with written notes, others with stamps, and possibly some with notes and stamps intermingled! One more remark, and I have done. He says, that in time additional leaves may be inserted on the guards, which, to prevent bulging, the book might be rebound with new guards. I do not quite understand this. Is it the guards or the additional leaves which are to be rebound? If it is not either, then does P. I. A. mean the album itself? If so, I do not think many would approve of his suggestion, as it would entail much extra trouble and expense. To sum up, all that P. I. A. requires, to constitute a permanent album, is several blank books, with names of countries, &c., printed at the top of some of the pages. He would have no geographical statistics, no arms, engravings, or other useful information; simply a large edition of a school-boy's first album! I leave it for philatelists to decide which is the better of the two propositions.

Thanking you for inserting this,

I am, yours truly,

Cardiff. W. H. S.

A NOVEL SUGGESTION.

To the Editor of "THE STAMP-COLLECTOR'S MAGAZINE."

SIR,—I have long desired to offer an opinion on the album question, and should have done so before this, had I not thought that the subject had been dropped.

It is very evident that a really permanent album can only be formed on the chronological system, the principal fault of which is, that the stamps of all countries are jumbled up together in the greatest confusion. This defect might be in some degree obviated, by arranging in one volume all the stamps up to 1866 or '67 in the usual manner, that is to say, geographically; and in a second volume pursuing the chronological system.

But what I want most to speak of is this: It seems to me that all good collections (I mean all those amounting to more than fourteen or fifteen hundred) ought not to be kept in albums at all, but in *cabinets*. A cabinet of thirty or forty drawers, each drawer about two feet square and half or three quarters of an inch deep, would hold any reasonable collection. The drawers should be lined with dark blue velvet; the material and general get-up of the cabinet being of course left to choice. The advantages of this plan would be immense. In the first place, as the stamps would be only laid in rows on the velvet, and not fastened down in any way, they could be inspected on both sides: and the back of a stamp is often almost as interesting as the face. Again, the lack of specimens would not be very observable, for all the stamps of each issue would be laid close together, with a moveable card label over them, and they could be rearranged on the introduction of an additional specimen. Also, stamps could be inserted and removed at will, without the least trouble; and, better than all, envelopes could be preserved entire, for the depth of the drawers would allow of their lying one half over the other.

If we come to consider the matter seriously, it seems very absurd to stick stamps in books at all, for who would put a collection of coins in an album, were such a thing practicable? If we do show only one side of the stamp, we ought at least to have two specimens: one showing the face; and the other, the back.

For myself, I have at present a very large thick volume of fine stout white paper, made to order, which I have

ruled on the principle of Lallier's, only much more completely. There are spaces for all known stamps (not including proofs or essays), and all varieties, and there is plenty of room left for future issues. Notwithstanding, I shall shortly, I hope, transpose my stamps into a cabinet like I have described.

Apologizing for the length of my letter,

I remain, yours truly,

Z.

DATES OF EMISSION OF THE AUSTRIAN JOURNAL-TAX STAMPS.

To the Editor of "THE STAMP-COLLECTOR'S MAGAZINE."

SIR,—In your review of "Our Contemporaries," in your number for last month, you have done me the honour of referring to some remarks I made in *The Philatelist*, on the reprints of certain Austrian stamps, in which I called in question the statements of some previous writers, and, amongst others, those of the author of the article on Reprints, which has appeared in your December number. I confess now that I ought to have seen by the context, that by the "two 1861 stamps," the author intended the two stamps with the head of the emperor to left; but I was led astray by his opening remarks, for he commences by saying, that continuing his examination of the Austrian series, "We come upon the reprints of the Austrian newspaper tax stamps, those of 1858 and 1861." Now the two stamps with the head of the emperor to the left are not newspaper tax stamps, but newspaper postage stamps, and the date of their issue is not 1861.

It may not be without interest to mention the dates of issue of the several newspaper postage stamps, compiled from official sources. The list has appeared in one of the continental magazines, but may not be known to all your readers.

The blue Mercury was issued on the 1st of January, 1851, in virtue of a decree dated the 12th of September, 1850. Its value was 1-60th part of a florin convention money.

The yellow and the rose Mercuries were issued also on the 1st of January, 1851, in virtue of a decree dated the 3rd of December, 1850. The value of the former was 1-6th part of a florin convention money, and of the latter 5-6ths of a florin convention money.

The rose Mercury was suppressed by a decree dated the 9th of October, 1852.

The yellow Mercury was suppressed by a decree of the 20th of March, 1856, and replaced by the red Mercury of the same value.

The blue and red Mercuries were both suppressed by a decree of the 4th of October, 1858, which substituted for them the single stamp of the head of the emperor to the left in blue. This latter stamp was issued on the 1st of November, 1858, and was of the value of 1-100th part of a silver Austrian florin.

On the 12th of March, 1860, this latter stamp was replaced by the head of the emperor to the left in lilac, and this stamp continued in use until the 15th of January, 1861, when it was superseded by the head of the emperor to the right in various shades of lilac, issued in virtue of a decree dated the 21st of December preceding. The double-headed eagle replaced this latter stamp on the 1st of December, 1863.

The whole of the above stamps have been reprinted.

I am, yours, &c.,

A PARISIAN COLLECTOR.

[Our correspondent, on reference to an article on "The Austrian Stamps," which appeared in our fifth vol. (p. 133), will find that all the above dates (with one or two immaterial differences) are therein given. No harm, however, is done by repetition on this point.—ED.]

ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS.

INQUISITIVE, Bristol.—We are not aware that any postage or other stamps have been issued by the Cuban insurgents.

A SCHOOLBOY, Redruth.—The pamphlets on "Forged Stamps, and how to detect them," written by Messrs. Pemberton, J. M. Stourton, and T. Dalston, are now out of print.

A CREST COLLECTOR.—Our publishers will shortly issue a new series of crest albums, in a cheap and attractive form. Full particulars will appear in forthcoming advertisements.

J. F. L., Huylater.—The Germany newspaper-band stamps were described in our magazine for December last. Thanks, nevertheless, for the particulars you are good enough to give.

K. L. N. R.—We think your Adams & Co. Express stamp is decidedly a new impression, but we are doubtful if it is not from the genuine die: the fineness of the lithography is in its favour. We should class it among the doubtfuls.

J. L. D. S.—Your Natal stamps are identical with our set of reprints, and we have no doubt they are such. You will find the colours are not exact to the old stamps of the issue. The fact that they are reprints is concluded by the fact of the bright yellow stamp among them.

L. W. D., Philadelphia.—The St. Domingo 2 reales is decidedly a forgery; the 2 rls. of Honduras, of which we have for a long time been suspicious, is, it would now seem, genuine. Copies have been received on letters direct from the country, obliterated with penstrokes.

F. E. CAVELL, Saxmundham.—Your friend's way of collecting is simple but rather uninteresting. He gets the values of each country, and arranges them in order, beginning on the left with the lowest value; and, as we understand, if he gets a specimen of all the *values* which have been issued, he is content. He does not trouble to collect the various emissions at all.

J. H. R., Scarborough.—The Roumanian stamps you refer to are described in the present number.—There are no 3 or 20 bani in existence.—The current 10 c. Dutch Indies has appeared perforated, but no new series has yet been emitted. Thanks for your mention of stamps not noticed in our last list. Some were not out when the list was made—the 80 reis Portugal, perf., for instance;—but others were omitted by accident.

A. C. B., Rochdale.—Shanghai is neither an English nor a French colony. It forms part of the Chinese empire; but there being a great quantity of British property there, the town and the country within a radius of thirty miles round has been placed under the protection of this country, with a view more especially to prevent the inroads of the rebels.—2. Liberia is not a colony of the United States, but a free republic under the United States protection.—3. Singapore stamps and Straits Settlements stamps are the same thing; Singapore is the chief town of the Settlements.

P. J. A., Nairn.—It is true that one or two of the Berlin fiscal stamps have been accidentally used for postage, but their employment in this manner has never been sanctioned; and for our part, we should not care to collect unused specimens of these stamps: used copies, which have passed through the post, are the only ones which would be acceptable to us.—We cannot give you much information as to the purposes to which the subscriptions to the Philatelic Society will be applied, but we presume they will form a fund whence to defray the expenses of stationery, postage, rent, and other incidentals.

THE PHILATELIC SOCIETY.

The first general meeting of this society was held at Great George Street, Westminster, on Saturday, the 29th of May, the chair being occupied by the president. All the gentlemen composing the committee attended, and with the presence of members the meeting was a most satisfactory one. It was opened by the president, who said :—

"The first thing to be done is to proceed to the election of officers for the ensuing year, those gentlemen now acting having been only elected temporarily, and by themselves, as the founders of the society, and they now place themselves in the hands of the members, to be either individually re-elected or superseded, as may be considered most suitable to the interests of the society. Before the members proceed to elect the officers for the year ending in May, 1870, I should liked to have given them some idea as to the present position of the philatelic society; in fact I had hoped to have had the reports ready for this meeting, but have been disappointed by the printer.

"The number of members admitted to the society up to this date is thirty-five; and although we have begun in a very small way, and have hitherto held all our meetings in rooms lent by one or other members of the society, I hope we may exercise much influence in increasing philatelic knowledge amongst collectors.

"In respect to the treasurer's account I have not any report to make, so little cash having been expended as to make it useless to do so."

The president, in offering the names of the committee for re-election, stated that it would be an advantage to have an assistant secretary, so as to relieve the secretary in case of his absence or pressure of business, and that the gentleman so acting should be added to the committee of direction. This was carried unanimously, and W. Douglas Hemming, Esq., was elected to fill that post.

Mr. Hughes Hughes observed that he did not think the members could do better than to appoint the gentlemen who had acted up to the present date, and had great pleasure in offering the resolution: "That the old committee should be retained." This being seconded by Mr. de Ysasi, was carried *nem. con.* The committee is therefore the same as before, with Mr. Hayns as secretary, and the addition of Mr. Hemming as assistant secretary, Mr. Atlee being one of the members of committee.

Mr. Speranza then proposed, and Mr. Atlee seconded, that "should any vacancy or vacancies occur in the committee during the year for which they are elected, that these vacancies be filled up by members elected by the committee." This was carried.

Papers were then read "On the Earliest Sydney Stamps," and "On Proofs of the Sydney Threepence Views," by the president; "On a New Russian Local," by the secretary. These papers were replete with a vast fund of interesting and useful information, and that of the president on the Earliest Sydney is of great value, as proving, beyond doubt, the genuineness of these *recherché* stamps.

Mr. Pemberton remarked that in perusing the report of the select committee referred to in the president's paper, he was much struck by a statement therein made, which seemed to bear out in some sort, the varieties of colour of the threepenny stamps of Sydney, chronicled in the earlier edition of Mount Brown's catalogue, where, besides the green, are mentioned a brown and a flesh (or pink). He had seen stamps which appeared to be brown, but with an olive tint; and the report named the colours of the threepenny stamps to be green, brown, and pink. After discussing this point, and examining examples of the so-called brown label, the decided opinion of the members was, that they were only green stamps changed in colour, and that the pink or flesh-coloured stamp was a myth.

At the next general meeting Mr. Pemberton has promised to read a paper on "Confederate Locals."

On the proposition of Mr. Hughes Hughes, and the seconding of Dr. Viner, a unanimous vote of thanks was passed to the president for his kind conduct in the chair, and for his very interesting papers.

The meeting then adjourned until Satur-

day the 26th of June, at 3 p.m., at Great George street.

The committee met on Saturday, the 12th ult., and after transacting the usual business, a letter was read by Mr. Erskine relating to the stamps of Java. It was from the Rev. Dr. F. Smith, who was for five years the chaplain of the consulate in Java, and was to the effect that the Dutch Guiana label had never been current there, but one "similar to our 'Queen's head' on the letter's envelope, same colour, with head of the king of Holland, value ten cents." Mr. Erskine hoped shortly to be able to place one of these impressions before the members.

The secretary read some interesting remarks respecting the concoctions for Paraguay, which he had received in 1864 from a friend residing in Ascuncion. The writer says:—"The other day I got hold of the postmaster-general, and obtained the whole history of the so-called Paraguayan postage stamps. He assures me that they never existed. The fact is, that when the general was in London or Paris, some enterprising printer called upon him with the design (which, by the bye, is a copy of the impression on the one real notes), a lion impaled, &c., and a few were printed in various colours as specimens, but they were never issued, and unless the postage system is entirely changed, never will be."

The writer having returned from Paraguay, Mr. Hayns wrote him respecting the stamps with ship in oval, and received the following reply:—

DEAR SIR,—In answer to your question, I beg to inform you that stamps are not, and never have been, used in the Republic of Paraguay.

Very faithfully yours,
G. F. MASTERMAN,
Late Assistant-Surgeon, General Military Hospital,
Ascuncion del Paraguay.

W. E. Hayns, Esq.

The committee then adjourned until June 26th.

We are requested to state, by a member of the society—who observed the reply we made last month to a correspondent who inquired what would be done with the subscriptions—that the moneys received will be applied, in the first place, to defray necessary expenses, and with the balance it is proposed to print and publish monographs of the emissions of certain countries, and distribute them, gratis, to the subscribers. Eventually, it may be possible to issue a complete and elaborate catalogue of stamps.

OUR WEST INDIAN STAMPS.—II.

BY EDWARD L. PEMBERTON.

BARBADOS.

I. ISSUED in 1852. Design: Britannia seated, with ship in distance, on an engine-turned ground; name in white letters on a straight label below; star in each angle; no value given, no wmk.; green ($\frac{1}{2}$ p.), blue (1 p.), red, &c. (4 p.).

II.—Issued (?). Design as above, but value below, and name in white letters in a curve on the ground above; no wmk. *Sixpence, one shilling.*

1. *Of design.*

There are no deviations from the above descriptions.

2. *Of colour.*

As might be expected with stamps in use for so many years, there is considerable variation in colour. The oldest green upon blued paper are: blue-green, dark green, green, and yellow-green; upon white and yellowish papers, it runs through shades of green, and bright (slightly yellow) green; the first perforated are yellow-green, and since then we find all shades of deep rich green, and dark green, and shades of cold washy green, both yellowish and bluish; later shades are soft yellow-green and bright green; these last are not very distinct impressions, and have a peculiar softness of colour, which will prevent them from being confounded with earlier impressions of somewhat the same shades. The oldest blue upon blued paper are in very deep rich blue; later, upon a paler blued paper, in ordinary shades of blue, pale blue, and sky blue; on real white paper, we meet with the same rich blue, but in more variety, the pale shades being scarce; these shades are liable to a black discolouration in parts, which quite alters the beauty of their shades. It is curious that many of our colonials, which are printed in blue inks, are liable to an unsightly discolouration whilst they are in

an album; indeed, we may observe, many cherished specimens turn nearly black before our eyes; the cause I cannot explain, neither can I suggest any preventive, though many things have been tried. The earliest perforated blue are in a bright shade, also in deep blue, pale, and sky blue; after these, all shades, excepting dark ones, including many in washy blue, matching the green of the same class. The red went through shades of dull rose-red, and suddenly changed to a rust-red. The first 6d. (imperf.) is in a rich shade of lake-red, and so is the first perforate; the next shade is of a vermilion cast, dark and rich, but not bright, then through orange-red shades, to an intensely bright rosy vermilion, which is the current shade. The 1s. is black; imperf. it usually has, a slight tinge of sepia, but very slight; there is a pure black likewise, also a brownish black, but this I think a discolouration. In the perforated 1s., we find brown-black, grey-black, and a dull black, the last, very often, a smeared impression.

3. *Of paper.*

No distinctive wmk. exists. The first stamps were upon paper chemically blued by the gum, of two classes:

a. Paper hard and roughish, blueing not often penetrating to the face of the stamp; varies from very thick to ordinary thickness.

b. Paper smoother and crisper, blueing penetrates all over the stamp; never thick, but of an ordinary thickness, varying to very thin.

Of the first class, the blue is found upon the thickest paper, which is in consistency like cartridge paper; on ordinary paper, we find both blue and green; all of this class are rare, the blue on cartridge paper being virtually unattainable. The second class varies much in stoutness of paper, some being almost pelure, but these are rare; in the paler shades, the paper is often so faintly blued, that it requires some little experience to distinguish them from those upon white paper. Upon white paper, those not perf. are found upon a stout white paper, upon an opaque paper of ordinary thickness, and upon a crisper paper, hardly ever so thick, sometimes almost pelure, and always less opaque; another variety is upon yellowish paper, usually rather soft, of which the green impressions are commonest. The same varieties may be noticed in the perf. set, excepting the yellowish paper, which appears peculiar to the imperf. set.

4. *Of perforation.*

According to the French, there are four varieties of perforation.

Mahé: 14, 14½, 15, 15½.

Levrault: 14, 14½, 15.

The above, with the addition of 12½, 13½, and 16, will be complete. As with Antigua, the vast majority of the Barbados stamps exhibit endless and confusing combinations, from 14 to 16 in this instance.

The only simple perforations which appear to us to be worthy of a place are 12½ and 14. Both these are simply indentations of the rudest nature, frequently doing no more than just raise the paper; in consequence of this, as modes of severance, neither of these perforations were successful, and we very seldom meet with specimens which have been separated by the perforation; on the contrary, the perforations have been mostly ignored, and scissors preferred, so that on some specimens we may see the imperfect perforations as clean and intact, on two or more sides, as when made. The inexperienced must take care not to confound these imperfectly perforated stamps with imperforate ones. The green stamps seem most liable to this, but as no imperforate of the shade of those perforated 12½ or 14 are known, there need be little fear. With 12½ we can only find the green stamps; with 14, we find green and blue; the red is not found with either of them, neither is the red known in an imperforate state (*i. e.*, there is no copy *known*, the margins of which are so good as to render the specimen indisputable); for several reasons, however, we feel a conviction that the variety exists, but why it should be so rare we cannot explain. This imperfect perforation is by no means common, the green 12½ being the rarest; it could not have had a long existence. The perforation next adopted, and which seems the same as that in use, is a compound of 14½ by 15½; but as they will each vary half a dent either above or below these numbers, we get

every conceivable combination, from 14 to 16. It is true, we find specimens simply perforated $14\frac{1}{2}$, 15, and $15\frac{1}{2}$, but we can only ascribe them to accident. The earlier specimens had the dents finely and cleanly cut, and show $14\frac{1}{2}$, 15, and $15\frac{1}{2}$, in simple perf. We should from these incline to think them clear varieties, only we have fine and cleanly-cut specimens showing $14\frac{1}{2}$ by $15\frac{1}{2}$, $14\frac{1}{2}$ by 16, 15 by 16, and $15\frac{1}{2}$ by 16, which settles the matter.

REFERENCE LIST.

(v. means *varying in shade*).

1852. No value given; no wmk.

§ Paper blued by gum. Imperforate.

a. Cartridge paper; blueness not penetrating all over face of stamp.

1.—Deep rich blue.

a. Ordinary paper; blueness not penetrating all over face of stamp.

2.—Dark green.
3.—Deep rich blue.v.
4.—Chalky blue.

b. Ordinary paper, smooth, and deeply blued.

5.—Blue-green.
6.—Rich green.v.
7.—Yellow-green.
8.—Deep blue,v. smeary impressions.
9.—Darker blue.v.
10.—Dark greeny blue
11.—Chalky blue
12.—Sky blue
} fine impressions; 11 & 12 often have a greeny shade.
13.—Red.

b. Pelure paper, smooth, and deeply blued.

14.—Deep blue.

§ Paper white. Imperforate.

c. Thick paper.

15.—Bright green.
16.—Deep rich blue.
17.—Pure blue.
18.—Dull blue.

d. Ordinary paper, opaque.

19.—Deep green.v.
20.—Bright green.
21.—Deep rich blue.
22.—Bright blue.
23.—Deep blue.
24.—Darker blue.

e. Thinner paper, crisp, less opaque, sometimes pelure.

25.—Deep green.
26.—Bright blue.
27.—Dull blue.
28.—Deep blue.
29.—Darker blue.
30.—Chalky blue.

f. Yellow paper, usually thin and soft.

31.—Bright yellow green.
32.—Deep blue.
33.—Sky blue.

(*To be continued.*)

THE DEVICE ON THE SCINDE STAMP.

BY FENTONIA.

SOME time since the Scinde stamp was the subject of considerable discussion in the pages of this magazine. Whether there were more than one value issued, or whether they were embossed on envelopes, and that on the flap only, contrary to all precedent (except the Russian and Finland stamps), as stated in *The Philatelist* of July, 1867, has never been clearly elucidated. I am unable to throw any further light on these still doubtful points, nor have I succeeded in obtaining any fresh information respecting the postal history of the stamp; but it occurs to me that a few remarks on the design in the centre, and its connection with that grand old institution—the defunct East India Company, might not prove uninteresting. As regards the form of the design, the writer (G. B., of London), at p. 125 of vol. v., describes it most accurately, but in stating that "it appears very frequently on their coins," I think he must mean on those only up to 1800. At any rate, in my limited experience I have met with none bearing it of a later date.

It is, as the same authority states, the East India company's merchant's trade-mark, and is probably coeval with the establishment and incorporation of the company, which sprang into existence out of very small beginnings, towards the end of Queen Elizabeth's reign; and my principal reason for opining that it was coeval with the incorporation of the company, and previous to their adopting a coat of arms, is, that as far as my researches go, these trade-marks were disused after the reign of Charles I.

Annexed is a *fac simile* of the design, copied from the obverse of one of the company's coins, dated 1791, the reverse being a pair of scales, supplemented by some Hindustani characters. The whole device is well known to archæologists, as not being exclusively a merchant's mark, but common to all tradesmen who chose to adopt it. The upper part of the device, which, for want of a better name, we will call the figure 4, is far more ancient than the combined form which includes the heart. In *Brulliot's Dictionnaire des Monogrammes et Marques figurées*, numerous varieties may be found, ascribed to both painters and engravers; also in *Timperley's History of Printing*, at least six of the earliest printers are shown to have used this mark; but I believe in all these cases they were not only printers but booksellers also. The exact meaning of the device is not known; in fact, as late as July, 1868, it was unsatisfactorily discussed in *Notes and Queries*. My own opinion is, that it is composed of the cross, sometimes a double or "patriarchal" one, in this instance a St. George's cross, the slanting line being added on one side to symbolize the Trinity, by forming a triangle.

In an example engraved in *Lower's Curiosities of Heraldry*, a circle is added—a well-known mediæval allusion to the divine eternity. Thus in those early days, when many tradesmen could not write their names, and most of their customers could not read, a seal or stamp wherewith to sign transactions was almost imperatively necessary. To do so with Christian symbols seems particularly appropriate, as much as to say it was done on the faith and honour of a Christian. The cross still directed by law to be made by way of signature by those who cannot write, is doubtless a remnant of these more elaborate merchant's marks.

These "commercials" were, in chivalrous times, not allowed to wear coat armour; that is, in modern parlance, were not entitled to armorial bearings; consequently on those of their tombstones or brasses which are still in preservation, if there be an armorial shield side by side with the trade-mark, it is that of the guild or company to which the tradesman or merchant belonged—not that of his family. It appears, however, that our ancestors under the Jacobite dynasty were, as much as in the present day, bitten with the mania to ape their betters, so that in process of time they took the liberty of displaying this mark on a shield (of which a specimen adopted about 1580 is engraved in *Timperley's History of Printing*, p. 419), which seems to have become so frequent, that in 1605 an order was given from the herald's college to prohibit "merchants and others from putting their names, marks, or devices in escutcheons or shields, which belong to gentlemen bearing arms, and none others." The lower part of the East India company's device is not, I believe, found on very early trade-marks. It is probably, like the upper part of it, a religious type, being, I think, an allusion to the Roman catholic adoration of the "sacred heart." The cross within the heart is that of St. Andrew, of Scotland, as the upper one is that of St. George, of England; and must have been peculiarly appropriate at the time when, or soon after, the company's first charter had been granted, just as the two kingdoms had been united under James I.

These tradesmen's marks or devices must not be confounded with tradesmen's signs, which appeared to have been arbitrarily chosen, and to have belonged to the house or tenement—not to the individual occupying it. Since people have been taught to read numbers and names of houses, these signs have fallen into desuetude, and even hotels now spurn them, leaving them entirely to the humbler public-houses. An apt illustration of what has been stated on this subject is to be found in the beautifully engraved title-page of *Alexander Ross's View of all Religions*, 1653, on which the trade-mark (nearly identical with that of the East India Company), the arms of the stationers' company, and the booksellers' sign, a greyhound, are all separately represented.

This is the most modern instance of this ancient device being used as a trademark, always excepting the East India Company, that has come under my notice. I have reason to believe that the company used it

on their calico and other goods up to 1833, and possibly later. It disappeared from their coins at the commencement of the present century, the armorial bearings of the company being thenceforward substituted, a not altogether correct engraving of which is given in Dr. Magnus' paper on watermarks (vol. iv., p. 17), and which I shall presently more accurately describe.

I have not been able to ascertain when the company obtained a grant of armorial bearings, but they are mentioned by Gwillim in his *Display of Heraldry*, 1724, and by him blazoned thus:—

"*Azure*, three ships under sail *or*, each sail garnished with a cross of St. George; on a chief *or* between two Lancastrian roses *proper* an additament (augmentation) out of the arms of England quarterly *azure* and *gules*, bearing in the first and last a *fleur-de-lys or*, and in the second and third a lion *passant gardant* of the same."

This, however, is quite different from the arms actually used by the company during at least the last hundred years; but Boutell in his *Historical Heraldry*, 1864, says it is to be seen on a brass of 1632, at Great Saxham, in Suffolk. For those interested in heraldry, it may be as well to describe the company's arms as depicted on their coins and seal, particularly as they do not seem to be in any book on heraldry. *Argent*, the cross of St. George, on a canton an escutcheon bearing the royal arms. Supporters, two lions *rampant*, each holding a flag. Crest, a lion *rampant gardant or*, holding a crown of the same. Motto: *Auspicio regis et senatus Angliæ.*

The engraving of the only known copy of this interesting little Scinde stamp is here reproduced, just as it was at first engraved in the 5th vol. of this magazine. It calls for no further comment, except, perhaps, to remark that Sir Bartle Frere's idea, he being misled by the incorrect part of the engraving, is now no longer tenable—namely, that the broad arrow was intended to be represented. I think, moreover, that the broad arrow was not peculiar to the East India company, but is, or at least was, stamped on all military, and perhaps other stores issued by government. It would certainly have been far less appropriate than the quaint and time-honoured little device, whose history I have been endeavouring to unfold.



OUR CONTEMPORARIES.

JUNE 25, 1869.

WE have this month received only three of our contemporaries, which we proceed to notice.

The Philatelist.—The contents of the current number comprise (*inter alia*) a report of the proceedings of the Philatelic Society, an article entitled "Our Prize Essays," in which a *resumé* is given of the best essays on the permanent album question which have been sent in, competing for a prize offered by the editor. Some of these are of considerable interest, and the publishers of the journal will, we should anticipate, avail themselves of the hints they contain, when occasion offers.

In "The Editor's Letter Box," we find a reply given to the query of "A True Philatelist," which is so thoroughly to the point that we cannot resist quoting it.

We do not at all see the necessity of "checking the ardour of collectors in getting all sorts of varieties." Amateurs are certainly entitled to the privilege of "riding each his own hobby, provided he splashes dirt on no one else." One never finds the followers of the French school troubling themselves to write Pendragon-like tirades against those who prefer confining themselves to strongly-marked distinctions. Why, then, should you, or any other "true philatelist," not be content to collect what pleases you, and let others do the same in peace? With regard to *marked* varieties, it is so difficult to draw the line of distinction, that their collection *must* be left to individual taste. You blame a certain collector for admitting any variety of shade or tint in foreign stamps, accidental or otherwise. What proof can be adduced that such varieties *are* accidental? The sixpenny English has appeared within the last twelvemonth in three several shades, varying from lilac to violet. This was *not* accidental. It seems the lilac hue rendered it liable to be mistaken for the receipt stamp; the violet, therefore, was again chosen. If variations of tint are really the result of chance, how is the intended normal colour to be ascertained? Which of the shades of colour is to be discarded? How, for example, is the penny English to be catalogued? Is it magenta, red-brown, brown-red, bright red, deep red, rose-brown, dark brick, or what?

Mason's Coin and Stamp-Collector's Magazine.—This magazine now devotes a greater space to matters philatelic than it formerly did; in consequence, as we understand, of the accession to the editorial staff of a gentle-

man who is well known as an earnest and enlightened collector.

Four pages are now occupied with notices of, and articles on, stamps, commencing, this month, with a description of the new issues. Following this chronicle, comes a review of the new United States postage stamps, in which the writer truly remarks that, "Upon first acquaintance, the observer is at a loss to know whether the wee bit of print, with a blue locomotive and a big 3, is a local stamp, or a new advertising dodge of some enterprising railroad corporation." In the "Philatelic Brevities," which succeed this article, is another humorous observation on the same stamp.

The new three-cent stamps, after passing through the post-office, are like pugilists emerging from a mill—*quite black and blue in the face.*

Those who have seen the obliterated specimens of this value, will quite appreciate the force of this *mot.* The postmark is a peculiarly hazy one, which generally obscures half the design, and produces a curious effect.

"Philatelism as a fine art" is treated of by "C. F.," but not with much success. We have heard so often about Birchin Lane, that we are getting tired of it. Surely, enough has been already written to immortalise it, and it is unnecessary for every new writer on the science to wander into that city thoroughfare. Here, again, is a queer *Q.E.D.*

Philatelism has risen into an art. *Office boys are adept in it,* and peel the stamps from the foreign letters received by their employers.

If that be the best proof an American writer can adduce of the "artistic" nature of philately, it is time for philately to cry out, "Save me from my friends."

More satisfactory reading than this essay on "Philatel*ism*" is the paper on "Varieties of the U. S. Two-cent Envelope," which we give in full in another part of the present number. The subject treated of is worthy of further study, and that, we trust, it will receive, especially from American collectors.

The American Journal of Philately contains little worthy of note. The opening paper, on "Ancient Posts," by Cosmopolitan, is well written, but has the misfortune of treating on a subject which has already been made the theme of so many articles, that it is pretty well worn "threadbare." Few of the facts mentioned can be new to readers on either side of the water.

The New York Philatelic Society has adjourned until the 14th August. At the last meeting, "several interesting articles were read before the society, and new stamps exhibited."

A detailed notice of the new U. S. stamps follows the brief report of the "Transactions." This is concluded with the following somewhat interesting remarks:

The unqualified praise we bestowed on the new issue in our first accounts was due to its having been given from an inspection of the proofs, and these are always worked off with great care; the colours also were much better selected than those adopted by the authorities; besides the tints being changed, all the designs were more or less altered, by enlarging the figures; and in the case of the 30 cent, a totally different design was adopted.

The "Review of Philatelic Publications," which follows, comprises a notice of this magazine, in which an attempt to vindicate the genuineness of the New York Philatelic Society is made. Professor Bunger, it is therein declared, is not a member of the society, but only attended one meeting. Dr. Morley's connection with the society is not explained, and we may assume, from the editor's closing remarks, that he is virtually "thrown over."

The Continental journals have none of them reached us up to the moment of going to press. No; we are in error, one of them has reached us—the *Briefmarken Sammler*—but we have already given substantial reasons for declining to notice the contents of this publication.

NOVEL STAMPS.—Mr. Hunt, late Chancellor of the Exchequer, has laid before the House of Commons a rather remarkable bill. It proposes to enact, that when clerks of special and petty sessions and clerks of justices are paid, wholly or partly, by salaries, by virtue of an order made under the Expenses of Prosecutions Act of 1851, it shall be lawful for the Quarter Sessions or Town Council, if they think fit, to order that fees, fines, and penalties, payable to the treasurer of the county or borough, shall be received by means of stamps, and not in money, "and to cause such dies to be made as may be required for the purpose of carrying this bill into effect," the Inland Revenue Board assenting to the pattern, colour, and form of the stamps and dies. Persons may be authorized by the Quarter Sessions or Town Council to sell the stamps upon such terms and conditions as they shall direct, and none others may sell such stamps.—*Times.*

[We believe that the "Petty Sessions" stamps of Ireland are employed for the same purposes as the stamps above proposed.—ED.]

NEWLY-ISSUED OR INEDITED STAMPS.

UNDER this heading we have this month hardly any newly-issued stamps to describe. A couple of Russian novelties, so far as we know at the moment of writing, are all we have to introduce to the notice of our readers. The title of the article is, then, barely justified, our principal work being to present the delayed engravings of already-noticed types. We commence, then, with those of the

UNITED STATES; and as our engraver has





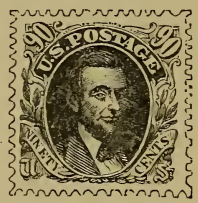
not yet remitted proofs of the illustrations, we can neither ask our readers to admire nor excuse them; but as they have been so long in hand, we trust they will prove to be faithful representations of the originals.

We have already given pretty full descriptions of the various designs, together with our own opinion on their respective merits. As a whole, the series has a *bizarre* appearance, only redeemed by the excellency of two of its members—the 15 and 24 c. In America, so far as we can judge from the slight indications we have already perceived, the public feeling is on the whole against these new stamps. They are, with two or three exceptions, of an insignificant size, which remind our neighbours of the multitude of advertising and other labels which abounds in the States. This is the first thing





which strikes the eye of a casual observer. Then, partly in consequence of their smallness, the details of design are on such a minute scale, that they cannot be appreciated without close examination. The 3 cent, the value in most common use, is the subject of the most general animadversion. "The head of Washington," says the *Evening Mail*, "was venerable, and our three-cent stamps were as perfect as they well could be. But now think of the miserable, confused-looking thing, with its wretched printing, that the post-office has given us for the present three-cent stamp. Canada, New Brunswick, and Nova Scotia, all have railroad engines, such as ours. What is there in a big chimney on a railway carriage to indicate the nationality of our postal system? Aye, but there are the words UNITED STATES POSTAGE on the stamp. Just so. We remember to have seen a boy's drawing on a sheet of paper, the words 'This is a Church' underneath, and certainly the artistic performance needed the index, but not more so than the new stamp requires a similar proclamation, to tell the world what it means. And then, again, look at the printing of the word POSTAGE. Can our engravers do nothing better than that?" And so on. If such





critiques be repeated in other papers, we should not be at all surprised to find the stamp objected to withdrawn, with, perhaps, the majority of its companions, and something more simple adopted in its place.

To our own comments we have nothing to add, but we must not omit to give a necessary explanation respecting the design of the 24 cent. It has all along been stated that the surrender of General Sir John Burgoyne would be represented, and we repeated the current statement to this effect, adding, however, that "without prior information we should just as soon have supposed it to be *the signing of the Declaration of Independence*"—and this it turns out to be.

This brings our notice of the new United

States stamps to a close, and if it has been unusually extensive and detailed, it has been no more than the series demanded, for, apart from its own intrinsic value, it has a special interest from the fact of its being the emission of a large and important country, which does not often change its stamps.

Trinidad.—This stamp strikes us as being one of the prettiest of recent emissions. The design combines grace and simplicity. The various parts are in harmony, and there is no overloading of ornament. Not the least praiseworthy feature is the clearness of the inscriptions: the lettering is proportioned to the size of the stamp, and being in white on a solid ground of colour, it shows out well. Comparing it with our own stamp of the same value, we notice as an improvement the putting of the word five in full. Five shillings looks a great deal better than 5 shillings. The head has also been engraved specially for the Trinidad stamp. It is larger than any other we have seen, and the crown is differently formed. The impression is in a warm rich colour, a kind of lake-brown, on white paper, perforated, and bearing the crown and c c watermark. This and the other 5s. stamps are especially for the use of commercial men. They prepay the heavy packages which are forwarded home every mail by large colonial houses; and as they must produce notable economy of time over the low values, they will, no doubt, be extensively patronised by the class for whom they are intended.



Russia.—The 5 kop. envelope, which has been in use for St. Petersburg during so many years, has at length been superseded by the annexed type. This new arrival is a clean-looking stamp, but rather unsubstantial. It is wanting in "body," and seems like an unfinished, but promising, sketch. It is printed in a reddish violet on the left-hand corner of the envelope, which is of small size.



The Russian local stamp, for the district of Bogorodsk, which we described in our May number, is here represented. No further





information has reached us respecting its employment. A similar stamp has, however, been sent to M. Moens, of which we are able, by his courtesy, to present an engraving. It appears that it is used in the town or district of Borowitz, of which the name is inscribed in the upper part of the circle enclosing the arms. In the lower part appear the words, postage stamp. The arms themselves are probably those of the town named. The inscriptions and the ground surrounding the arms are in red-brown, the rest of the stamp in black; the whole being on white paper. Our Russian correspondent, in alluding to the Bogorodsk local, says that he "has seen several others used for other places," and it would appear that the Borowitz stamp is one amongst them. It remains to be seen, assuming that these stamps are genuine, whether they have been issued by local postmasters "by authority," or are the emission of the central post-office. The former supposition is by far the more probable, and agrees with the information given to M. Moens, who says he is told that every local post-office in Russia has its own special stamp. It would be desirable, however, as a first step towards settling the value of these novelties, to know what are the exact uses to which the Russian stamps proper are put, and especially whether the 5 kop. stamp is still exclusively used within the districts of Moscow and St. Petersburg, or not. If it is common to the entire empire, it is hard to see why the provincial post-offices should use local stamps of the same value; but if it is not, we at once

obtain a reason for the employment of these latter. It is worth remembering that the first 5 kop. stamp was especially created for the use of the two chief offices, and we have never had anything more than general assertions to the effect that the 5 kop. of 1864 has a more extended use. Again, as far as we can recollect, all the specimens of the low values we have seen (except such as have come on letters from Russia), have been obliterated with one and the same mark—the well-known spider-web cancellation,—which, if we are correct, would indicate one of two things: either that the stamps are only used in the capital and at Moscow (and the district); or else that no obliterated copies of those used in the Russian provinces have been received; for it cannot be supposed that all the post-offices in the empire employ the same obliterating stamp.

The conclusion is forced upon us, that philatelists know very little of the postal administration of the interior of Russia. Philately has not penetrated into the vast regions which lie beyond the confines of the civilised world, and of ordinary travellers in that portion of the globe there are very few. We should, therefore, be glad if such of our friends as may have connections in Russia would push their inquiries as to the manner in which the postal service is conducted in the interior, especially having regard to the postage stamps employed; and we recommend the whole subject to the consideration of the Philatelic Society, in the hope that eventually we may obtain accurate knowledge upon matters about which we are at present so much in the dark.

SPAIN AND CUBA.—The first indication of a change in government on the postage stamps of Spain appears in the impression of the words HABILITADO POR LA NACION (authorised by the nation), on certain specimens of the 12 cuartos, 1867, and of the words HABILITADO POR LA JUNTA REVOLUCIONARIA (authorised by the revolutionary assembly) on copies of the 20 c. d'esco. of same date. Both these surcharged inscriptions are printed in black, the first in a vertical position (reading from bottom to top), the second in an oblique position. The former is also found on the current 10 c. and 20 c. of Cuba. Their employment is really, as M. Moens points out, entirely superfluous, unless it is to be understood that stamps destitute of the magic words have *not* been issued by order of the nation, and therefore are not legal tender for postage. If we look for an explanation of the appearance of these inscriptions, we may find it in assuming that the stock in hand at the post-offices is exhausted, and that it is the fresh supplies which are now being issued that bear the surcharged words, which are at once an intimation of the change in government, and an obliteration of the portrait of the dethroned Queen.

NEWFOUNDLAND.—Our publishers have received from the Newfoundland post-office a few copies of the eightpenny printed in lake. One of our best-informed friends is of opinion that they are reprints. We do not, however, see why they should be. There is surely good reason to suppose that this value was printed in lake for use, but that the stock was never required. If this value has been reprinted, why have not the vermilion stamps been also reproduced?

Whilst writing under this heading it may be as well to note the probable entry of Newfoundland into the union, the consequent suppression of the existing series, and the accruing necessity for philatelists to put their Newfoundland page in order, while they may.

BRAZIL.—Several of the values have appeared printed on a bluish paper, which was recommended by the American Bank-Note Company. It owes its tint to the starch-gum with which it is rendered adhesive, and the company represented that from this paper it would be impossible to efface the postmark. A thousand sheets of certain values were sent as a trial, but we learn that the post-office has not adopted the plan; we may therefore predict that specimens on this blued paper will become very scarce in course of time.

FRANCE. — Our Brighton contemporary gives the following information: "We learn that the laurelled 1 centime and 5 c. are printed and ready for issue as soon as the stock on hand is exhausted: and that the new value 5 francs is also prepared, but, for

some reason, not yet emitted. The 80 centimes appears at present of a rich carmine, but we understand the colouring is too expensive to be continued after the exhaustion of the sheets already out."

Holland.—The one cent has changed its colour, and is now a tender green; the why or wherefore of the change is beyond our conception, though we are quite satisfied with the result. The three low values are all in very delicate shades—green, rose, and buff.

St. Vincent.—The shilling stamp is now coloured a dark muddy blue, and the perforations are much larger, being $11\frac{1}{2}$ instead of $15\frac{1}{2}$.

North Germany.—The 1 and 7 kreuzer are now perforated. The 2 and 18 kreuzer, and the 5 gr. are now the only ones which have not been operated on.

Wurtemburg.—The 14 kreuzer, orange-yellow, has now appeared.

THE ENVELOPES OF THE UNITED STATES.—I.

BY EDWARD L. PEMBERTON.

The collecting of entire envelopes has lately been so far extended, that all our leading collectors acknowledge no other way is right; yet many of them will not commence such a collection, owing to what they consider the impossibility of obtaining a complete series (in an uncut state) of every size of every envelope of each country. The difficulty, of course, rests principally with those which are long obsolete, or those varieties of shape, which, though recently in use, were little in demand, and less known. Entire specimens of those in use now, or during the last three years, are usually to be obtained, at a slight percentage over the prices for cut specimens, owing to the extra charges incurred for postage, and I do not think the impossibility of making a perfectly complete collection should be any reason for objecting to take envelopes in an entire, rather than in a mutilated state; such a plea would hold equally good with adhesives. Who would be deterred from continuing a collection, because a certain number of adhesives are virtually unattainable, and only to be obtained by the greatest vigilance in looking up all sources for them? The utility of taking envelopes entire, is admirably demonstrated by Dr. Magnus in several of his papers; and his detection of the reprinted obsolete Germans, through his study of them in the entire state, is an argument so thoroughly to the point, that it speaks for itself. Had I *believed* in the impossibility of obtaining a complete series of the envelopes on which I purpose writing, it is very likely a series, such as I am describing from, would never have been collected.

There is so much to describe amongst the envelopes of the United States, that it would be a waste of space to recapitulate the arguments of Dr. Magnus, and others, to show the necessity for taking envelopes in their entire state; I will, therefore, refer all who doubt to his papers in *Le Timbre-Poste*, and last year's *Timbrophile*, those in the latter being especially valuable for my purpose.

The first series of envelopes issued by the United States, were those of the well-known type, large oval with head of Washington to left. Of this set there are three values, a 3 c. red; 6 c. red, green; and 10 c. green. The 3 c. red, and 6 c. green, appear to have been issued August 4, 1853, the 6 c. red on October 17 following, but only for extra size envelopes, and the 10 c. green not till April 2, 1855.

I.—Design.

We will examine the impressed stamps themselves first, and so commence with

August, 1853, 3 c. red.

The design is the embossed head of Washington to left on a solid disc, within an oval frame; side of frame of six lines interwoven (three and three), leaving open loops, varying from $8\frac{1}{2}$ to 10 in the various dies; at top three, below cents, on solid label in Roman capitals.

First die.—Loops $8\frac{1}{2}$ on left, by 9 on right side, the half-loop on the left being at top; ends of the two labels straight and square; first and last letters of three nearly touching the ends of the top label.

Second die.—Loops $8\frac{1}{2}$ by 9, as last; ends of label straight, as last, but each angle in each label is intersected by one of the lines

which form the side interwoven frame (*i.e.*, in the two labels there are eight angles so intersected). The letters of THREE are farther from the ends of the top label than in last; those of CENTS are about the same.

Third die.—Loops 10 by 9, the lowest one of the 10 (left side) is not clearly defined; ends of the two labels curved, and the first and last letters in each almost touch the ends of the labels. In worn impressions the letters appear thinner, and consequently further from ends of labels.

Fourth die.—Loops 9 by 8½, the half-loop (on the right) very small, ends of labels curved, and first and last letters in each further from ends than in the third die. This is the commonest (the others are rarer), and appears to have been renewed several times, but the differences are so minute, that they are not worth recording, and often seem more apparent than real.

AUGUST, 1853, 6 C. GREEN.
OCTOBER, 1853, 6 C. RED.

There is but one die, and that resembles the first of 3 c., but of course the s and x of SIX do not come so near the ends of the label, as that word occupies less space than THREE.

APRIL 2, 1855, 10 C. GREEN.

There are two dies of this type, both with square ends to the labels.

First die.—Loops 9 by 8½, the half-loop well formed; square labels.

Second die.—Loops 7 by 7, square labels.

II.—COLOUR.

The 3 c. in colour is a vermilion shade of red, and beyond light and dark tints has little variation. Of the 6 c. red we can say the same. The 6 c. green is in two clear shades: first, a pale cold green; and, second, a very dark green, the latter on the buff paper appears of a rich yellowish shade, caused by the yellow tone of the paper. The 10 c. green of this type is never similar in colour to any 6 c., the shades being dull and yellowish.

First die.—1st, deep dull green; 2nd, dull yellowish green, and 3rd, a darker and less yellowish shade of the first.

Second die.—1st, deep dull green; 2nd, dull yellowish green, and 3rd, a very light green.

III.—PAPER.

There is considerable difference in quality and make of the paper. It is always water-marked P. O. D., U. S. (post-office department, United States). The following are the principal varieties:—

White paper.

a.—Thin, crisp, white paper, faintly toned.
b.—Thicker paper, vergures disappear when held to the light.
c.—Thin, soft paper, faintly toned.
d.—Thicker paper, white.
e.—Crisp, white paper, very different to *a*, varying in thickness.

Buff paper.

The following distinct varieties are found in the first type.

a.—Salmon-buff, crisp paper.
b.—Pale brown-buff, crisp paper.
c.—Brown-buff „ „
d.—Yellow-buff „ „
e.—Pale brown-buff, soft paper.

IV.—ENVELOPE.

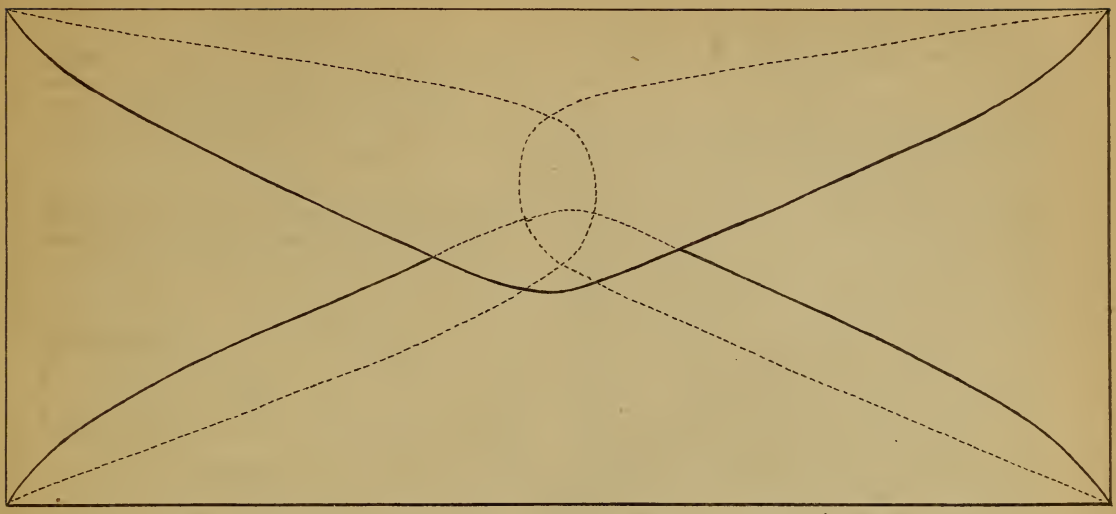
The adjoining engravings will show the construction of the only three envelopes found to this set. The make of the common-sized envelope has since been altered; sketches of each will be given in order, and will be explained in detail at the proper time. The 4th die of 3 c. is the only 3 c. of which we have found entire specimens, but no doubt the others exist in the one shape common to this set, viz., A, and B is a variety of make, being "security" shape, and having three lines printed inside to guide the writer as to the disposition of the direction. It was patented Nov. 20, 1855, and is very extensively used up to the present time.

The following is a detailed reference list of all varieties with which we are acquainted. They are numbered for convenience of reference. Everything chronicled we can show, as there is nothing given from hearsay.

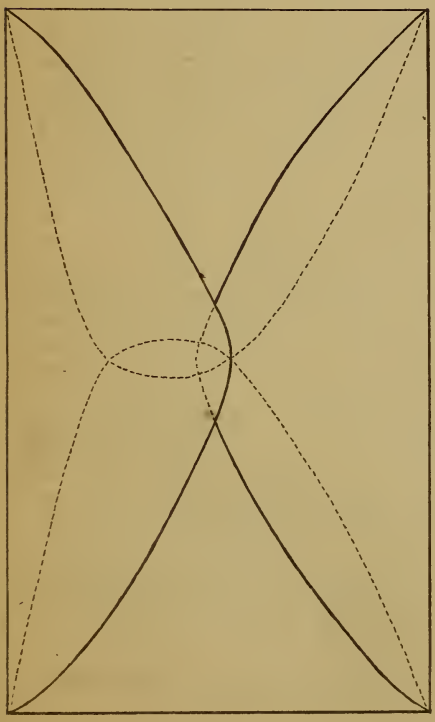
AUGUST, 1853. LARGE OVAL. 3 C.

§ Die 1. Loops 8½ by 9; square labels.
1.—Red on white paper.
2.—Red on buff „

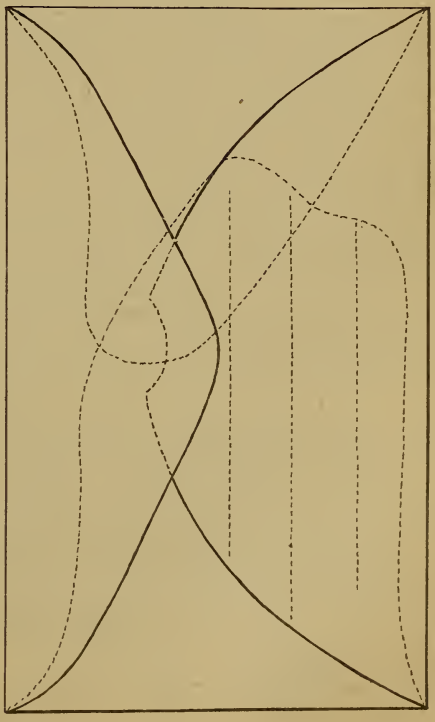
§ Die 2. As last; angles of labels intersected.



C (*1 Large size of A*)



(*No. 2 Letter size*) *A* (*First shape.*)



(*No. 2 Letter size.* *B* (*First shape Security & Patent.*)

SCALE 8 INCHES TO THE FOOT

3.—Red on white paper (?).
4.—Red on buff ,,

§ Die 3. Loops 10 by 9; labels curved; lettering close to ends of labels.
5.—Red on white.
6.—Pale red on buff, varying to
7.—Vermilion on buff.

§ Die 4. Loops 9 by $8\frac{1}{2}$; labels curved; lettering not close to ends of labels.

8.—Red (rather light)	on white,	*a.*	Shape	A.
9.—Red.	,,	*b.*	,,	B.
10.—Vermilion	,,	*c.*	,,	A.
11.—Pale red	on buff,	*a.*	,,	A.
12.—Bright red (or vermilion)	,,	*b.*	,,	A.
13.—Bright red (or vermilion)	,,	*c.*	,,	A.
14.—Bright red (or vermilion)	,,	*d.*	,,	A.
15.—Pale red	,,	*d.*	,,	A.
16.—Pale red and red	,,	*b.*	,,	B.

August, 1853. Large oval. 6 c. green.

17.—Pale cold green	on white,	*c.*	Shape	A.
18.—Very dark green	,,	*d.*	,,	A.
19.—Pale cold green	on buff,	*d.*	,,	A.
20.—Pale cold green	,,	*e.*	,,	A.
21.—Dark green	,,	*e.*	,,	A.

October, 1853. Large oval. 6 c. red.

22.—Vermilion-red	on white,	*d.*	Shape	C.
23.—Pale red	,,	*e.*	,,	C.
24.—Vermilion-red	on buff,	*e.*	,,	C.
25.—Vermilion-red	,,	*c.*	,,	C.
26.—Pale red	,,	*c.*	,,	C.

April 2nd, 1855. 10 c.

§ Die 1. Loops 9 by $8\frac{1}{2}$.

27.—Deep dull green	on white,	*b.*	Shape	A.
28.—Deep dull green	,,	*e.*	,,	A.
29.—Dull yellow-green	,,	*c.*	,,	A.
30.—Deep green	,,	*b.*	,,	A.
31.—Yellow-green	on buff,	*a.*	,,	A.
32.—Yellow-green	,,	*b.*	,,	A.
33.—Deep green	,,	*c.*	,,	A.

§ Die 2. Loops 7 by 7.

34.—Deep dull green	on white,	*c.*	Shape	A.
35.—Dull yellow-green	,,	*c.*	,,	A.
36.—Very light green	,,	*c.*	,,	A.
37.—*Deep dull green	on buff,	*b.*	,,	A.
38.—Dull yellow-green	,,	*c.*	,,	A.

(To be continued.)

* On very thin paper.

EXTRA WORK FOR THE FRENCH POST-OFFICE.

Translated from *Le Petit Moniteur du Soir*, of the 18th May.

The French postal administration during the present month (May) has passed through one of those crises which, happily for it, are very rare, and from which it only comes out by the employment of extraordinary efforts.

The service, already exceptionally burdened through the general elections, is further complicated by the multitudinous incidents arising out of the City of Paris loan, and if any one could doubt the very considerable trouble which these matters have caused, it will suffice to evoke the aid of figures to convince the most incredible.

Thus during a period of three days (the 8th, 9th, and 10th of May), there were deposited in the various offices of *bureaux d'arrondissement* of the capital, as subscriptions towards the loan, upwards of 2,000,000 francs, by *coupure* of 20 francs; that is to say, there were delivered post-office orders to the number of 100,000.

More than 200,000 registered letters have, in addition, been delivered at the prefecture of the Seine, of which 150,000 originated in Paris, and 50,000 came from the departments.

These latter during three days almost stopped the work in the travelling post-offices, which were previously encumbered through the augmentation in the number of letter journals and circulars, consequent upon the preparations made by the various candidates for election.

It would be difficult for any one to form an exact idea of this movement, did not figures again come to our aid to establish its vastness.

The candidates or their agents, since the 1st of May, have circulated through the post an immense number of communications of all kinds, as is proved, above all, by a formidable augmentation in the consumption of the 1, 2, and 4 centimes postage stamps.

Last year, during the corresponding period (the 1st to the 10th of May) there were used, in round numbers:—

of the	1 c.	2,582,400
,,	2 c.	981,500
,,	4 c.	322,200

This year there have been used within the same period:—

of the 1 c.	11,810,700
„ 2 c.	6,013,650
„ 4 c.	1,183,200

which gives an increase for 1869,

for the 1 c., of	9,228,300
„ 2 c. „	5,032,150
„ 4 c. „	861,000

In other words, one may say, without being taxed with exaggeration, that from the first to the 10th of May, there have been sent through France, about 12,000,000 of circulars and journals more than last year.

One may judge from this the vigour of the election movements, and the amount of additional work which has to be done by the ordinary *personnel* of the French post-office.

[We give these statements upon the authority of the journal quoted, which, however, it must be remembered, is no longer the official journal of the empire. We see no reason to doubt their correctness, and if, as we suppose they are, exact, we may surely expect that ere long the laureated one-centime stamp will be brought into circulation.—ED.]

VARIETIES OF THE UNITED STATES TWO-CENT ENVELOPE.

HAVE none of the sharp-sighted followers of the French school, always on the alert to discover and herald the appearance of a variety, though hardly distinguishable, ever noticed the varieties of the U. S. 2-cent envelope or paper wrapper? Certainly we have never noticed them in print. We have before us twelve specimens, on as many different kinds of paper, viz.: yellow, dark yellow, buff, brown, light brown, white, pink tinted, fine, coarse, plain, laid, and waved. The stamp exhibits almost as many variations. The width varying from ¾ to 1 inch, the length very near the same in all. In some the ovals at the side are longer than in others; the figure 2 large and small. The letters of the value below are cramped in some; in others well executed, and in one specimen they are broad and clumsy.

The head of Jackson exhibits various changes. In some his lips are compressed, in others curled; in another he looks sad, and again it does not resemble him at all.

The 3-cent envelope presents even more varieties than the 2 cent, and we think the amateurs in America should first make themselves acquainted with the stamps of our own country, before commencing upon those of foreign lands. In this respect we are far behind our brother amateurs on the other side of the water, and as the time will come when *varieties* will claim an equal recognition in our albums as the normal type, it would be well for us to begin to study them, but by all means take first the U.S., as there are differences in almost every type. We believe the first intimation we had that there were varieties of the 1847 5 cent came from one of the English magazines. There is a large field for study in the 2 and 3 cent envelopes alone, and we doubt not there are as many variations (though perhaps not so distinct) among the 1d. and 2d. views of Sydney.—*Mason's Coin and Stamp Collector's Magazine.*

WHOSE IS THE PORTRAIT ON THE CHILIAN STAMPS?

A FRIEND* writes us on this point as follows:

"You must recollect that what deceived every one with regard to the head of Columbus (so-called)—he was never in South America at all—is the word 'Colon,' which happens to be his name. But Colon is the port whence the Chili letters are transferred to Europe; it is perhaps better known under the name of Aspinwall. The Chili stamps free *from* Chili to Colon, but I think *not vice versâ*. That accounts for the recent change in position. It was absurd to put COLON above, and CHILI below, when the route was exactly contrary."

There is considerable force in this, if it be really the case that the Chilian stamps frank no farther than Aspinwall; but is there a charge made on delivery of the letters received from Chili, representing the carriage from Aspinwall? If the portrait be not that of Columbus, whose is it? We are landed again in a region of doubt, and it is really time the matter was settled. If not Columbus, then some local worthy is represented on the stamps, and in that case it would be interesting to know who. Cannot M. Gabarret help us to arrive at a solution of the difficulty?

* To whose remarks we replied in our "Answers" column last month.

CORRESPONDENCE.

MR. STOURTON'S PAMPHLET ON FORGERIES.

To the Editor of "The Stamp-Collector's Magazine."

Dear Sir,—Will you allow me to correct a slight mistake you made in your answer to a correspondent in last month's magazine? My work on forged stamps is not yet out of print. Copies may still be had of the publishers, Messrs. Trübner & Co. Since the work was published, now more than three years ago, several hundred fresh forgeries have appeared, all of which I hope, at no very distant period, to describe in a second edition.

I am, dear Sir, yours truly,
London. J. M. STOURTON.

THE RE-ISSUED ONE DINERO PERUVIAN, &c.

To the Editor of "The Stamp-Collector's Magazine."

Dear Sir,—I do not remember seeing it noticed in your magazine, that the 1 dinero green Peruvian differs from the same value *pink*, in having the arms embossed on a coloured ground, instead of on white. In the new Turkish also, the black inscriptions are much thinner, and more lengthened out than those in the previous issue.

As there appears to be some uncertainty about the date of issue of the Tasmanian 1d., 2d., and 4d., watermarked with figure, I will just mention that I have a 2d. bright green, watermarked with figure, cancelled in writing, 11, 8, 1858. I have also a 2 reales rose La Guaira, which appears to be perforated in serpentine. This, I suppose, is the variety mentioned by Theta in the March number, and again referred to by Mr. Pemberton in the May number of *The Stamp-Collector's Magazine.*

I should be glad to see the paper on "English Essays," commenced in the September number of last year, continued.

I remain, yours sincerely,
Scarborough. J. H. R.

THE "CLARA ROTHE" STAMPS.

To the Eaitor of "The Stamp-Collector's Magazine."

Sir,—In the interests of truth, and of stamp collectors, who might be deceived by the information imparted to you by "A Correspondent," and published in your May number, touching the issue of "Clara Rothe" postage stamps for use in this island, which stamps you describe and figure in the same number of your magazine, I beg to inform you that no such stamps exist, have ever existed, or are likely ever to exist, save in the imagination of your correspondent, who, doubtless borrowed the idea from the old Paquete stamps. The steamer *Clara Rothe* was engaged, some years ago, in carrying the mail between this and the sister island, St. Croix; and all letters going by her were franked by means of our local three-cent stamps. She did carry the European mail hence to Porto Rico, on a few occasions, pending an arrangement between the Porto Rico folks and the owners of the Spanish line of steamers; but that being only a temporary engagement did not necessitate the issue of any special stamps; nor, as I am persuaded, would any such stamps have been issued, even although she had become the regular Porto Rico packet.

Finding that she did not pay, her owner gave up his contract with our government, and sold her to that of Hayti, in whose service she is now, I believe, engaged in blockading—and sometimes bombarding—certain ports on the Haytian coast.

That being the case, the stamps in question are rather late in making their appearance; and I hope that this communication—should you think it worth publishing—may be the means of preventing the spread of the so-called "Clara Rothe" stamps. Apologising for the length of my communication,

I remain, Sir,
Your obedient servant,
St. Thomas, West Indies. JOSEPH E. DIXON.

BOSTON STAMP DEALERS.

To the Editor of "The Stamp-Collector's Magazine."

Dear Sir,—In connection with the subject of Boston swindles, I would call attention to the following persons, whom I can identify as supplying the English and Continental dealers largely, and often at nominal rates, with stamps of a more or less suspicious character:

S. Allan Taylor.
Charles A. Lyford.
Fred. Washburne.

Respecting the first name, I need say nothing. The second is that of an Editor of a New England stamp journal; whether he is aware that what he sells is not genuine, can be imagined from his offering *unused* Bolivia at *sixpence per set.* Fred. Washburne professes to be son of the late U. S. minister at Asuncion, and this is what he writes to a certain English firm: "Enclosed find a lot of rare Paraguayan stamps, collected since your last by my father (U. S. minister), in Conçepcion and Asuncion; they are but little used, owing to the bad state of the country, and are scarce, especially those printed in red. The stock of 5 c. and 10 c. has been exhausted, &c." The value of Washburne *fils* remarks on the scarcity of Paraguayan stamps in the country itself, may be estimated from the following observation on the blue 1 peso of Bolivia, *a stamp which has been proved false;* he says, "the blue 1 peso is genuine and authentic, as *I have received them direct from La Paz.*" The italics are mine, to show more plainly the unscrupulousness of the assertion. He finishes the "direct-from-La-Paz" remark thus: "which proves how much the Parisians know about American matters." Very fortunately, the Parisians cannot be taken in by so clumsy a thing as the 1 peso of Bolivia. Perhaps Mr. Fred. Washburne would favour us with a few remarks upon the Ecuador 12 reales, or resuscitate the Guatemalas, with a revised tariff of postage. The idea is at his service.

I am anxious to publish these names, as exposure is the readiest way of stopping their trade. No doubt I shall have much hard language from the American papers; anticipating this, I have ordered copies of those to which I do not subscribe, as they are sure to be full of amusing reading for the nonce.

Yours faithfully,
Birmingham. EDWARD L. PEMBERTON.

THE PERMANENT ALBUM.

To the Editor of "The Stamp-Collector's Magazine."

Sir,—I am sorry to say that your correspondent, W. H. S., has, in his last letter, mistaken my meaning in almost every point of my former letter on which he passes stricture. In regard to the permanence of our respective albums, of course neither his, nor mine, nor any album that will ever be published, can be permanent in the true sense of the word, *i.e.*, can last for ever. All that is required, however, is that the album last as long as its owner continues collecting. Now, fifty years I consider about the maximum of such time for any collector of the present day, and, according to the calcu-

lation in my former letter, even if no stamps were ever to be inserted on the left-hand pages—that is to say, if only one half of the album were to be filled—my album would still last for fully fifty years, so that the supposition of its owner being ever "hard pressed by new issues" was unnecessary on my part.

Again, what I referred to as W. H. S.'s general plan was that of "prepared spaces of *uniform* size," which, necessitating a very large size for each space (nearly two inches square—so as to include the old Capes, old Natals, &c.—in which the Genevas and other small stamps would be quite lost), would require very large pages; and which, moreover, preventing, as it would do, any symmetrical arrangement of the stamps, would detract greatly in my opinion and, as I cannot but believe, in the opinion of most "at all advanced philatelists," from the beauty and interest of an album. Maps may be left to individual taste, though I must repeat that I do not see any necessity or use for them in an album. As for writing notes on the left-hand pages, I yield this point: on consideration I think it would rather disfigure the album than otherwise: but at any rate W. H. S. might have observed from the expression which I used, and which indeed he himself quotes, "annotate on the otherwise blank left-hand pages, *or* in after years mount new varieties on them," that I did not intend that both should take place in the same album.

As to the difficulty of arranging stamps in a blank album, this, I think, could only be felt by very juvenile collectors, for whom alone, in my opinion, numbers or other references to a catalogue would be necessary.

The proper place for historical, geographical, statistical, heraldic, or other information, I consider to be a *Guide or Handbook to Collecting* (to which I suppose we may now look forward from the philatelic society, and which I hope will contain all such collateral information attainable), and not an album; as such a publication as the above, in new editions, could always correct each country's statistics, which are so liable to change, up to the date of issue, while an album would soon get out of date. Moreover it would, to say the least of it, not always be very easy to get, for newly-issuing countries, such a quantity of matter as W. H. S. would like printed on supplementary sheets (that had been either in the album at the time of publication, or published afterwards), whereas the simple name of the country could, even *in* an album, with the aid of a few types, be easily printed by hand. The insertion of any such information in manuscript would, as I have said above, be rather a blemish in the album, as also would be the continuation of a catalogue in writing.

The misunderstanding of the last point to which W. H. S. calls attention arose from a misprint in my former letter. The sentence to which he refers should have run: "to insert additional leaves upon the guards (*when*, to prevent bulging, the book might be rebound with new guards)." I don't think there would be any very great trouble consequent on this, as W. H. S. states; however, it may be rendered needless by the adoption of some such method as that alluded to in the last number of *The Philatelist*, "whereby," it is stated, "a page may be added or withdrawn at any time with facility," a method which "will probably form the basis of a permanent album." Of course, in any album such as W. H. S. would have, with a catalogue on the left-hand pages, the insertion of supplementary leaves, *between* countries, would be very inconvenient, as any such would separate the catalogue from its corresponding page of stamps; and new countries could only be inserted at the end, thus interrupting the proper sequence, geographical or alphabetical, as the case may be. I would then ask W. H. S. what he would propose to do at the conclusion of the ten years for which his album would last? Would he remove his stamps into another and larger album, or keep all new issues until such time as there would be sufficient to warrant the publication of a supplementary volume, and thus separate the earlier and later issues of a country? Moreover, what would he do with his envelopes? Or, perhaps he would remove them all into a cabinet, as Z. proposes. If it were for nothing else than the great expense incident on this last suggestion, and the inconvenient bulk of the cabinet when made, I don't think it will be generally favoured. The comparison of stamps with coins, with regard to insertion in an album, is rather too ridiculous. Arrangement in an album need never necessitate the loss of the backs of the stamps for purposes of examination.

Yours faithfully,

Nairn. P. I. A.

ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS.

MISS F., Bantry Bay.—The Irish petty sessions stamps have no definite marketable value.

BEGINNER, Colchester.—The portraits on the Dutch stamps are all of the same king—William III., of Holland,—who is also represented on the old Luxembourg stamps.

W. DEAN, Bath, sends us a brownish ½ sgr. of the North German Confederation, which he picked out from among a lot of 8000 stamps. We are nevertheless tolerably sure it is a "changeling."

X. L. B.—The fourpenny rectangular Cape has not yet become rare. It may pay you to store up those you have, but we do *not* think you will be able to get a shilling each for them in a couple of years hence.

LEMUEL POPE, Cambridge, U. S.—You would do more good by indicating who are than who are not the fabricators of fictitious stamps. Mr. Trifet may be the one righteous dealer in the city of Boston, but unless this be clearly demonstrated, proof of his integrity is no evidence of his neighbours' iniquity.

G. W. BINNS, Manchester.—Of the Swiss stamps you send, the 25 c. are new issues, which accounts for your not finding them in any catalogues; the 40 c. blue and 50 c. rose we believe to be humbugs. Of the 40 c. we have, indeed, no doubt whatever: and we have lately seen a 50 c. rose, avowedly a changed copy. We should advise you, unless you took them yourself off a letter direct from Switzerland, and can therefore vouch for their genuineness, to treat them as valueless copies.—We have carefully examined the Belgian stamps, but see no reason to suppose they are from different dies. The watermark on No. 9 is the usual interlaced L's, but they occur on this specimen in an inverted position.—You have all the varieties of the 1 c. Belgian.—We *do* consider the two unperf. French 40 c. worth collecting. We have the same shades in our own albums—a pale light orange, and a full vermilion; the latter, we think, is the later emission.—We should say your Schleswig-Holstein is a reprint.—Your No. 24 *is* one of the Argentine 1864 series—a specimen from one of the later-printed sheets, as is evident from the thickness and depth of colouring.—There is no English catalogue in existence giving all the varieties of paper, perforation, watermarks, &c., but we anticipate the English edition of Levrault will shortly supply the *hiatus*, and the new edition of Dr. Gray's catalogue will, we understand, include varieties of watermark, if not of perforation.—Thanks for sight of the 50 soldi Austrian, whose existence is thus ocularly demonstrated.—Your No. 19 is genuine, and is one of the 1851 Sardinian series.

OUR CONTEMPORARIES.

July 22, 1869.

Our dilatory contemporaries have come to hand at last; with these we will commence.

The Continental Philatelic Magazine commences with "A word to its Readers," in which apology is made for the orthographical imperfections of the previous number. The force of the apology is, however, marred by its own inaccuracies. We are glad to learn from Mr. Pemberton's letter, published in another part of the present number, that he purposes assisting Mr. Van Rinsum in the editing of his paper. The publisher is guided in his management by an honest desire to promote the welfare of philately, and we have ourselves regretted that its influence should be marred by errors, however excusable or amusing.

Mr. Van Rinsum follows his appeal to his readers with an article on the Wenden stamps, in which he seeks to prove their authenticity, but with, in our opinion, very moderate success. He says he has met with some persons coming from the town of Wenden, who told him that there were stamps of Wenden; and, says the editor, rather comically—*we believed it.* But such assertions as he quotes are far too vague to carry much weight. Again, he says, that a few days since, in a collection of 2200 stamps, he saw an *authentically-postmarked Wenden*, but he does not mention how he assured himself of the authenticity of the postmark; and further on he gives testimony which is rather against than for the genuineness of the stamp, to the effect that he had seen a Wenden stamp on an envelope, together with Russian stamps; "the Russian stamps," he adds, "were postmarked [*i. e.*, we presume with a hand-stamp], the Wenden stamp only by pen and ink." Does not this look as if the latter stamp had been affixed afterwards, for a purpose? Mr. Van Rinsum does not claim for these Wendenites that they are an authorised emission, but considers them as "genuine locals;" and states that they are put on letters sent to the town of Wenden, from "places having no post-office in the neighbourhood;" but if these places have no post-office, who takes charge of, and carries, the letters? The discovery of the Russian locals, recently described, renders the existence of the Wenden stamps as a genuine emission more probable than it was a few months back, but much stronger and clearer proof than Mr. Van Rinsum has produced is necessary to conclusively establish their character.

Continuing our notice of the *Continental Philatelic*, we come to the article on "The Boston Forgeries," in which is quoted a long and abusive letter, received by the editor from Mr. Lyford, of Boston, the confederate of Taylor, and dealer in the forged Hawaiian. Respecting this, we need only say, that it is written in just such an insolent and impudent tone as might have been expected; and Mr. Pemberton, having seen the original MSS., is in a position to state the interesting fact respecting it, that though the signature is Lyford's, the body of the letter is in Taylor's handwriting.

The rest of the number before us is occupied with the "Monthly Chronicle," in which we find nothing worthy of note, except a statement that all the Hamburg envelopes have been sold to a dealer, and consequently will not be found surcharged with the Confederation adhesives, like so many of the other old German envelopes.

Le Timbrophile.—The most interesting article in the number of May 30, is that which treats of the establishment of the London Philatelic Society. The original report of the first meeting, which appeared in these pages, is translated *verbatim;* following which are some remarks on Mr. Atlee's project for the formation of an International Philatelic Society—a project first mooted by him in the columns of the *New York Journal.* We cannot say we think this a very feasible scheme, nor do we perceive its utility. The sole merit of the conception is its relative—shall we say, grandeur? That any real good would result from the nominal union of philatelic societies, in London, Paris, and New York, is very doubtful. Each society must pursue its investigations independently, and no doubt without such union any communications addressed, or assistance desired by one from the other, would be received with due respect, and cheerfully rendered.

Any possible further benefit would be attainable by correspondence between the members. Mons. Mahé remarks upon Mr. Atlee's proposal, that the creation of an international society is still no more than a project, for numerous and difficult obstacles stand in the way of its establishment; and we ourselves doubt the possibility of overcoming them.

Forming a pendant to M. Mahé's report, come the following interesting remarks of Doctor Magnus, which give hope of the re-establishment of the old *Société Philatelique*, though, if the doctor's wishes be followed, under a different name.

In the ninth number of *Le Timbrophile* (15th July, 1865), we gave an account of the birth of the Parisian society, and the names of its officers, and, what is more, of the existence of a society at Nevers, having the same object. What has become of the latter we know not, but the history of the Parisian society is really lamentable. It is a well-known thing, that the president and the first secretary have made over their collections to English and Belgian amateurs, and that their example has, sooner or later, induced several other collectors to do the same. But it has not been thus with all. Promoters, with Messrs. Herpin & Bécourt, of the foundation of that society, we have not ceased to demand its reorganisation, and the favourable reception given by amateurs to our works, has shown us that we had done well to remain steadfast in the gap. Our opinion has not changed. Thank heaven, we can testify that the greater part of its primitive adherents have not abandoned the study and collection of postage stamps. What, then, is wanted to reconstitute the Parisian society?—a rallying centre, which our own residence, outside of Paris, does not permit us to offer—a friendly spot, were philatelists might meet every month. We have sought it in vain; we shall be happy if others are able to find it."

We hope the words of Dr. Magnus will be seriously taken to heart by Parisian collectors. They cannot surely be so destitute of public spirit as to refuse either to offer a meeting place, or the funds necessary to hire one. One of the most pleasing features in connection with our own society is the heartiness with which London philatelists have come forward, and especially the courtesy shown by the vice-president, in placing his chambers at the society's disposal, for the introductory meetings.

The June number of *Le Timbrophile* contains little worthy of especial note, except a short article upon the Boston forgers, in which credit is taken for the caution which our Parisian contemporary has shown in accepting novelties coming from Boston, and the names of the offending parties are given. We are glad to have the support of *Le Timbrophile* in this matter. We have hitherto been alone (except for the assistance given by Mr. Van Rinsum) in exposing the evil doings of the Bostonians, and it is with pleasure we find the papers coming forward now to aid in the work.

Le Timbre-Poste.—The June number is completely occupied with two articles—the Chronicle, and the continuation of Dr. Magnus' article on envelopes. Neither of these contain quotable matter.

The Philatelist.—In the July number the only thing calling for observation is the very accurate reference list of the New Zealand stamps, by Messrs. Pemberton & Erskine. The same plan is pursued as with the Victorian, and explanatory notes are freely added.

The American Journal of Philately for June gives, in full, the "Table to facilitate Discovery of the Nation of Postage Stamps," which forms part of the Introduction in *Dr. Gray's Catalogue*. Under the title, "Our Postage-stamp Portrait Gallery," a very readable sketch of Rajah Brooke appears. By the way, what has become of the Sarawak stamp itself? It is never to be seen, though it has now been so long in existence. Is it really in circulation?

The American Journal, in another part of its number, gives two quotations respecting Spanish stamps from this magazine, with a view to proving "that other papers sometimes make *slight mistakes*, even worse than *The American Journal of Philately* itself has fallen into." But where the mistakes are to which our contemporary alludes it passes us to discover. It is not necessary to go into the matter, but if the New York journal will inform us what are the mistakes to which it so mysteriously alludes, we shall feel grateful.

An Attempt to Revive Franking.—In Parliament the other night an attempt was made to partially revive the franking system. It was whilst the committee of supply was on, and the item for printing expenses was under consideration. An hon. member suggested it would be well to permit the forwarding of parliamentary blue-books by members of the house to their constituents free of expense, if sent through the post-office of the house, but the premier emphatically protested against saddling the country with the expense of transmission, and against any approach to a return of the old system. The subject then dropped.

THE STAMP DEALERS OF BOSTON (MASSACHUSETTS).

(SEQUEL TO ARTICLE IN MAY NUMBER).

THE remarks we felt it our duty to make in the May number, respecting the questionable dealings of certain dealers in Boston, have called forth replies from two of the parties referred to—Mr. Trifet, and Mr. S. Allan Taylor. The first named publishes, in the June impression of his paper (the *American Stamp Mercury*), a lengthy communication, which he does us the honour to address to us, unfolding his connection with the trade in forgeries which has been carried on in the puritan city. This letter we think it advisable, for several motives, to republish in full, as it is interesting in itself, and throws some light on the matter under discussion. It reads as follows:

THE STAMP DEALERS OF BOSTON.

To the Editor of "THE STAMP-COLLECTOR'S MAGAZINE."

IN your May number you have a long article under the above heading; and as a large portion of the same is written, either intentionally or otherwise, in a manner to seriously damage my character as a dealer in genuine stamps, I feel compelled to give you an explanation of all the share I had or have in the following "Boston impositions":

Guatemala, 5 centavos brown.
St. Domingo, 2 reales carmine.
Paraguay, 5, 10, 20, 50 centavos, red, green, blue, blue.
Ecuador, 2, 12 reales, green, red.
Bolivia, 1 peso blue, red.
Sandwich Islands, 13 cents red.
Canada, buff paper envelopes.

And in doing so, I shall confine myself strictly to the truth, which *all* the collectors of any note in Boston or the United States, will testify to, as well as incidents known to you as well as to other European dealers and collectors.

I shall commence by saying, that in 1861 I commenced collecting stamps; and, by that means, became acquainted with Mr. S. Allan Taylor, of this city, in 1866. A short time after this, I sold my collection to Mr. Lemuel Pope, of Cambridge, and established myself in the stamp business on a small scale. In buying of persons in this city, I very frequently got badly swindled with counterfeits, but at that time had no scruples in selling them over again without warranting them. At that time I had set up and printed 200 of each of the figure issue of the Sandwich Islands. I also, in conjunction with Messrs. Taylor, Seltz, and Frost, all of Boston, had engraved a fine wood-cut copy of the 3½ cent Luzon stamp, paying one quarter of the expenses, and receiving one quarter of the stamps. I carried on this nefarious business until June, 1867, when, at the urgent solicitations of personal friends and prominent collectors of Boston, who promised to give me all the help and encouragement in business, provided I should have nothing to do with counterfeit or fictitious stamps, I issued a circular, in which I stated that, on and after date (June 20th, 1867), all stamps sold by me would be warranted genuine. Of course, this made certain parties of this city threaten vengeance and destruction, which, I am happy to state, I am still waiting for. At that time, the Ecuador 2 reales stamps had been circulated some time; and I believed it to be what it represented, until, in a private conversation with Mr. Seltz, I found out the character and also the name of the person who got it up: the latter I decline making public, as this article is to defend me, and not to accuse others.

When the first news of new stamps for Ecuador reached Boston, the person above alluded to, seeing a good chance for a speculation, had the 2 reales prepared; and copies of it arriving in England as soon as the real emissions, they were quickly bought by dealers there, and sold, no doubt, very readily. By this account, you will observe that I had nothing to do in the manufacture of this stamp; and as for disposing of them, I may have done so in a few cases previous to June, 1867. At about this time, the St. Domingo stamp made its appearance, and was condemned by me at first sight, which was on seeing in a collection that Mr. Taylor had for sale, and which belonged to Mr. J. M. Chute, a set of about twelve proofs, in different colours. I had nothing to do, either with the selling or making of these, beyond disposing of two copies, sent to me from England, and warranted genuine, under protest [?], and which I have since taken back.

In June, if I remember right, that most successful of impositions, the Guatemala stamp, appeared. At first, Mr. Taylor had proofs in four or five colours, and stated to the persons he sold them to, that he did not know which colour would be adopted. Shortly after, the stamp appeared properly gummed and perforated. In this stamp I had at first some confidence, but not enough to state to *any* one that it was a genuine stamp. I very quickly found out, or rather guessed at its nature, and, in May, 1868, gave it a fatal blow, by publishing a letter from Dr. E. L. Sturtevant, of Framingham, in the *Mercury*. I have had frequent calls from Europe for them; and once being pressed for some, I obtained and sent Mr. Julius Goldner two dozen, which were returned by him, he having, no doubt, found out their true character. The person of whom I got them in this city charged me 1 dollar currency for the two dozen, which, you will perceive, is less than their facial value.

Sometime in February, 1868, Mr. H. Loud, of Boston, called on me, and informed me that Mr. Taylor had a Paraguay stamp, and he (Mr. L.) wished my opinion as to its genuineness. I went over to Mr. Taylor's office, and was shown a copy of it. At the time, I thought it strange that the postmark should be partly in English; but can you blame me if, after only two years' experience, I merely *questioned* this stamp, when you for a long time *believed* in it? I therefore spoke of it in the *Mercury* for March. During that time, quite a number were sold, including one unused, to Mr. F. C. Foster, with whom I spoke about the stamp at the time, and told him I did not believe in its genuine character. In April, I again mentioned it in the *Mercury*, and stated that "we were waiting for something to turn up."

Something did turn up; for we received the letter published in the May number, the original of which was lost in Mr. S. O. Thayer's printing-office. This letter was accompanied by one specimen cut off of a newspaper, and two stuck on the fragment of an envelope, which had all the appearance of being genuine.

I showed them to Mr. Taylor; and he said to me, in a sarcastic tone, that the person that made the stamp no doubt made the envelope.

From appearances of things, I unfortunately judged otherwise, and allowed the few remarks on page 46 to go in. Of the three specimens I received, I sold one to Dr. Sturtevant, and the others to Mr. F. H. Hunter, of West

Newton. A few months after, Mr. Taylor showed me a similar envelope, or rather fragment, bearing a postmark of RIO JANEIRO in one corner, and a 5 and two 10 centavos stamps in another. I told Mr. Taylor I did not believe in these stamps, and proceeded to peel them off the envelope, when he cried out not to do so; and before he had a chance to see that part of the envelope under the stamp I was looking at, he said that I must not judge of things by appearances, and that the figures 81 (the number of his office) under the stamps had nothing to do with him. I afterwards bought two lots of mixed South American stamps from him, each of which contained one or two of each—Ecuador, 12 reales; Bolivia, 1 peso blue; and Paraguay, 5 centavos. These I sold to parties in Boston, with the agreement that I should take them back if they proved bogus. They have proved so; and I have kept my agreement. For further particulars of this stamp, I refer you to vol. ii., p. 50, of the *Mercury*.

I now have to clear myself of the charge of fathering the Bolivias and the Ecuador 12 reales. In May, 1868, a boy called at my office, and showed me some stamps that he wanted to sell. I bought the lot, and, in sorting them over, found one of each of the above. I took it for granted, never having seen one, that the Bolivia 1 peso was the one spoken of in the magazines, and therefore put it in my collection, as I also did the 12 reales Ecuador, which I accidentally took to be a 4 reales, and did not find out my mistake until looking over my collection at Messrs. J. W. Scott & Co.'s office, in New York. I noticed it in July and August, and the statements I then made, and with which you trip me up, I cannot give any excuse for, but that I conjectured that it "was issued early in the year." As for the Bolivias, I have never said anything in their favour. Other Boston dealers are selling sets of six—2, 5, 10, 20, 50, 100 centavos—for 10 cents a set, "warranted genuine, or the money refunded."

In relation to the Sandwich Island 13 cents, I again refer you to the *Mercury*, p. 55, vol. ii.

The last thing that I am accused of manufacturing, or aiding to manufacture, is the Canada envelopes, on buff paper. Were this not a serious matter, I should be inclined to treat this as a joke. I have *always* considered them impositions. When I was in New York, Mr. J. A. Petrie offered me fifty sets or more at the prices he received from a firm in England, viz., 1s. a set. I told him "they were impositions;" upon which he proceeded to give an account about how Mr. Nesbitt had made them for a particular friend of a particular friend of his; and that, apprehending some trouble, upon being asked, they denied their ever having made them.

A likely story, that this firm should be so devoid of honour as to manufacture hundreds of *forgeries* for "particular friends of particular friends." Believe me when I tell you that the Canada envelopes on buff paper are better, far better, known by Mr. Petrie than by me. I have his letters to me, with propositions about these same. Speaking about letters, where is the one in which I offered a certain price for these envelopes? I will give 100 dollars for a look at it. But enough.

Before closing, allow me to say a few words about that "rather formidable document." Mr. Pope wrote the letter, and I got all the endorsements myself from the signers. The counterfeits they speak of were not *counterfeits* but *fictitious* stamps, as follows:—

Lemuel Pope, Ecuador, 12 r.; Bolivia, 1 p.; Paraguay, 5 c.

T. W. Brewer, none.

A. Robeson, jun., Ecuador, 12 r.; Bolivia, 1 p.

F. E. Hunter, Ecuador, 12 r.; Bolivia, 1 p.; Paraguay, 5 c.

F. H. Story, Ecuador, 12 r.; Bolivia, 1 p.

Geo. Fuller, none.

Now, I shall conclude by asking you a few questions. If I am guilty of selling forged or false stamps,

Why did I never send them to Europe?

Why did I publish letters condemning them?

Why have I not sold more than, at the most, six of each kind?

Why, after paying a high price for them, should I take them back of the above persons, refunding from 30 to 75 cents for each, and sell them to Mr. C. A. Lyford, in presence of witnesses, as forged stamps, at the rate of about one dollar per dozen?

Why should I have sold three to Mr. G. H. Dunbar, of New Bedford, as forgeries, for 3 cents each?

Why should I want to buy "buffs" of Mr. Petrie if I made them? I ought to have enough myself.

Why should prominent citizens of Boston and the United States subscribe their names to statements that they know, or even think, are false?

Why should I make these statements, and you not be able to contradict them?

That Boston produces impositions, I grant. That some dealers of Boston are thieves, swindlers, &c., according to your thinking, I will also grant. But because I am unfortunate enough to be in Boston with these parties, does it naturally follow that I am also one of them? It does not: no more than because Mr. ——— states a thing to be true, it naturally follows such. I had shown me some Zurich stamps lately for my opinion, the person telling me that Mr. ——— had pronounced them genuine. I told him, as I tell you now, *that they were forgeries.* Either Mr. ——— *does* make mistakes, or else some persons do not always speak truthfully. Why should everything be termed Boston forgeries?

In conclusion, I call your attention to the facts above stated, and advise you—nay, command you, if I may use the term—to make further inquiries, and make them known to the world. By all means, take the assistance of American collectors, if you can get any after treating their first step in the manner in which you have done; and when you have found out the truth, let us know it. If you hear of anything against me or the firm, publish it, and I promise you that I will publish it in my own magazine if it is true; but be an impartial judge, and publish all you can find in my favour also. Do not always consider a person by the company he keeps, and do not bring as an evidence against a man his own defence.

Do, as you say you always do, what is right, and, whether you fairly find me "guilty" or "not guilty," you will receive the thanks of,

Yours respectfully,

F. TRIFET.

In this apology there is a great deal of irrelevant matter, but in justice to Mr. Trifet, we have inserted the whole of his defence. Some credit is due to him for coming forward and admitting his share in the transactions alluded to; but our opinion of him would have been higher, had he not waited until stimulated to do so by self-interest. He candidly admits his share in the manufacture of the forged figure Sandwich Islands, and in the $3\frac{1}{2}$ c. of Luzon, but he denies being privy to the fabrication of any other forgeries or falsities. On the contrary, he declares that,

though resident in the place where they were created, he was himself duped by them, and afterwards aided in exposing their true character. We see no reason to seriously question these statements; for though there runs throughout the extract above quoted a very strong vein of justification, it still bears about it such an air of truthfulness as permits of its acceptance. What, however, we may reasonably be surprised at is, that Mr. Trifet, although at an earlier period of his career he was concerned with Allan Taylor in what he now justly terms a "nefarious business," and therefore must have known the character of his quondam confederate, still continued, after he had entered upon a new path, to continue his relations with Taylor, and to buy stamps from him. How *could* he warrant as genuine anything—or at least, anything new and unknown—which he had purchased from Taylor? Our correspondent, if we may so term him, says that he bought a lot of South American stamps, in 1868, from Taylor, and found among them copies of the 12 rls. Ecuador, 1 peso Bolivia, and 5 c. Paraguay, which he sold again, with "the agreement that he should take them back if they proved bogus." We do not wonder he or his clients made such a stipulation, but we do wonder that he should have either bought or sold them, knowing, as he did, that only a few months before the person from whom he obtained them had "uttered" the Guatemala falsity. Acquitting Mr. Trifet of any intention to defraud in the matter, he is certainly chargeable with a culpable want of caution. Every honourable stamp dealer sells his stamps upon the implied condition that he will refund the money paid for them if they should be proved to be forged or valueless, but his customers have a right to expect in addition that he shall take every possible precaution to obviate even the chance of his selling them such stamps; a dealer, therefore, who obtains his stock from a known fabricator of forgeries, violates the confidence of his friends, no matter under what stipulations he sells to them. Mr. Trifet concludes his explanations with an appeal, "not always to consider a man by the company he keeps;" but he cannot be surprised that the world should judge by what are often the only data on which it can form an opinion. If Mr. Trifet be not a "bird of the same feather" as Taylor and Lyford, his best plan will be to avoid consorting with them, or either of them. If he continue to associate himself with persons of their character, it will be idle for him to declare himself their dupe.

Thus much with regard to Mr. Trifet personally, but we cannot part from his apology without adverting to the portions which bear upon another implicated person—Mr. Allan Taylor. We find it stated, then:

1.—That Mr. Taylor, together with Messrs. Trifet, Seltz, and Frost, engraved "a fine wood-cut copy of the $3\frac{1}{8}$ Luzon stamp."

2.—That the first copies of the sham 2 reales of St. Domingo which Mr. Trifet saw (and as he was in Boston, he would be likely to see them as soon as anyone), were in a collection which Mr. Taylor had for sale, and which belonged to Mr. J. M. Chute. In this collection was a set of twelve proofs.

3.—That Mr. Taylor "at first had proofs of the Guatemala in four or five colours, and stated to the persons he sold them to *that he did not know which colour would be adopted.*" The italics are our own, though the "richness" of the latter clause of the sentence hardly requires emphasising.

4.—That Mr. Taylor sold to Mr. Trifet, among other stamps, copies of the "Ecuador, 12 reales; Bolivia, 1 peso blue; and Paraguay, 5 centavos."

Besides these, Mr. Trifet supplies a hint as to the fabricator of the 2 reales Ecuador. Unguided by it, we should have been inclined to credit the creator of the 12 reales of the same country with its production, but when Mr. Trifet tells us that Mr. Seltz (who had been S. A. Taylor's partner and his own in the manufacture of the Luzon stamp) informed him who was the maker, there is no longer room for doubt. The facts which Mr. Trifet narrates respecting the Paraguay 5 c. are also interesting, and tend to prove either that Mr. Taylor is a *clairvoyant*, or that he had incautiously postmarked one of his own envelopes with the words, RIO JANEIRO. With regard to the St. Domingo, it is of course possible that Mr. Chute may have duped or deceived Mr. Taylor as to their real character,

and that the latter offered them for sale in ignorance of their worthlessness. Such a thing *is* possible, but only barely so. The more probable supposition is, that Mr. Chute and Mr. Taylor conspired together to palm off the result of their joint inventive powers. If not, and we wrong Mr. Chute in the matter, we shall be glad if that gentleman will favour his brother collectors with an explanation of his connection with this humbug.

We now come to the answer made by Allan Taylor himself to our strictures.

His letter is just such a one as might be expected from his pen—evasive, bombastic, and bullying in tone. We see no reason in his case for inserting his reply in full, as the greater portion consists of abuse pure and simple, but we shall give a *resumé* of its contents, and then, so far as Mr. Taylor is concerned, we have done with the matter.

He addresses himself to our publishers, Messrs. Alfred Smith & Co., and starting from the erroneous assumption that they are also the editors, he goes on to threaten them with vengeance, declaring that he will use his entire influence with the "stamp trade in America" to their detriment. Neither this tremendous threat, nor the further one which concludes his letter, to the effect that he will deal with our publishers "on the inflexible principles of Mosaic law," has, we fear, been duly appreciated by those to whom it is addressed. We think, and our readers will probably think with us, that their full value is given them in regarding them as the expressions of Mr. Taylor's perhaps natural rage at the exposure of his dishonest transactions which, in the interests of philately, we have made.

Mr. Taylor professes to believe that our statements were made with the purpose of injuring his trade. That they were made to serve any private ends we deny, but we certainly admit that it was our intention in making them to caution dealers and collectors in general against accepting new and unheard-of varieties, or sets of Pacific stamps, from him. Beyond that we have no wish to damage his business, and trust that as long as he sells genuine stamps, he may go on and prosper.

His defence is really no defence at all. He wishes us to prove that he has ever manufactured any "college" stamps. We recollect one which came from him, and him only, colour green, and in design an exact copy of the current penny New South Wales. This *en passant*. He also wishes us to tell him what United States local stamps are to our knowledge more genuine than those he sells—by which we presume he alludes to the notorious Westervelts. This is a reply bordering on the nonsensical. Mr. Taylor himself has been at the pains of writing articles about the United States locals, and has done his best to justify them, but without such justification a large majority of those known to collectors could be proved to be of genuine origin, and of many we ourselves have seen postmarked original copies. But we are not going to enter upon a general discussion of the character of locals to please Mr. Taylor, whose tactics in raising the question are so very clear. It would be, indeed, supererogatory to prove step by step the genuineness of such local stamps in order to demonstrate the already proven falsity of the Westervelt.

Mr. Taylor has the coolness to promise that the genuineness of the Guatemala stamp shall be proved. This is really a masterstroke of audacity, and exemplifies fully the happy manner of "facing a thing out," which Mr. Taylor possesses. Such an attempt at Barnumism is really so ludicrously absurd, that it is difficult to think of the matter seriously. However, if any one can tell us the whole history of the Guatemala stamp, and prove what a "genuine" humbug it was, it is its author, and we should like to read such an interesting contribution to the ethics of stamp-dealing.

Concluding his letter, Mr. Taylor regrets that we are beyond the reach of the "stern arm of New England justice." In reply to which, and in conclusion of our own remarks, we have only to observe that it is well for him the "stern arm" is not long enough to reach the sellers of forged stamps, such as the Pacific Steam Navigation Co. series, or he would find himself in a very unpleasant predicament.

CONCERNING REPRINTS.

(*Continued from p.* 60.)

Switzerland. — *Basle.*—The sole stamp of this canton has been reprinted, but the re-impressions may be easily recognised, from the fact that the groundwork is *sea-green* instead of blue, and the frame a bright *orange-red* instead of carmine. The reprint is, then, far from being a successful one, and, indeed, on its appearance it was ushered in as a genuine original variety, its promoters doubtless thinking it would have a better chance of acceptance as such, than as a reprint. We should advise collectors to reject it, as it is, to our mind, useless.

Geneva.—It has been asserted that the 5 c. green on white has been reprinted, but, as it would seem, without foundation; genuine unused copies have lately been sent to one of the continental journals.

Wurtemburg. — The first issue was reprinted, in 1864, for an Englishman, resident at Stuttgardt, and at the same time a variety of proofs were struck on coloured papers. On comparison with used copies, it will be easy to decide whether an unused specimen is an original or a reprint; if an original, the inscriptions, both large and small, will agree with the used; if a reprint, there will be various little differences, caused by these inscriptions having been re-set for the reprint. As every collector possesses the used copies it is not necessary for us to detail all these differences, but we may point out that the most conspicuous word, Wurtemburg, is otherwise placed than in the originals.

The second issue (1857) has also been reprinted, in the following colours, 1 kr. brown, 3 kr. dull orange, 6 kr. green, 9 kr. dark carmine, 18 kr. pale blue, both on the Dickinson paper and on the ordinary white. Those on the former may be recognised from the fact that the horizontal thread is red, and not orange.

This concludes our list of reprints for Europe. None of the stamps of Asiatic countries have been reprinted, though we are rather doubtful about the first issue of Shanghai. We pass on, then, to Africa, commencing with

Mauritius.—Authorities differ as to the question whether or not the first issue with figure of Britannia has been reprinted. Dr. Magnus thinks they have not; Mr. Pemberton, that they have. We feel inclined to observe, with Sir Roger de Coverley, that "There's a great deal to be said on both sides." On the one hand it is fair to admit that the comparative abundance of these stamps points strongly to a reprint; on the other, we are without any positive evidence of such an occurrence, and it should always be borne in mind, that, as a rule, English colonial stamps have not been reprinted. The only exceptions we are aware of are the British Guiana, and when they were reprinted every one knew of it, and knew under what circumstances the reprints were made. If we mistake not, Messrs. Bacon & Perkins were the engravers of the old Mauritius, and in their hands the dies would remain. It becomes a question, then, whether they would permit them to be secretly worked. We think not.*

The original statement when the disputed stamps first came into notice was, that they had been found on the island hidden away in a drawer, and the only reason for doubting it is the number which have been found. The first parcel received in Paris consisted of only 21 stamps, of which 8 were proof impressions, and these were said to have been discovered among the papers of a banker in the island, and to have been sent to Paris by an *employé* in the post-office at Mauritius, son of a Parisian amateur. But where all the specimens which have since been received have come from is a puzzle. Even a banker must have disbursed a considerable sum to purchase the quantity of specimens which from first to last have been put on the market. If the stamps are originals, it seems to us a more feasible supposition that they formed the surplus stock in the post-office, and that the philatelic *employé* having obtained possession of them,

* The talented writer of the article on "The English-printed Stamps of Mauritius," says (vol. iv., p. 75), "The die was engraved and all the impressions taken from it were printed in England, in which country, we are credibly informed, the original dies still remain in the possession of the post-office authorities." If this be so, it only makes the case against the reprinting stronger.

sent them cautiously to Europe in small parcels, accompanying the first with a tale which would account for his sending so few. However, the whole subject is involved in doubt, and well worthy of further discussion.

Since the above was written, the writer of the paper on the English-printed stamps of Mauritius has informed us that he has good ground for believing Mr. Pemberton's views, as to these stamps having been reprinted, are modified. *The decisive fact*, in his [the aforesaid writer's] opinion, in favour of the stamps being original impressions is, that *no green copies have ever turned up*. It is obvious, he observes, that if the dies had been in the hands of those who desired to reprint, this colour and value would not have been omitted.

NEWLY-ISSUED OR INEDITED STAMPS.

We have not much that is really new to chronicle this month, and, "willy-nilly," we must make further reference to the new series for the

United States, in order to introduce four laggard illustrations. We have nothing to





add to our former descriptions, except to note that the date, 1776, appears at the foot of the *tableau*, and will serve to remove any lingering doubts as to the event it represents. Opinions differ as to the appearance of the new series. *The Philatelist* gives to it almost unqualified praise. *Le Timbrophile* declares that the specimen copies submitted for inspection presented "not merely a neat appearance, but also a really artistic appearance, and are in all respects superior to the stamps of no matter what other country." Whether, however, this verdict is intended to apply to the designs as issued to the public, is not quite clear. *Le Timbrophile*, *au contraire*, considers that this very original series of stamps leaves much to desire upon every point, and is much inferior to the preceding issue. Even of the 15 and 24 c., while affecting to dread the result of an open denial of their excellence, M. Moens can only say that they are simply curious, because of their *bizarre* appearance.





In referring to the impression of these stamps, *Le Timbrophile* says it was executed under the surveillance of several officers of the post-office department at Washington, specially sent for that purpose; and it was not permitted to any person, not *even* to the workmen of the company, to carry off the sheets of "proofs," nor the spoiled sheets. It adds—and the assertion is certainly erroneous—that up to the present time only the 2 cents has been issued for public use. We ourselves recollect that a friend of ours received a copy of the 90 c. on a letter, in March last, almost immediately after the news of the actual emission arrived here, and we have seen used specimens of several other values—notably of the 3 cents, in condemnation of which some of the American papers have written so strongly.

La Guaira.—The annexed illustration is, as we are assured, and see every reason to believe, that of a genuine stamp. It is issued by a firm established at Curaçao, and used, we presume, from the inscription, in connection with a packet service, similar to that which gave employment to the old La Guaira series. The initials are those of the issuing firm. The colour in which this sole value is printed varies from rose to carmine, and to yellowish red.



The character of the "Clara-Rothe" stamps is becoming daily clearer, and suspicion as to their nature is confirmed. They are a Parisian production, perforated, if we accept M. Moens' statement, by a stationer in Paris, for the "promoter." We regret to find that such a disreputable imposture has been got up on this side of the water, for we had hoped that the fabrication of humbugs was confined to Boston. We are glad that it has been, at any rate, partially exposed by *Le Timbrophile* and *Le Timbre-Poste*, and we hope we shall hear no more of this deception.

Russia.—Russian locals seem cropping up in sudden abundance. The adjoining illustration represents a stamp said to be used in the town or district of Schunelbourg. It will be seen that the design consists of a *banderole*, inscribed with the value thrice repeated, wound over a key—the local arms, as we presume. The surrounding inscription reads, RURAL POST OF SCHUNELBOURG. The inscription is in black on dark green paper. Another local has come into our own hands. It is diamond shaped, printed on dull white paper, and gummed. The design is very simple. There is an inscription on the four sides, signifying RJASAN CIRCUIT RURAL COURT; and in the centre, disposed in three lines, on a shaded ground, is another inscription, STAMP OF VILLAGE POST, 2 KOPECKS. Of this latter, the word MAPKA (stamp) is the most conspicuous. We purpose giving an engraving of it next month, when our readers will be better able to form their own judgment on it.



Peru.—Some time since, on the authority of *Le Timbrophile*, we mentioned that the plates from which the issue of 1867 was printed had all been destroyed in the great earthquake of last year. Our contemporary, however, now corrects itself, stating that it is only the plate of the 10 c. which was destroyed, and that it is this value which is provisionally represented by the old embossed 1 dinero, printed in green.

British Columbia.—The entire provisional series, of which we spoke, has now appeared. The values are five in number—5, 10, 25, 50 c., and 1 dollar. The colours given in our May number are correct.

Heligoland.—We have just received specimens of the ½ schilling printed a very light green, and perforated. Hitherto the entire series has been rouletted, and the other values continue to be so divided.

Turkey.—Another local stamp, this time from the neighbourhood of Stamboul. For its discovery we are indebted to M. Moens, and upon his authority we give the following details concerning it. The company named on the stamp has used this type since June last to frank the letters and journals carried by its steam-boats. The entire series consists of two values and six colours, viz.:—



20 paras, blue on blue.
20 „ red „ „
20 „ green on yellow.
20 „ red „ „
1 piastre, blue on rose.
1 „ red „

Of these the one piastre is used for letters, and the paras for journals, which are accepted without limitation of weight; but we cannot see why the values are printed in more than one colour, and again we think it must be a mistake to catalogue the 20 p. green on yellow, as the stamps on blue and on rose paper are printed in blue and in red. Probably it was an ocular illusion experienced by the chronicler. Before the emission of these stamps the company used to write the word FRANCO on all the letters and journals, but it found the experiment did not answer. It no doubt finds its new method effects a great economy of time, and certainly this economy has been gained at the least possible cost, to judge by the very primitive type which has been adopted for the stamps.

North Germany.—A peculiar plan has been adopted by the confederation post-office for increasing their stock of envelopes at

little cost. Finding the economic plan of sticking adhesives over the obsolete German envelopes answer, they have commenced now to stick adhesives on unstamped envelopes. They make use of an envelope bearing on the flap the ornament here produced, but without transverse inscriptions or other mark of postal origin, and on its right-hand corner is affixed a 1 sgr. label. The envelope, thus ornamented, is sold in certain little towns of Germany at 13 pfennige. M. Moens, from whom we borrow these details, suggests that this new emission is the result of a desire on the part of the post-office to testify their satisfaction at the able manner in which the obsolete envelopes were patched up, by giving the workman who performed the job a life appointment as stamp-licker! This is a very *dry* joke, and we may certainly predicate that such a post would, in the end, prove the ruin of its occupant, compelling him, as it would, to take too frequent potations. Perhaps the appearance of these anomalous envelopes has something to do with the emission of the perforated 1 sgr., as we find the stamps used for them are the old rouletted ones. This method may be employed to use them up, whilst the public gets the benefit of the perforated variety.



Bavaria.—Our Brighton contemporary notices the existence of the 1 kr. green, and 6 kr. brown of the current series with plain (*i. e.*, solid) backgrounds.

WILLIAM MULREADY, R.A.

BY J. C. WILSON.

The celebrated painter, William Mulready, was born in Ennis, co. Clare, April 1st, 1786. When about five years old, he was taken to London with his father (a leather breeches maker), and family. His early skill in drawing soon attracted attention, and he became, in consequence, the pupil and protegé of Banks, the sculptor, who qualified him for admission into the school of the Royal Academy, in 1800.

He lived for a time by designing book illustrations, and by scene painting. In 1804, he was married to a sister of the painter and astrologer, Varley, but the union was unhappy, and a separation took place after a few years.

He first exhibited at the Royal Academy in 1804, was chosen A.R.A. in 1815, and in less than a year after, R.A.

When the scheme of the postal service was matured, and the emission of a postal envelope decided on, recourse was had to Mulready for its design, and he produced that peculiar combination of allegories, which, among philatelists at least, has always borne his name. Whether the design was strictly his own conception or was "done to order" we know not, but should be inclined to think the latter was really the case. On the whole it certainly did not add much to his fame, and caricaturists were not slow to seize upon its (unintentionally) humorous features. If it were the expectation of the government that the design would be difficult to reproduce, that expectation was certainly not fulfilled, for the frontispiece to *The Stamp-Collector's Magazine* proves that a respectable copy is not difficult to make. By the side of the stamped envelopes and finely-engraved adhesives of the present day, it has an almost mediæval appearance; and indeed its singular, and we may say primitive style, renders it a very appropriate occupant for the first page of our albums. It was engraved in relief on brass with the utmost care and delicacy, by Thompson, who devoted the labour of twelve entire weeks to its execution. The envelopes and covers were printed from casts stereotyped, and on Dickinson's paper.

Mulready also designed a series of 32 illustrations for an edition of the *Vicar of Wakefield*, published in 1840, some of which he afterwards painted; and, as examples of book wood-cut illustrations, they are almost perfect.

In the year 1848, a great many of his pictures were brought together for exhibition by the Society of Arts, and excited general admiration. He was a learner during his whole life, and remained a life student of the Academy till within a day or two of his death. For many years he lived at Bayswater, where he died on the 7th of July, 1863, and was buried at Kensal Green

Cemetery. There is now a bust of him, by Weekes, in the National Gallery.

Reviewing his career as an artist, we find that Mulready first began with "high art," but soon took to landscape painting and subjects of character and humour. He was at one time a most diligent student of the Dutch masters, the fruits of which study were visible in the numerous figure pictures which he painted from 1810 till his death. His early pictures were of small size. From about 1824 he aimed at greater freedom in drawing and richness of colouring, and had an unequivocal success. The most admired of his works were: "The Fight Interrupted," 1815; "Idle Boys," 1815; "Wolf and the Lamb," 1820; "The Last In," 1835; "First Love," 1839; "Fair Time," 1840; "Train up a Child," 1841; "Crossing the Ford," 1842; "The Whistonian Controversy," 1843; "Choosing the Wedding Gown," 1845; "Women Bathing," 1849; and "The Toy Seller," not finished, 1861.

In the library of the British Museum are: *The Grasshopper's Feast*, *The Butterflies' Ball*, and several other children's books, the illustrations of which are said to be by Mulready. In 1866, a work appeared, entitled *Memorials of Mulready*, collected by F. G. Stephens, which contained photographs from fourteen of his paintings. The Arundel Society also have published thirty photographs from his best pictures. William Godwin, the celebrated political writer, gave, in the form of a child's book, a most interesting account of the early life and studies of Mulready, under the title of *The Looking Glass; or, True History of the Early Years of an Artist*, by Theophilus Marcliffe. This little book, which was published in 1805, has now become of the greatest rarity, and contains fac-similes of some of Mulready's earliest sketches.

THE PHILATELIC SOCIETY.

The first ordinary meeting of the Society was held on Saturday, the 26th of June, at Great George Street, Westminster. Several members were present. A paper, by Mr. Pemberton, on "Californian Local Stamps," was read, and a large series of the Wells, Fargo, & Co., and other impressions, were exhibited. After the reading of this paper, a vote of thanks was passed to the writer. Dr. Viner also proposed that Messrs. Pemberton and Erskine receive the thanks of the members for their "Reference List of New Zealand Stamps." This was carried unanimously.

In consequence of the absence from town of many of the members, Dr. Viner proposed, and Mr. Wilson seconded, that the next ordinary meeting of the Society be held on Saturday, 2nd October.

At a meeting of the Committee, held upon the same day, members were balloted for, and other business transacted.

It was decided that the meeting stand adjourned until the 2nd of October, "unless summoned by the Secretary to elect members, or execute some necessary business."

Two errors occurred in our last report; one in connection with the Sydney labels, when we stated that the opinion of the members was against the acceptance of the brown and the flesh or pink coloured threepennies; the other, with regard to the Java stamp. In fact, the brown 3d. Sydney was accepted as authentic, and the sense of the meeting was in favour of the reception of the flesh-coloured also.

As to the Java, our report stated that Mr. Erskine promised to produce one of the impressions referred to by his correspondent, Dr. Smith, which any collector would recognise from the description to be the current 10 c. Java. What Mr. Erskine did say was, that he had asked Dr. Smith to make further inquiries as to the possible currency of the Dutch Guiana in Java.

ON THE EARLIEST SYDNEY STAMPS, AND ON PROOFS OF THE SYDNEY VIEWS.

A PAPER READ BEFORE THE PHILATELIC SOCIETY, LONDON, BY THE PRESIDENT (MAY 29).

On this, the first general meeting of our Society, I think I cannot do better than give you some information concerning the earliest postage stamps of Australia.

Having passed many years of my life in Sydney, and having been a member of the "Select Committee of the Legislative Council

of New South Wales," which passed the *Act to establish a uniform rate of Postage, and to consolidate and amend the Law for the conveyance and Postage of Letters*, upon the stamps in question I may be said to be an authority.

Being in correspondence with Mr. Pemberton, I sent him a copy of the Votes and Proceedings of the above-named Committee, which also contained the proceedings of the Select Committee, which examined and reported upon the bill named above; and he in return asked me the meaning of the answer of Postmaster-General Raymond, in reply to question No. 76 in the said report, viz.: "At the present moment we do not make a great many stamps for the town delivery." To question 79, he says, "I charge eight shillings a hundred for the present stamps, so that the vendor has fourpence profit on a hundred." And to question 80, he says, "I have experienced some difficulty in inducing persons to use these envelopes; for although the charge for postage when the envelope is not used is twopence, and the envelope only costs one penny, they have been very little used; of late, however, they have been much more generally used." On a subsequent day, Postmaster Raymond said, "The charge for letters delivered in Sydney is now one penny when stamps are used; twopence without the prepaid stamps." He further said, "The stamps were supplied to several stationers, who paid for them as they got them, but they found they could not sell them."

The stamp here alluded to was to frank letters delivered twice a day within the limits of the city of Sydney. It was an uncoloured, embossed stamp; the design being the royal arms, encircled by the words, GENERAL POST-OFFICE, NEW SOUTH WALES; and under the arms, SYDNEY. The impression was made on wrappers or envelopes of half sheets of foolscap paper.

The impression was often very imperfectly struck, as the die was only an ordinary post-office seal, and the impression taken in a powerful letterpress.

In passing through the post-office, the hour of delivery, in an oblong, octagonal frame, was imprinted in black ink on the stamp, to obliterate it; and the envelope was also stamped in red ink, with the word FREE, the day of the month and year within a circle, surmounted by a crown.

I had forgotten the existence of this stamp, but on receipt of Mr. Pemberton's inquiry, I wrote to my friends at Sydney, and fortunately procured a used specimen. This cover, after having passed through the post-office, had been used to write an order for goods upon, filed as a voucher, and thus preserved; and by this means is authenticated by the handwritings written on the inside thereof. The date of the post-mark on this envelope is October 5, 1849. Sydney being a moderate-sized town, and the chief office being the only post-office in the city, it was generally as easy for a domestic to deliver a letter by hand as to take it to the post-office. The awkward shape of the envelopes also caused many to fold the embossed stamps out of sight; and many letters prepaid were thus charged twopence before the stamps were discovered. For these and other reasons, the stamp was very little employed, and had almost passed out of memory.

I have also the pleasure to lay before the Society six essays of the one penny views of Sydney, evidently taken before the first plate was finally decided upon. They appear to be lithographic transfers by Clayton, printed bright red on India paper; the spandrels are red with white dots, instead of white with red dots, as was afterwards decided upon. My correspondent at Sydney—who sent me the slip of six essays—says, that the government decided not to print from stone, but from metal; and no stamps like these essays were ever issued.

I have also to exhibit to the members of the Society six proofs, which I believe to have been taken from the first threepenny plate. These stamps are printed on India paper, pressed into card; the colour is a blue-green, and each varies from the others in various minute details.

These proofs came to me also from the gentleman who forwarded me the essays, and who was for many years head of the Foreign Office. He writes, "The difficulty is in obtaining unobliterated stamps, as all

the old plates were ordered to be destroyed as soon as new designs were approved of; the stamps I send I obtained by chance." The government printer also writes, "I am sorry I cannot furnish you with any specimens of our obsolete stamps; the authorities of the dark and by-gone ages had a mania to destroy the plates and everything connected with a stamp as soon as it was superseded."

I give you the above remarks as a small contribution to the history of the stamps of New South Wales, and trust that other members of the Society, both resident in England and abroad, will from time to time present us with papers on stamps, with the early history of which they are personally familiar; so that we may thus be able to record much information, which may not appear now of great importance, but which will be most valuable hereafter.

ON A NEW RUSSIAN LOCAL STAMP.

(A PAPER READ BEFORE THE PHILATELIC SOCIETY, LONDON, BY THE SECRETARY, MAY 29TH, 1869.)

I HAVE great pleasure in bringing before your notice a local stamp, which, so far as I can learn at present, has only lately been issued in Russia. I know of only two specimens now in England, and both were obtained from the wife of the governor of one of the cities in North Russia.

The stamp is used for postal purposes in the township or district of Borowitchy, province of Novogorod. Description: In the middle of a rectangular ground are placed three concentric circles, between the two outer of which are the words BOROVEITCHSKAIA POCHTOVAIA MARKA (Borowitchy postage stamp). The inner circle is divided vertically by a line. In the left semi-circle is represented the sun with rays on a dotted ground. In the right semi-circle is shown a rudder on a white ground. Above and below the outermost circle of the three just named, will be found two parts of circles, containing, in the upper one, a star and the word ZEMSKOI (rural), and in the lower, a star and POCHTVI (post). To the right and left are also placed semi-circles, both of which enclose the value, 5 KOP. In the four corners are circles, each containing the numeral 5 on a white ground, the whole being on a rectangular ground formed of closely-drawn horizontal and vertical crossed lines, printed in black on white wove thick paper. Over the face of the stamp, with the exception of the central and corner circles, is laid a coat of dull lake, an outer black line surrounds the rectangle, and the stamp is imperforate.*

The design and execution of this stamp is of a very low order, but still, from its nationality, it is rather interesting, seeing that it tends to disprove the statements, which doubtless all have read in the philatelic journals, viz.: that the Russian government only allows its officially-issued stamps to be current in the empire, and enables us to have greater faith in the authenticity of the Livonian labels.

THE "ECHO" ON THE NATIONAL POST-BAG.

It does not appear that the increase of postal business arises from the fact that the organisation of the post-office is ramifying over a more extended area, or that it is reaching districts hitherto untouched by the civilising influence of the postmaster. There is a slight increase in the number of post-offices, fifty additional ones having been opened for business between 1865 and 1867. But population grows, and education spreads; and the total number of letters delivered in the United Kingdom, which was 720,000,000 in 1865, had increased in 1867 to 774,000,000. Thus in the former year there were delivered on the average four-and-twenty letters per head, reckoning the whole population; and in the latter year the average had risen to twenty six per head. Of course, except as a convenient expression in calculations, these averages are entirely valueless; for, apart from the fact that children are included in the estimate, there is nothing into which more variability enters than the amount of a man's correspondence. Business letters and circulars must always stand for much, and, personally, correspondence varies with

* An engraving of this stamp was given in our last number.

professional work and individual characteristics; if a man is a hard-worked barrister or physician, to whom business brings comparatively few letters, his contributions will not largely swell the aggregate; a gossiping temper and garrulous friendliness are extensive patrons of the post-office; while the morose and the lazy, as well as the otherwise busy and the fickle, arrest the balance by their unfrequent excursions into penmanship. Then comes ignorance to disfranchise a host of possible letter-writers; for let us not forget the fact of which the nation ought to be ashamed, that one-quarter of our adult male population, at the marriageable age, are incapable of signing their names in the registry-book. So that let no one think we are an educated people because we get, on the average, twenty-six letters apiece in the year, or one every fortnight. Distinguishing the three kingdoms, we find, singularly enough, that Scotland, though more highly educated than England, cannot boast of so high an average per head of the population, which may be explained by the far larger share of business correspondence that falls to the great English commercial centres. Ireland lags far behind, distributing only eleven letters per head in the year, against an average of twenty-nine in England and twenty-four in Scotland. This emphatic testimony to the still abject and hopeless penury of the Irish peasantry is the more painful because it subsists in spite of an admirably efficient system of national schools.

The book-post is making its way, too, still more remarkably than the letter-carrying business, and is cutting out the elder institution of an impressed newspaper postage in a fashion worthy of Lord Hartingdon's consideration. Upwards of fifty-three millions of book-packets, including patterns and newspapers, posted with an adhesive stamp, were delivered in 1865; but in 1867 nearly sixty millions of packets, weighing not less than 4,711 tons, passed through the offices of the United Kingdom. In the same period, the circulation of newspapers with the impressed stamp through the post had decreased by one million of papers, falling from forty-three and a-half to forty-two and a-half millions. In fact, the charge of one penny on each newspaper for the government frank is too high to induce the general public to double or treble the cost of the journal as it is bought in the streets, at the newsvendor's shop, or at the railway bookstall, on the mere chance of caring to send it by post afterwards to a friend. It is just as inexpensive and as easy to affix an adhesive stamp afterwards to the paper, if required, and send it as a book packet. The public do not care for the barren privilege of reporting stale news for a fortnight, nor will they purchase newspapers with the impressed stamp unless they gain something by doing so rather than by availing themselves of the book-post.

In spite of any increase of labour that may arise from the change, Lord Hartington will act wisely in hastening the performance of the ministerial promise, that the English newspapers shall not be left the only victims in the world of civilised postage to the oppressive charge of a penny stamp. The halfpenny postage stamp for newspapers is a reform for which we ought not to have been kept waiting so long, and for which certainly we shall not be content to wait much longer. The administrative ability of our post-office is not equalled by its courage in accepting necessary reforms. Continental nations beat us hollow in postal enterprise. Take for example the "card-post" of Germany, to which we drew attention a few days ago. How long should we have to wait until an English postmaster-general should devise of his own accord a plan for a halfpenny stamped card, with one side blank for the address and the other for any brief message not of a private character? In London such a plan would be found of immense convenience; and London, be it remembered, pays £1,285,000 annually in postage, out of a total return for England and Wales of £3,578,000. We do not mean to press the adoption of any such scheme at present, for the hands of government are abundantly full, and the work of fitting the telegraphs into the system of postal organisation is of itself a task of grave responsibility. Then the halfpenny newspaper stamp is the next step to which the government are pledged

in the way of postal reform; nor do we desire to divert attention from these important labours to any lesser projects of improvement. What we wish Lord Hartington to take to heart is the unfavourable contrast that must be drawn between the energetic enterprise of foreign governments in the extension of postal conveniences, and the timid conservatism of our English ministers. When once the change has been effected in this country it is carried out with unsurpassed zeal and vigour. So we trust that when the telegraphs are in operation under government control, at sixpenny and threepenny rates, and when the halfpenny stamp for newspapers has brought knowledge, now untasted, to the doors of many thousands of the population, the public will still continue to press on the attention of the post-office that there can be no finality in improvement, and that the nation concedes a great monopoly upon the understanding that it is not thereby to lose the advantages of enterprise and economy.

POSTAL CHIT-CHAT.

Making a Little Money go a Long Way.—Sending a post-office order for 2d. to Australia.—*Judy.*

The Mythical Dutch Guiana.—A friend of ours says he has reason to believe the design hitherto known as the "Dutch Guiana" is neither more nor less than an essay. He is still pushing his inquiries, and hopes to obtain a solution of the question.

Most of the Country Postmen in the neighbourhood of Hereford, are to be provided with velocipedes by the inhabitants of the districts through which they pass, it being believed that by this means the delivery of letters will be much earlier.

Government and the Telegraphs.—The moment the telegraphs pass into the hands of government, every letter-box and every pillar-box will be constituted an office of deposit where messages may be received to be forwarded to their destination.

Death of the Governor of the Virgin Islands.—From a recent letter from the American correspondent of the *Times*, we learn with regret that Sir Arthur Rumboldt, Bart., is dead. The late governor of the Virgin Islands took a warm interest in the postal emissions of his colony, and it was by his desire that the postmaster of Tortola forwarded to our publishers specimen copies of the stamps as they appeared, with a view to their being noticed in these pages.

CORRESPONDENCE.

THE SCINDE DEVICE.

To the Editor of "The Stamp-Collector's Magazine."

Dear Sir,—Now that the Scinde stamp question is on the *tapis*, the following description of a token in my possession may not be uninteresting.

On the reverse is the heart-shaped device figured by "Fentonia" last month, round which is the inscription, PAYABLE AT JNO. FIELDING'S, GROCER AND TEA DEALER. On the obverse, the arms of Manchester, encircled by MANCHESTER PROMISSORY HALFPENNY, 1793.

Yours truly,

Birmingham. W. DUDLEY ATLEE.

THE OLD SWISS STAMPS.

To the Editor of "The Stamp-Collector's Magazine."

Dear Sir,—I have read with interest the article in your pages on the "Old Swiss Stamps." Would you be so kind as to inform me in your "Answers to Correspondents," how the mistake first arose of appropriating the Vaud and Neufchatel stamps to these special Cantons? Also is it not likely that the Winterthur stamp belongs to the same category as these—bearing, as it does, the same arms and no name of a canton?

Have you any idea of ever reprinting vols. i. and ii. (at any rate vol. i.) of your magazine? I am sure they would be eagerly welcomed by those who did not purchase the magazine at the time of its first publication.

I am, dear Sir, yours faithfully,

Nairn. P. I. A.

[If our correspondent will again refer to the article on the Swiss stamps, he will find that the writer (M. Moens) takes the credit of originating the error to himself.—Ed.]

THE LA GUAIRA STAMPS, &c.

To the Editor of "The Stamp-Collector's Magazine."

Dear Sir,—I should be indebted to "J. H. R." if he would forward his specimen of the 2 rs. La Guaira, which appears to be perforated "in serpentine," to some competent person for opinion as to its genuineness, or the secretary of the philatelic society for the opinion of members. Should it exist as a genuine perforation, that does not prove "Theta" right in terming it the earliest method of peforation used for the La Guaira stamps. The only recognised perforations are machine, oblique, and pointed, anything else is quite recent, certainly not obsolete.

I see the discussion concerning permanency in a stamp album is being revived. After all that can be said, the end can only be attained by a perfectly blank book, the leaves of which can be moved at pleasure, and easily. Mahé of Paris, I believe, sells albums on this principle. The plan adopted by myself and some others is thoroughly effective, and if any gentleman who contemplates establishing a new album would write to me at my private address, I would communicate the plan used. It is, however, costly, as the albums are made to order. I provide no space for envelopes in my album, I keep them loose, as I know no plan of placing them in books which is thoroughly satisfactory.

Respecting Boston forgeries, I have addressed the succeeding letter to *The Philatelist*, and other papers.

Yours faithfully,

EDWARD L. PEMBERTON.

Chester Road, near Birmingham.

THE BOSTON FORGERS.

To the Editor of "The Stamp-Collector's Magazine."

Dear Sir,—The value of the revelations already made, may be estimated by the crop of blackguardism which they have produced on the parts of those who have been too prominently mentioned to feel any pleasure in my attempt

to benefit the mass of philatelists. The proverbs say, "You cannot touch pitch without being defiled," and, "You cannot wrestle with a sweep, without being covered with soot" (or words to that effect), and they are amply borne out in the case of Boston forgers, and the exposures made by Van Rinsum and myself. As I said above, the value of the revelations may be guaged by the abusiveness of the reply; hence it is with considerable pleasure I read, that the person signing C. A. Lyford considers me "a scoundrel, and a notorious promoter of humbug and imposition" (this, by the way, may explain the impudence of his previously alluding to me as "*his* illustrious contemporary"). The blackguardism of these men is of course natural. If I spoil their dishonest trade, I must expect everything that the pens of such men can write.

I think the conduct of Mr. C. Van Rinsum is much to be commended. He has fearlessly exposed them by name, and has received his share of bespattered mud as a natural consequence. I am so far determined to support Van Rinsum in his crusade against these persons, that I have offered to edit his magazine, as I know him to be actuated by concern for the cause of philately. Properly edited his paper would command that degree of attention to which the high ground he has taken should entitle it.

The two people who have achieved the greatest notoriety through the boldness of their dealing, are :—

Taylor and Lyford.

They are very closely connected; their advertisements are all we find in the magazine published in Lyford's name; the attack upon me (published by Van Rinsum in his 5th number) is signed "Chas. A. Lyford," but is in Taylor's handwriting.

There is, however, another Boston association, who variously sign, J. M. Chute, Fred. A. Washburne, and George Stewart. From letters bearing these signatures, I have no hesitation in saying that they are all written by one person, though in each case they are excellently disguised. Mr. Van Rinsum tells me of another person, W. W. Learned, who is connected with the sale or making of forgeries. The publication of these names must act as some check on their proceedings, as there is plenty of profit to be made from the legitimate sale of stamps, for these people to avoid the trade in forgeries. So long as they continue dealing in forgeries, so long they will be mercilessly exposed, that dealers, &c., may know from whom to avoid buying. I received a letter from S. Allan Taylor, asking for some numbers of *The Stamp-Collector's Review*. His real object in writing to me it is hard to fathom; possibly he thought to make some capital out of my reply; perhaps he may publish some *pretended* reply of mine in his paper, I therefore wish to say that the following was the whole of my reply :—

(Copy.)

Birmingham, June 26, 1869.

Sir,—I have to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of June 15, and to regret my inability to further your objects in any way.

I remain, yours obediently,
EDWARD L. PEMBERTON.

The straight-forward dealers and collectors of Boston (and such do exist) must not feel offended at my way of speaking of some of their fellow-citizens. What I have written has been for the benefit of philately, and to check the trade done in high-class forgeries.

Yours faithfully,
EDWARD L. PEMBERTON.

Birmingham.

ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS.

L. L, Brighton.—You can procure the Suez stamps of any respectable dealer, though probably at a somewhat high price, owing to the short currency these stamps had.

Inquirer, Norwich.—We are not aware that the Philatelic Society contemplates the establishment of branches at present.

Mr. Dean, Bath.—We are obliged for the sketches from Bentley, but as they do not in any way concern postage stamps, we could not insert them.

P. T., Bristol.—There were two editions of the Lubeck envelopes; one, the earlier, with the stamp and inscription on the left-hand corner; the other, and later, with these on the right.

E. H., Belfast.—There are two varieties of the shilling stamp used in the Virgin Islands—one enclosed in a simple lined frame; the other (more recently issued) in a broad border, and of a deeper colour.

A Young Collector.—We have seen it stated that the reason of the substitution of green for black as the colour of the 1 c. Dutch was, that on the black stamp the postmark did not show up clearly enough.

Asterisk, Kentish Town.—There is both a deep warm shade and a dull shade of the 9 kr. Wurtemburg envelope with green inscription, and the two are, in our opinion, well worth collecting.

Stamp Lover, Chichester.—The 2 rls. Spanish of 1865 is more frequently found of a light pink, approaching confoundingly to the colour of the 2 c., than of the deep lake tint of which you speak. The latter colour cannot, however, be termed rare.

John A., Slough.—The Brunswick star postmark is, we believe, peculiar to the Edinburgh post-office. The general Scotch mark consists of a number between two or three long horizontal lines, the space on each side of the number being filled in with short lines.

G. W. Binns.—We do not recollect ourselves having seen any Chilian stamps without watermark, but do not doubt that there are such stamps in existence, as Levrault states that he has met with both the 5 and the 10 c. thus distinguished.

Blanche, Chester.—The Bergen by-post stamp with figure 2 does exist, but barely so. We asked an acquaintance of ours who lately went to Bergen, to obtain a small quantity of these 2 sk. stamps, and he replied, sending us half-a-dozen copies, which he said were all that the by-post office had in hand at the time of his visit. The colour of this stamp is a rather deep pink.

Alpha.—We do not see any such distinctive and praiseworthy feature in your plan for the *Complete Reference Catalogue of Stamps* which you contemplate publishing, as would justify us in predicting success to your work.—The designs referred to at p. 75, vol. i., of *Stamp-Collector's Magazine* were (so far as we can ourselves recollect at this distance of time) those of a series of fictitious stamps, represented to be for Costa Rica.

J. T. M.—The stamp you enclose is that generally known as the "big-head." It was issued by the New York postmaster on his own authority, but accepted by other offices as evidence of pre-payment of postage. This and some other similar stamps really served as pioneers to the government issue of 1847, testing and demonstrating the feasibility of the scheme.—You will see that the article on "Reprints" is continued in the present number.—Dr. Gray's catalogue is delayed in the press, but we entertain hopes of its early appearance.—We should think any dealer could supply you with the four ¼ schg. Mecklenburg-Schwerin, dotted ground united together, and forming one stamp, either used or unused.

NOTES ON THE LOCALS OF CALIFORNIA, OREGON, AND BRITISH COLUMBIA.

BY EDWARD L. PEMBERTON.

(*Read before the Philatelic Society, London, June 26th, and illustrated by specimens from Mr. Philbrick's and the Writer's collection.*)

AFTER the discovery of gold in California, and the influx of miners, it became a necessity to have reliable conveyances, to forward the letters and gold dust. A new country, so to speak, without roads, the government slow in establishing post-routes, and the uncertainty of the postal service, called for the formation of private companies, to carry letters and treasure from the different mining camps to San Francisco. For this service they charged different rates, from one dollar to ten cents for every letter, and impressed their *franks* as they were termed, on the United States prepaid envelopes. This marks the peculiar value of these locals, as, with the exception of the Pony Express, and Langton's Humboldt's Express, none are adhesive, and those upon envelopes are found only in conjunction with the United States embossed stamps, government carrying part way, the private company the rest. Previous to the emission of prepaid (*i.e.*, embossed) envelopes in September, 1853, of course the companies impressed their franks on any letter or envelope carried by them. The oldest franks were simple hand-stamps; later the companies printed from wood-cuts, or from type; none of them were beautiful to look upon, being for utility and not for show. The different companies connect with each other, and a letter delivered to one company, frequently bears the hand-stamps of others, over whose routes it has had to pass.

The earliest companies seem to have been Adams & Co., and Beresford & Co., the former being most successful; but when they failed, Wells, Fargo, & Co. took to their routes, and are now the most extensive express company in the world. They carry letters covered by their franks, across the Pacific ocean, to the Sandwich Islands, Japan, and Hong Kong; south to Mexico and Panama; north to Victoria, Oregon, and British Columbia; east to Idaho, Wyoming, Colorado, and Utah territories, and to all the principal cities of the United States. Very often opposition companies have been started, but so far with little success. Last June (1868) the Pacific Union Express was put into operation with a large capital, as an opposition company to Wells, Fargo, & Co., with what success time will show, but the popularity of Wells, Fargo, & Co. may be gathered from a perusal of the article on page 177 of *The Stamp-Collector's Magazine* for December, 1865.

The large labels of Wells and the Union company, are not stamps and have no value, though many are engraved as such, notably Barnard's Cariboo Express, Dietz & Nelson,



&c. All express companies use such labels to paste on their packages to show that they are the forwarders. Sometimes they are found pasted on the companies' envelopes, which denotes that such envelopes have contained coin; the label has no value other than to show that the letter is mentioned in the way-bill, and may be traced. Still, as the companies charge extra on letters containing coin, the label might, by a stretch, be considered a registration label, as it proves the extra fee—which is in fact a fee for registering the letter in the way-bill—to have been paid.

Respecting obsolete companies, I am not in a position to give much information, beyond a mere description of those whose franks I possess, and the names of some companies of which I have never seen specimens, though I have received advices from San Francisco that they have been in existence. So little being known about these locals, I will quote all particulars of those which I possess.

I.—Hand-stamps, previous to introduction of embossed envelopes.

ADAMS & CO.'S EXPRESS.

No. 1.—This company being fused, on its failure, with Wells & Co., before the introduction of prepaid United States envelopes, only used a common hand-stamp, double oval, about two inches by one. My only specimen bears "Adams & Co.'s express, Sacramento," in red capitals. Letter dated March 29, 1853.

The obliterations unfortunately only give day of month, not the year, so no clue is to be found as to their time of use, except when the envelope has been dated by sender or receiver.

WELLS, FARGO, & CO.'S EXPRESS.

No. 2.—Small blue double oval, name and SACRAMENTO in blue capitals. Letter dated December 3, 1852.

BERESFORD & CO.'S EXPRESS.

I have no particulars beyond name and fact that this company used a hand-stamp.

II.—Franks from wood-blocks or type, in conjunction with the United States envelopes.

A.—Obsolete.

LANGTON'S PIONEER EXPRESS, PAID.

§ First issue. Two dies.

Die 1.—Small letters.



No. 3.—Black, on 3 c. of 1853 issue, and 4th die (see *The Stamp-Collector's Magazine*, vol. vii., p. 109); obliteration: black oval, LANGTON'S EXPRESS, DOWNIEVILLE; date, SEPT. 16, in centre.

No. 4.—Black, cut from envelope, but obliterated in red, MARYSVILLE.

Die 2.—Larger letters, ends of frame less pointed.

No. 5.—Black, cut from envelope, obliteration cut away.

No. 6.—Red, cut from envelope, obliteration cut away.

A blue Langton's is mentioned in *The Stamp Collector's Magazine*, but seems apocryphal.

§ Second issue.—Florid wood-cut, irregular outline, oblong.

No. 7.—Black, on 3 c., 1864; obliteration: LANGTON'S PIONEER EXPRESS, FOREST CITY, in blue oval; no date.

No. 8.—Black, on 3 c., 1864; obliteration: SMARTSVILLE, rest illegible, in green oval; dated in ink, May, 1865. Both bear Wells, Fargo, & Co.'s hand-stamped franks. No. 7. has three franks of Wells, Fargo, & Co.'s Marysville, two of April 26, and one of April 29. No. 8 has one frank of Wells, Fargo, & Co. May 16. Langton's envelope is pasted at back of the directed one.

This company was bought by Wells, Fargo, & Co., on the death of Langton.

HOLLAND, MORLEY, & CO.'S EXPRESS, PAID.

Wood-cut, scroll, fancy letters.

No. 9.—Black, on 3 c. of 1861. Obliteration: HOLLAND, MORLEY, AND CO.'S EXPRESS, LA PORTE, CAL., in blue double oval; no date. Bears Wells, Fargo, & Co.'s frank, MARYSVILLE, NOV. 4, in blue.

WHEELER'S EXPRESS, PAID.

Wood-cut precisely like last.

No. 10.—Black, cut from envelope.

GREENHOOD & NEWBAUER, PAID NORTHERN EXPRESS.

Black on 3 c., 1861. Three specimens, viz.:—

No. 11.—Obliteration: GREENHOOD & NEWBAUER in full, WEAVERVILLE, APRIL 21, in double blue circle; dated in pencil, APRIL 24, 1863.

No. 11A.—Obliteration as last, Sept. 1, and dated in pencil, Sept. 5, 1864.

No. 12.—Obliteration as last, but in black, Oct. 2.

This company was bought by Wells, Fargo, & Co.

TRUMAN & CHAPMAN'S EXPRESS.

Wood-cut, oblong, engine and four trucks, with S. F. and S. J. Railroad below (San Francisco and Saint Joseph).

No. 13.—Black on 3 c. of 1861; obliteration: REDWOOD, CAL., in double blue circle; no date. This envelope is pasted at the back of the directed one.

GREGORY & ENGLISH'S MOORE'S FLAT AND EUREKA EXPRESS.

Type printed, oblong fancy frame, lettered PAID, CONNECTING WITH WELLS, FARGO, & CO., AT NEVADA CITY, CAL.

No. 14.—Sepia on 3 c. of 1864; obliteration: MOORE'S FLAT, APRIL 2, in black circle. Contrary to usual, the United States stamp is obliterated by black bars.

HUNT & HART'S WARREN'S EXPRESS, PAID 50 C.

Wood-cut, in florid irregular frame, oblong.

No. 15.—Black, on 3 c. of 1864. No obliteration, but pen-stroked; dated in ink, DEC. 4, '67.

This company is in Idaho territory, the gold-producing region.

LATTA'S MOUNTAIN EXPRESS, PAID.

Wood-cut, oblong, with two four-horse coaches.

No. 16.—Black on 3 c. of 1864. No obliteration. Bears Wells, Fargo, & Co.'s frank, NEVADA, MAR. 7, in blue oval.

LA PORTE EXPRESS CO., PAID.

No. 17.—Wood-cut, oblong, shape of Wells, Fargo, & Co.'s, PAID forms background. Black, on 3 c. of 1864. Obliteration: LA PORTE EXPRESS CO., LA PORTE, OCT. 9, blue, oval.

Bought out by Wells, Fargo, & Co.

WOOD & CO.'S EXPRESS.

Wood-cut, miner in upright oval, ornaments above and below.

No. 18.—Black on 3 c. of 1864. No obliteration; bears Wells, Fargo, & Co.'s frank, OROVILLE, MAR. 7, in blue, oval.

WHITING & CO.'S FEATHER RIVER EXPRESS, PAID.

§ 1st.—Hand-stamped, oval.

No. 19.—Black, on 3 c., 1864; obliteration: WHITING & CO., APR. 16, rest illegible, black circle. Bears Wells, Fargo, & Co.'s red label, OROVILLE, CAL., showing it was a coin letter. This is a most curious envelope, and is marked in writing as from "Crescent Mills."

§ 2nd.—Wood-cut, scroll label

Black, on 3 c., 1864, four specimens.

No. 20.—No obliteration. Bears Whiting & Co.'s red label from "Crescent Mills," coin letter.

No. 21.—Obliteration: TAYLORSVILLE, CAL., MAY 20, in black circle.

No. 22.—No obliteration. Bears Wells, Fargo, & Co.'s frank, MARYSVILLE, AUG. 3.

No. 23.—No obliteration. Bears Wells, Fargo, & Co.'s frank for OROVILLE, DEC. 14. There is one known dated in pencil, MARCH 3, 1866.

WHEELER, RUTHERFORD, & CO.'S PAID EXPRESS.

Wood-cut, scroll label, two specimens.

No. 24.—Black, on 3 c., 1864. Obliteration: FORBESTOWN, DEC., rest illegible, in very large blue oval.

Bears Wells, Fargo, & Co.'s frank, JAN., rest illegible, blue, oval.

No. 24A comes from LA PORTE, SIERRA CO., CAL., bears Wells, Fargo, & Co.'s frank, MARYSVILLE, in blue, date MAR. 29.

THE HOLLADAY OVERLAND MAIL AND EXPRESS CO., PAID.

Wood-cut, no border. Paid forms ground.

Black, on 3 c. of 1864. Three specimens.

No. 25.—No obliteration. Bears Wells, Fargo, & Co.'s frank, IDAHO CITY, I. T., MAY 24.

No. 26.—No obliteration. Bears Wells, Fargo, & Co.'s frank, BOISE CITY, I. T., APL. 26, both in blue. I. T. means Idaho Territory.

No. 26A.—No obliteration. Bears Wells, Fargo, & Co.'s frank, SALT LAKE CITY, U. T., MAY 3, in black, oval.

This company was bought out by Wells, Fargo, & Co.

LAMPING & CO.'S EXPRESS, PAID.

Wood-cut. PAID forms ground, oblong.

No. 27.—Black, cut from envelope.

This company was bought out by Wells, Fargo, & Co.

ZACK'S SNOW-SHOE EXPRESS, PAID.

Wood-cut, in fancy frame, oblong.

No. 28.—Black, cut from envelope.

SALMON RIVER AND NEZ FERCES EXPRESS, PAID 75 CENTS.

Wood-cut, in oblong double linear frame.

No. 29.—Black, on cut envelope.

SWIFT & CO.'S EXPRESS, PAID.

Wood-cut, on short pointed and indented label.

No. 30.—Black, on 10 c. of 1855, unused.

THE CENTRAL OVERLAND CALIFORNIA AND PIKE'S PEAK EXPRESS COMPANY, SAN FRANCISCO, CAL.

Hand-stamped, oval, date in centre.

No. 31.—Red, on a common envelope. Bears Wells, Fargo, & Co.'s PONY EXPRESS, SAN FRANCISCO, with horse in red oval; bears ST. JOSEPH, MO., APR. 20, in green circle, dated S. FRANCISCO, APR. 13, and is directed by sender PER PONY EXPRESS OF 13TH APL., 1861. The pony express contract commenced March 2, 1861. This is probably the pony express prepaid hand-stamp, used before the stamps were prepared.

TRUMAN & CO.'S PAID EXPRESS.

Three varieties.

§ 1st.—Wood-cut, label like Wells, Fargo, & Co.'s, fancy letters.

Black on 3 c. of 1864. Two specimens.

No. 32.—Dated in ink, OCT. 4.

No. 33.—No obliteration.

§ 2nd.—Same die, with address added below, outside label, viz., MERCHANT'S-EXCHANGE BUILDING, BATTERY STREET, OPPOSITE THE POST OFFICE. Black, on three c. of 1864. Four specimens.

No. 34.—Pen-stroked.

No. 35.—Pen-stroked, DEC. 7, '66.

No. 36.—Pen-stroked, JUNE 5, '67.

No. 37.—Obliteration, small double blue circle, MOUNTAIN VIEW, SANTA CLARA, DEC. 26.

§ 3rd.—Same design as 2, but S. F. and S. J. R. R. EXPRESS at top.

No. 38.—Black, on 3 c. of 1864, pen-stroked.

NOTE.—This company was bought out by the Pacific Union Express Co.

PACIFIC STAGE AND EXPRESS CO., PAID.

Wood-cut, label like Wells, Fargo, & Co.'s, stage coach and hills, oblong.

No. 39.—Black on 3 c. of 1861, two specimens.

No. 40.—Both unused.

No. 40A.—Is a reprint on a plain envelope.

PACIFIC STAGE AND EXPRESS CO., PAID, SAN FRANCISCO, SACRAMENTO, AUBURN, GRASS VALLEY, NEVADA, EUREKA, VIRGINIA.

Wood-cut, stage coach and PAID in oval, lettering in another outer oval. Black, on 3 c., 1861.

No. 41.—Unused.

No. 41A.—Is a reprint on a plain envelope.

OROVILLE AND SUSANSVILLE EXPRESS, PAID.

Hand-stamped, oval.

No. 84.—Blue, on Wells, Fargo, & Co.'s 3 c., 1864.

Of this company we have only their hand-frank; possibly and probably there is a wood or type-printed frank on a United States envelope. This will apply to No. 31, the Central Overland and Pike's Peak Company.

This concludes the specimens of companies altogether obsolete.

Thirty varieties, twenty-three companies, and forty-six specimens. Of these, six are hand-stamped franks, viz.:

Wells, Fargo, & Co. of 1852.
Adams & Co. of 1853.
Whiting's Feather River.
Central Overland and Pike's Peak.
Pony Express.
Oroville and Susansville Express.

P.—Companies now in operation.

KENNEDY & CO'S HALF-MOON BAY, AND PESCADERO EXPRESS.

Office, 679 *and* 681, *Market Street, S. F.*

Type printed, in dotted oblong frame, PAID printed downwards at right end of label.

No. 42.—Blue, on 3 c. of 1864, white paper.

No. 43.—Blue, on 3 c. of 1864, buff paper.

Half-Moon Bay is about 60 miles from San Francisco.

PACIFIC UNION EXPRESS CO., PAID.

Wood-cut, scroll.

On 3 c. of 1864.

No. 44.—Red on white.
No. 45.—Red on buff.
No. 45A.—Orange-red on buff.
No. 46.—Light rose on white.
No. 47.—Light rose on lemon.

On 6 c. of 1864, rose, official envelopes.

No. 48.—Red on white.
No. 49.—Red on buff.
No. 50.—Deep red on buff.
No. 51.—Rose on white.
No. 52.—Rose on buff.

I have never seen any higher values than 6 c., and do not think they exist, for I have asked for them in vain.

BAMBER & CO.'S PAID EXPRESS.

Four varieties.

I.—Wood-cut, scroll with fancy ends.

No. 53.—Black, on 3 c. of 1861, unused (61 and 62) on old 12 and 24 c., unused.

II.—Hand-stamped: J. BAMBER & CO.'S CONTRA COSTA EXPRESS, PAID.

No. 54.—Blue, cut from envelope.

III.—Wood-cut as I., scroll curled at ends.

Black, on 3 c. of 1864; six specimens.

No. 55.—Obliteration, BAMBER'S EX., in blue, stamp (3 c.) cancelled by dots; postmarked, also, SOMERSVILLE CAL., OCT. 6, 1866.

No. 56.—Obliteration similar to last.
No. 57.—Cut from envelope, grey-black.
No. 58.—Unused, on white, 3 c.
No. 59.—Unused, on buff, 3 c.
No. 60.—Unused, on lemon, 3 c.

This company runs over a route of about fifty miles.

W. B. HARDY'S OFFICE, OAKLANDS.

No. 61. —Unused, on white, 6 c. official.
No. 61A.—Unused, on old 12 c. } see die
No. 61B.—Unused, on old 24 c. } I.
No. 62. —On white, 3 c., 1864, unused.
No. 62A.—On buff, 3 c., 1864, unused.

These high values are now obsolete, which confirms my idea that the Pacific Union Express Company issue none higher than 6 c.

WELLS, FARGO, & CO., PAID.

I.—OVER OUR CALIFORNIA AND COAST ROUTES.

63.—Black on 3 c. of 1853. 4th die.

Black on 3 c. of 1861. 13 specimens, used.



64.— 1. Oblit., blue oval, VALEJO EXPRESS in old English, on buff.
65.— 2. Oblit., blue oval, VIRGINIA CITY, N. T., on buff.
66.— 3. Oblit., blue oval, SONORA, on buff.
67.— 4. Oblit., blue oval, WASHOE CITY, on buff.
68.— 5. Oblit., blue oval, DALLES O., on white.
69.— 6. Oblit., blue oval, UKIAH EXP., in old English (like 64), on white.
70.— 7. Oblit., blue oval, illegible, on white.
71.— 8. Oblit., blue oval, VIRGINIA CITY, on white.
72.— 9. Oblit., black circle, illegible, on white.
73.—10. Oblit., black oval, illegible, on buff.
74.—11. Oblit., black oval, NAPA, on buff.
75.—12. Oblit., blue double circle, S. FR$^{CO}_{—}$, on buff.
76.—13. Oblit., blue oval, ARC, EXP. in old English, on buff. Wells, Fargo, & Co.'s label in centre of envelope.

Black 3 c., 1861. 5 specimens, with Pony Express stamps on them.

77.—1. Oblit., blue oval, VIRGINIA CITY, N. T., with 2: brown 10 c., ½ oz. stamps.
78.—2. Oblit., blue oval, VIRGINIA CITY, N. T., with 1 blue 25 c., ½ oz., buff.
79.—3. Oblit., blue oval, VIRGINIA CITY, N. T., with 1 blue 25 c., ½ oz., white.
80.—4. Oblit., blue oval, VIRGINIA CITY, N. T., with 1 red 25 c., ½ oz., buff. June 5, '64.
81.—5. Oblit., blue oval, VIRGINIA CITY, N. T., with 1 red 25 c., ½ oz. (date in pencil), buff. June 16, 1864.

82.—*Black on 3 c., 1861, white. Coin letter from Carson city. No oblit.

83.—*Black on 3 c., 1864. Coin letter from Columbia. No oblit.

For coin letters Wells, Fargo, & Co. charge 50 c. extra, to cover risk.

84.—Black on 3 c., 1864. Oblit., W., F., & CO., OROVILLE, in blue oval. Bears frank, OROVILLE AND SUSANSVILLE EXPRESS PAID.

85.—Black on 3 c, 1864. Oblit., VIRGINIA CITY, N. T., blue oval. Splendid impression.

Set of unused current Envelopes, viz. :—

86, 87. —*3 c. white and buff.
88, 89. —*3 c. white and lemon.
90, 91. —*6 c. mauve, white, and buff.
92, 93. —*6 c. „ „ „
Different dies.
94, 95. —10 c. white and buff.
96. —10 c. buff; different paper.
97. —10 c. white; different die.
98, 99, 100.— 6 c., official; 98, buff; 99, lemon; 100, white.
101, 102. — 9 c., official, orange; different dies, paper, and envelopes.
103, 104. —12 c., official, brown; different dies, paper, and envelopes.
105, 6, 7, 8.—18 c., 24 c., 30 c., 40 c.

II.—BOISE MINES, PAID, 50 CTS., printed beneath label (obsolete).
109.—Red on 3 c., 1861.

III.—PAID OVER OUR MEXICAN COAST AND CALIFORNIA EXPRESS, 25 CTS., printed beneath label (current now).
110.—Black on 3 c., 1864, white.
111.—Black on 3 c., 1864, buff.
112.—Black on 3 c., 1864, lemon.

IV.—Die as I. but lettered instead of "Over our California and Coast Routes," THROUGH OUR CALIFORNIA AND ATLANTIC EXPRESS (all obsolete *now*).
113.—Red on 10 c. of 1861, white, unused.
114.—Red on 10 c. of 1861, on buff, unused.
115.—Red on 10 c. of 1861, buff, used.
116.—Black on 10 c. of 1861, buff, unused.
117.—Black on 10 c. of 1861, buff, used.

Oblit., NEW YORK, APR. 1, in double blue circle; dated in pencil, S. FRS^CO., APL. 28, '63.

Black on 3 c. of 1861. 2 used, on buff.
118.—1. Oblit. as 117, OCT. 13; pencil date, S. FRS^CO., NOV. 9, '63.
119.—2. No oblit.; pencil date, S FRS^CO., OCT. 12, '63.

Black on 3 c. of 1864. 2 used, on white.
120.—1. Oblit., in blue oval, SALT LAKE C^TY, U. T.
121.—2. Oblit., in blue circle (double), FORT BENION, MO.

This has another envelope at back, evidently to prepay a double rate.
122. —Black on 9 c. official, lemon on buff, unused.
123. —Black on 18 c. official, unused.
124. —Black 30 c. official, unused.
125, 6.—Black 24 and 40 c, cut from envelopes, used.

No doubt there are 6 c. rose, and 6 c. mauve, to complete the set.
127, 8, 9.—Specimens having W., F., & CO., and P. U. EX. CO. at side, instead of top of envelope.
130. —Is hardly a California *local*, but bears the San Francisco mark, and explains itself.

Rates Charged by Companies now in operation in San Francisco.

§ PACIFIC UNION, AND WELLS, FARGO, & CO.

10 c. the single rate, which is
10 c. for 3 c. envelopes.
20 c. for 6 c. „
30 c. for 9 c. „
35 c. for 10 c. „
40 c. for 12 c. „
60 c. for 18 c. „
80 c. for 24 c. „
1 doll. for 30 c. „
1 doll. 35 c. for 40 c. envelopes.

§ BAMBER & Co. charge 12½ c. the single rate which is
12½ c. for 3 c. envelopes.
25 c. for 6 c. „
37½ c. for 9 c. „
50 c. for 12 c. „
1 doll. for 24 c. „

This company runs over a route of about 50 miles.

§ KENNEDY & Co. charge a
15 c. rate for 3 c.

Delivery of Mail matter in San Francisco.

As all mail matter is delivered over the counter at the post-office, a private company some time ago started a delivery for convenience of persons; Carnes & Co. was the name; 5 c. per letter, or 1 dollar per hundred, was their charge. According to last accounts, the company was not doing much; it had passed into the hands of a man named Loomis.*

Vancouver Island and British Columbia Locals.

Wells, Fargo, & Co. have offices throughout the North-American British territory of British Columbia, and Vancouver Island. As the English law will not allow Wells, Fargo, & Co. to carry letters, they affix the government stamps upon their franked envelopes, have the stamps cancelled at the post-office, and then forward the letter in their own conveyances. For this reason they charge for every letter to or from the English possession, 5 cents, *in coin*, additional to their rates, to pay the colonial government's postage. Hence we find letters coming to England from British Columbia, per Wells, Fargo, & Co., show the United States embossed stamp, Wells, Fargo, & Co.'s printed frank, and the British Columbia 5 c. also. I have three specimens, all on the buff 10 c. of 1861, viz.:—

131.—Obliteration: WELLS, FARGO, & CO., VICTORIA, JAN. 9, addressed to San Francisco. The 5 c. Vancouver Island stamp is obliterated PAID, in capitals, in blue oval.

132.—Obliteration: WELLS, FARGO, & CO., VICTORIA, SEPT. 25, addressed to San Francisco. The 5 c. Vancouver Island stamp is obliterated, POST-OFFICE, VICTORIA, V. I., blue, oval, with royal arms in centre.

133.—Obliteration as usual, APL. 23, addressed LONDON, received May 30, 1867; the 5c. Vancouver Island stamp is obliterated B 5. The letter bears a 2 and 10 c. adhesive U. S.

* [This company issued two stamps, both value 5 cents, and with a bear as the central device, but differing in size; both were coloured rose. There were also higher values of the larger type issued.—Ed.]

Before the introduction of postage stamps into Vancouver Island, in 1865, the envelopes of Wells, Fargo, & Co. were passed by the post-office, by being stamped POST-OFFICE, VICTORIA, V. I., blue, oval, royal arms in centre; this was also used for obliteration at first, see 133. An example of Wells, Fargo, & Co., franked by the Victoria hand-stamp, is:—

134.—On 3 c., white, of 1861.

This envelope has been pasted at the back of the directed one, so that there are no obliterations beyond those of the United States post-office on the 3 c. embossed, and on two adhesive 10 c., which are on the envelope.

The others I have to describe are genuine British Columbia and Vancouver Island locals—I mean, confined to those parts. They are upon common envelopes, and are, I imagine, both obsolete, being franked by the government post-office, with a hand-struck frank. The examples are:

BRITISH COLUMBIA AND VICTORIA EXPRESS COMPANY.

135.—This is printed along top; at bottom we find, in capitals, PAID FROM VICTORIA TO LYTTON OR LILLOOET, and having the hand frank of the "British Columbia and Vancouver Express Company Paid," in black, circular. It bears the frank of the post-office Victoria as described in Nos. 133 and 134, only black.

BALLOU & CO.'S CARRIBOO EXPRESS, PAID.

136.—Wood-cut, fancy oblong frame, with rounded corners, franked with red



hand-stamp NEW WESTMINSTER, BRITISH COLUMBIA, POST-OFFICE in centre, double oval.

This is probably obsolete, as I have labels used by

BARNARD'S CARIBOO EXPRESS

for pasting on coin letters, parcels, &c., but the franked envelopes I have never seen.

DIETZ & NELSON'S BRITISH COLUMBIA AND VICTORIA EXPRESS.

Of this company, which is said to be successor to Barnard's, I only have labels for parcels.

Conclusion.

In addition to the lists of these most interesting locals, as described from the series enclosed, I have nothing positive to add. This being the first list of them ever published, it must necessarily be incomplete, perhaps inaccurate in some respects; I must, therefore, claim indulgence on any such points, and ask you to remember that all the facts and specimens have been gathered together by myself, direct from San Francisco, through the help of C. W. Lomler, Esq., of that city; excepting in a few cases, where I am indebted to Mr. Philbrick for specimens.

Of the following companies I know nothing; that their franks exist, and are to be found, I can vouch for; there are, no doubt, others, which are not known.

1.—Everts, Wilson, & Co.'s Express.
2.—Freeman & Co.'s Express.
3.—D. W. Harrier's Express.
4.—Hopkinson's Express.
5.—J. D. Kersey's Express.
6.—Kenson's, Owen's River Express.
7.—San Francisco Letter Express.
8.—Pattison's Express.
9.—N. O. Pauly's Express.
10.—Robinson & Co.'s Express.
11.—Henderson & Co.'s Coast Express.
12.—English and Well's Express.
13.—Tinnin & Owen's Express.
14.—Weaverville and Shasta Express.
15.—G. H. Norman's Express.
16.—Nevada City and Meadow Lake Express.
17.—Beresford & Co.'s Express.

A Hint for the Post-office.—They have invented in Germany the halfpenny card post. On one side must be written the address, and anything the sender has to say on the other. It is said to be found very useful for invitations, appointments, and to the poor, who have not much money and nothing to say which they wish to keep secret from the postman.—*Echo.*

NEWLY-ISSUED OR INEDITED STAMPS.

We cannot do better than commence our present chronicle with notice of an almost entirely unexpected series, that of

Servia.—At the present moment, writing at a distance from books and papers, we are unable to ascertain whether in the spring of the year we reproduced in our columns the report of a probable emission to which our Belgian contemporary gave currency, but our impression is that we have not noticed it. At any rate, the new set of stamps comes upon us as a surprise, and rather a pleasant one. Our readers can judge of the design from the annexed cut, or, better still, from the copy of the 1 para which is given with the present number, and will, we think, agree with us that it is of a very neat appearance. The entire series is of this one type, and consists of the following eight values and colours:—



1 para, light and deep yellow.
10 „ brown.
15 „ orange.
20 „ blue.
25 „ carmine.
35 „ pale green.
40 „ mauve.
50 „ dark green.

The head is that of the young prince Michael Obrenovich IV., who, if his portrait does not flatter, has a pleasing and intelligent face.

The series, as a whole, is a considerable advance on its predecessor in type, design, colour, and size, and we may anticipate for it a long currency.

The impression is in colour on white paper, and perforated, but it is worth while to notice that the number of dents is not uniform for the entire series, and it is evident that more than one perforating machine has been used. We have as yet only seen four of the values ourselves, viz.: the 1, 10, 20, and 40 paras; and of these, the 1 para has 15 dents on the side and 12 at the bottom; the 10 and 20 paras, 15 dents on the

side and 9 at the bottom; and the 40 paras, 11 dents on the side and 12 at the bottom. The other values probably showing similar differences.

RUSSIA.—Annexed is the promised illustration of the latest-arrived Russian local—the one to which we referred last month. We notice M. Moens, in describing this stamp, gives a reading of the inscription somewhat different to that which we published last month, and if anything clearer. He makes the translation of the characters in the outer border to be RURAL POST OF RISAU-SKI, against our correspondent's "Riasan circuit rural post." It will be observed there is a difference in the name of the town or district after which the post is called.



SOUTH AFRICAN REPUBLIC.—In another part of the present number we give a translation of the decree authorising the emission of stamps for this republic, and some further information concerning the projected series. This article was in type last month, but was unavoidably crowded out. Since then, *Der Briefmarken Sammler* has published an illustration of what it states to be the adopted type. The above is a copy of the engraving, which we give without guaranteeing its accuracy, though from its general agreement with the descriptions already received, it is presumably correct. Of the appearance of the design one can hardly form an opinion without seeing the stamps themselves, and these we hope soon to have in our hands.



URUGUAY.—According to *The American Journal of Philately*, a new issue for this republic is in course of preparation by the American national bank-note company. We trust this news is true, and shall await with interest the appearance of another such a series of stamps as that possessed by the neighbouring republic of La Plata.

LA GUAIRA.—Of the type illustrated in our July number, there is, according to M. Moens, a second value—medio real, dark yellow-green, perforated, like the first.

LIBERIA.—We learn also, from the above quoted authority, that the Liberian stamps have re-appeared without the external line which characterised the second edition. The new emission will be easily recognised by its shades, which are all pale; the 24 cent, moreover, is of a yellow-green.

ANGOLA.—This Portuguese colony has just been endowed by the mother-country with a series of postage stamps, of the same colours and values as that employed by her, but of a new type. An engraving of this we hope to present next month, meanwhile we must content ourselves by stating that the design consists of a crown on ground of waved lines in a rectangle, having at each side a Grecian ornament; that at each angle is the figure of value; and, finally, that the name of the colony is inscribed in the upper margin, and the value in full in the lower. These stamps are not perforated.

GUATEMALA.—Moens notices in his current number, but only to condemn, a new series of essays for this "stampless" country. They are similar in type to those designed by M. Hulot, but bear upon their face the evidence of their own character in the inscription, TIMBRE DE GUATEMALA. M. Moens jocularly observes, that being himself ignorant of the Spanish language, he consulted a professor, as obliging as he is celebrated, and can, as the result, affirm without fear of contradiction, that the word *timbre* does not exist in that language.

BADEN.—We learn from *The Continental Philatelic Magazine*, that the 6 kreuzer envelope, has been obsolete since the 1st of July; that no new stock will be issued; but that a new series will probably be emitted in a short time. This latter intelligence is likely to be correct, but we question whether a new type will be adopted.

FRANCE.—The editor of *Le Timbrophile* announces the receipt of two copies of the one centime laureated, and he states that the supply of the 5 franc stamp (so long expected) is now being worked off at the mint.

TURKEY.—The local stamp of which we gave an engraving last month, has been superseded by another series of the same type, but showing a steamer in the blank space between the words T. B. MORTON & CO., and FRANCO. Of this second series we hope to give further particulars shortly.

DENMARK.—The 2 sk. envelope now shows that slight modification in design by which its companion has so long been distinguished, namely, the suppression of the letter s after the figure of value, which is found in the lower part of the oval.

NORTH GERMANY.—It would seem that the envelope we described last month is used only in Hanover. The flap ornament, of which we gave an engraving, is that of the old Hanoverian envelopes.

OUR CONTEMPORARIES.

AUGUST 16, 1869.

OUR notice for the present month is likely to be but a meagre one, unless, indeed, those of our contemporaries which have not yet reached us should possess matter more suitable for comment than those which we have already received. Up to the present only four have come to hand, and these we will take in order.

The Philatelist.—We must needs content ourselves with the most cursory reference to our Brighton *confrère*. Although the August number contains a fair amount of readable matter, it is, in our opinion, hardly up to the usual standard. It has the look, in fact, of a "vacation" number, and of such it is a good sample.

The American Stamp Mercury adds to its title that of *Numismatist*, and a large proportion of the last number is occupied with numismatic, or, as our friends across the water would say, "numismatologic" information, with which we are not concerned. Matters philatelic take up only four pages of the magazine, and consist of a very good list of the United States envelopes, a report of the meeting of the London philatelic society, and an article on new stamps. In the latter Mr. Trifet makes merry over our mistake as to the scene represented on the new 24 c stamp, and as it pleases him and does us no harm, we do not begrudge him the amusement. At the end of the number we find a column headed "Postal Miscellany," but as the two items of news which it contains relate purely to coins, we hardly see the appropriateness of the title.

The American Journal of Philately.—The last number of this journal is, in our opinion, the best which has appeared. The article on "Little Dealers," extracted from the *Postman's Knock*, is amusing, and we do not doubt is founded on fact. European dealers no doubt could tell a similar story of the curious ideas of business possessed by boy-merchants, of which in this country at least there are not a few. The following is our American contemporary's sketch of the genus:—

> The "Little Dealer," when he receives his stamps, in the first place selects all he wants for his own book, and should the remainder happen to sell for sufficient to pay his suppliers, he will probably liquidate; if not, he considers *they* have the right to lose, not *he*. He is constant in his demands for Liberian, Buenos Ayrean, and such postals, and expects to get them at such rates as will allow him a moderate profit of say 500 per cent. when sold to "the boys" at two and three cents each. He calls for New Brunswick and Nova Scotian shilling stamps with as much coolness as if they grew profusely in orchards, and is peculiarly pertinacious in his vociferations for "real Connells," and assures us that he can dispose of "lots if they are cheap." The utmost range of his vision of the worth of the rarest used stamps is about five cents, and he expects to procure unused specimens, no matter how scarce, at the original face value. He grows clamorous when his moderate requests are not complied with, and only waits till he gets a few dollars in debt to us to disavow all ideas of future commerce, informing us with the utmost *sang-froid* that "your prices are so dear I won't deal with you any more, and I have lost so much I can't pay you what I owe you; besides, you never sent me the stamps I wanted, and there is a man in——— who will give me Liberia, &c. stamps, so like that nobody can tell the difference, for 20 c. a dozen. and they are just as good. You needn't write no more letters as I didn't write to you under my real name, etc., etc.," or "I am going away next week and no letters will reach me."

Following the usual monthly article on new stamps comes a thoughtfully-written paper on "Schools of Philately," in which the tenets of the "American school" are expounded. The writer, replying to the query, "What do American philatelists collect?" says:—

> First, they *aim* to collect every variety in the engraving of every postage-stamp; for instance, they collect the two distinct varieties of engraving of the ten-cent envelope stamp of the first issue of the United States, which, by the way, are excluded from all the European albums, while they give half-a-dozen spaces for varieties in the

shade of some common stamp that is, in nine cases out of ten, the result of some accident, which has occurred after the stamp has been printed, and fulfilled the mission for which it was made.

Second, they collect only the shade of a stamp in which it was originally printed, except there is a decided change of colour, as in the case of the 1d. Antigua, where the stamp was originally printed in rose and afterwards orange, but after the change in colour *continued to be issued in the new tint.*

Third, in regard to envelopes, they cut out the stamp with a large enough margin to keep them from looking cramped, regarding it as ridiculous to save the entire envelope, as in a majority of cases it never had any value.

No doubt there are many collectors in this country who coincide with these ideas, and though some of our contemporaries profess to believe that the practice of cutting out envelope stamps has become extinct, we for our part, from our own experience, should be inclined to assert that it is as prevalent as ever. We fear, indeed, that orthodox philatelists are in a minority, and that collectors in general continue to mount their stamps very much in the old style. Nor can we wonder that they do. Those, and they are many, who do not care to take the trouble to preserve their envelopes entire, and to keep them apart from the adhesives, settle the matter in the simplest way by cutting and mounting them side by side with the adhesives. The disposition of envelopes is the Gordian knot in the arrangement of stamps. No plan has yet been suggested which will admit of their being kept entire with the labels themselves, unless, indeed, a book of immoderate bulk be employed, and the makers of the best albums have been compelled to fall back on the old method, which necessitates cutting. Those, then, who wish to follow out the study of philately must, and probably always will, be forced to put up with the inconvenience of having their entire envelopes in a book or portfolio, separate from the adhesives.

As to the "American school," it will no doubt be long before its followers will get so far as to study either envelopes or stamps so carefully as do European philatelists, and the reason is very clear. Stamps are too dear in the United States; collectors, though numerous, are widely scattered, and opportunities of examining and comparing large numbers of stamps are few and far between. Persons of moderate income cannot afford the luxury of several stamps of the same kind, varying only in secondary details, and the supply being regulated by the demand, they could not get them easily if they wanted them. To American philatelists, far removed from the great collecting centres, the systematic study of stamps seems a vanity; they find it difficult enough to obtain a single specimen of each value, and are impatient of the advocacy of principles, the acceptance of which would render it incumbent on them to procure three or four copies. Yet, and it is worthy of remark, they are commencing to bestow special attention on the issues of their own country, as evidenced by the carefully-compiled list of the United States envelopes, which appears in the *Mercury*, and if the more serious collectors had only the chance of meeting together, no doubt they would soon find themselves on the high road to a study of stamps on European principles.

Le Timbre-Poste.—Of this journal we have two numbers before us, those for July and August, and we only do an act of justice in acknowledging that this latter reached us before the appointed day of publication. Excelsior!

The July number contains an interesting article on the "Postage-Stamp Collection in the Paris Mint," the translation of which will be found in another part of this number, and both impressions are occupied with instalments of Dr. Magnus' article on envelopes. In the second, some new details are given respecting the Prussian *Field-Post* covers, which were used during the war of 1866. From these we learn that there were two distinct classes of these envelopes, one provided simply with type-printed lines for the address on the front, and "a few words of advice" to the sender on the flap. These were for the letters written *to* the soldiers by their parents. The second class was intended for the letters written *by* the soldiers, and comprised all the various types which have at different times figured in these pages, together, of course, with many others which have not been represented, and consisting either of the Prussian eagle in a circle, around the outer edge of which runs an inscription, giving the name of the corps or

regiment by which the envelope is issued, or of an oblong frame, with the initials of the corps.

August 24.

Since the above has been put in type, we have received another batch of "Our Contemporaries," and these we proceed to notice.

The Continental Philatelic Magazine.—The new number contains, *inter alia*, a description of some new Boston forgeries—5 c Hawaiian figure, and the Confederate States 5 c. blue and green, first issue. We have not seen these latest fruits of American ingenuity ourselves, and can therefore only give Mr. Van Rinsum's descriptions under reserve. He gives, as the distinctive feature of the the 5 c. Hawaiian, its being printed on a *dark* blue laid paper; and of the Confederate stamp, the whiteness of the paper, together with certain undescribed differences in the design.

Le Timbrophile gives, as its principal article this month, a paper by Dr. Magnus, on "Lithographic Reprints," in which the Doctor seeks to demonstrate that the 5 c. Luzon, 1854-5, now rather freely offered for sale, are reprints. We are unable at this period of the month to give his observations the attention they merit, and must therefore defer our examination of his argument until our next impression, merely warning collectors meanwhile against paying extravagant prices for copies of these stamps.

We are glad to find that our Parisian contemporary carries out his intention to give detailed reports of the proceedings of the London Philatelic Society, by a lengthened notice in the number before us. In the course of reference to the discussion on the Paraguayan stamps, M. Mahé quotes, from the *Magasin Pittoresque*, the original information furnished to that journal, in 1866, by M. Rondot, which we think is worthy of reproduction here. It is as follows:—

In January, 1864, General Francisco Solano Lopez, who had been elected President of the Republic after the death of his father in 1862, got M. Stern, engraver, of Paris, to engrave the design of a postage stamp intended for Paraguay. This design consisted of the arms of the Republic. As soon as the die was made, General Lopez took the proofs with him to Assumption, and nothing more was done in the matter. The die remained in M. Stern's hands. M. Stern did not take note of the number of proofs struck off for General Lopez, but it would appear certain that none of these proofs ever returned to Europe. Since then, there has been no official *tirage;* all the Paraguayan essays are therefore unauthorised impressions, although from the original die.

To this Dr. Magnus adds, that the die has, by some means unknown to him, got into M. Hulot's possession, and that that gentleman has struck off a number of copies in various colours, which have, however, rarely come into the hands of collectors. It is their relative rarity which has given rise to the numerous counterfeits, which have, in the end, thrown a certain discredit on them.

Mason's Coin and Stamp-Collector's Magazine contains little that is worthy of special remark. The sole item of interest is the announcement of receipt of a copy of a spurious 8 reales Ecuador stamp (cinnamon), from "one of the doubtful Boston firms." "The engraving," says our contemporary, "is well executed, and calculated to deceive," but what the design is it does not say.

AN AUSTRIAN INNOVATION.

"The *New Free Press* of Vienna," says our contemporary, *Le Timbrophile*, "signalises a postal innovation in the creation of post-cards, destined in some sort to extend to correspondence the advantage which already exists in respect of packages sent under bands.

"These post-cards, twice as large as visiting cards, are sold to the public at 2 kreuzers each (about a halfpenny). When it is desired to make use of one, the communication which the writer desires to make is written in ink or pencil on the back of the card, and on the front is put the address.

"These cards are forwarded without envelope, and so that the post may make itself acquainted, if it likes, with the tenor of the communications which they bear.

"If that tenor be of an improper or immoral nature, the cards will be destroyed.

"The post-cards will be issued simultaneously in Hungary and in the Cis-leithan provinces, as the result of an arrangement with the Hungarian government, and throughout the extent of the empire they will be sold at 2 kr."

There is something novel and striking about this last offshoot of postal progress,

and no doubt it is a wise though bold innovation. That the facilities it offers will be generally taken advantage of can hardly admit of question, and we see no reason to suppose that the post-office will lose by it. Indeed, its effect must be to largely increase that ephemeral class of correspondence which contributes so notably to fill the mail-bags. The thing works so easily that every one will be tempted to try it. Friends who wish to make appointments to meet each other will avail themselves of this medium to indicate the hour and place of rendezvous. Dinner invitations, information as to the occurrence of trivial everyday events, and a thousand other such minor matters of communication, will be sent by the post-card.

That any one will use this medium for correspondence on really private affairs is by no means likely. Though probably the postmen would have enough to do to deliver the cards without reading them, the writers of the communications would fear that their inmost secrets were laid bare to those in office, and besides the postal employés there are the servants, who certainly *would* find time to study what did not concern them, and there would be no knowing through how many other hands the missive would pass before reaching, if it ever reached, the addressee. In this lies the protection of the post-office. The post-cards will never supersede sealed letters, for no man of business would care to inform the world at large that he had netted twenty per cent on his last speculation; no lover would like to have a surreptitious publicity given to the rapturous lines which he addresses to the object of his affections; and no spendthrift nephew would be satisfied to inform his friends in general as well as the indulgent old aunt from whom he begs the "loan" of a "hundred" or so, that he has lost heavily at billiards, and owes such an unsightly bill to his tailor. The natural love of secresy in such matters would always induce correspondents to patronise envelopes, and only employ the post-cards for trivial purposes. Would that these post cards-could be introduced in England! Who shall say how many millions would be used in London alone?

THE COLLECTION OF STAMPS IN THE HOTEL DES MONNAIES.

The last number of *Le Timbre-Poste* has an interesting article, from the pen of a gentleman bearing the unique appellation of *Vanden Slagmol ter*, on the above subject. The writer has been to see the collection whose renown is in all the papers, and he has taken note of its contents. He looks at the whole affair from a philatelic point of view; and, as might be imagined, the government collection, thus examined, does not present a very brilliant or impressive appearance. Mr. Slagmolder is not sparing in his condemnation of it, and we quite admit that he is in a certain sense justified in his strictures, but we, for our part, feel inclined to look with a more compassionate eye on this attempt of the administration to, as it would seem, popularise postage stamps. What, in fact, could be expected from persons who know practically nothing of stamps, but an incomplete collection, unscientifically arranged? And after all, such a collection is good enough for the vast majority of those who examine it. Those who have not studied stamps can learn but little from them at a casual glance, and derive as much pleasure from looking at a card on which the emissions of half-a-dozen countries are jumbled together, provided only that the colours contrast well and make a good show, as they would from turning over the pages of the most carefully-arranged album. Granting this point, the French collection will serve its purpose as well as a better one. What it is like, and how it has been formed, will appear from Mr. Slagmolder's description which, as it has evidently been written upon a very careful examination, is worthy of extraction, though we decline to follow him step by step through the detailed list of contents, which occupies nearly three pages of our Belgian contemporary.

"The *Figaro*," commences Mr. Slagmolder, "always well informed, has announced that not long since the President of the 'Commission des Monnaies and Médailles' had installed, at the Paris Mint, a collection of postage stamps, which has not its like anywhere—'the most complete

which has ever existed,' says our great confrère. There is no ambiguity in this statement—it is clear, concise, precise; but nothing could be less true.

"We went to the Mint, believing we were about to see wonders, but what a disappointment awaited us there! Instead of a collection without rival, we find ourselves in presence of a few miserable stamps stuck down on white card, in long frames, exposed to the sun, and placed in a tiny, insignificant chamber. There were in all eight cards, of which two were for the stamps of France and England. These latter being nearest the window, were covered with a green cloth; but this did not prevent Master Phœbus from caressing with his burning rays the august visages of their Majesties Victoria and Napoleon III., which are now grown very "seedy" in consequence (this by way of notice to the *curator* of the museum.)

"Fancy alone has presided in the arrangement of this collection. In proof, we may mention that the first frame contains a part of Germany; the second and third, some of the English colonies, in *alphabetical order;* the fourth, Spain, Italy, Turkey, and Greece; the fifth, some American countries; the sixth, the States of North Europe—Holland and its colonies, Belgium, and a part of Germany; the seventh, Great Britain, and the Indies; and the eighth, France.

"As to the collection itself, it is easy to see that it has been formed at little expense, and represents solely the exchanges made with various states, to whom the Director of the Mint has, no doubt, sent series of French stamps as samples; and many of the stamps exhibited bear the word SPECIMEN, applied by the sender under similar circumstances.

"One might search in vain in this museum for a single rare stamp. There is only a small portion of the current emissions, and a few obsolete ones, which all the world possesses; but even of these, the copies exhibited are reprints. 'It's all the same,' said some one to us at the museum;—and not a single envelope—they, it seems, would take up too much room. And then, again, as a matter of course, in sticking the stamps completely down, no trouble has been taken to indicate distinctions of paper or watermark, and still less those of perforated or unperforated. However, it must be admitted that, in those instances where the administration has obtained the perforated and unperforated sets—as witness, for example, those of Piedmont, 1855-63, and those of Belgium, 1850—it has exposed them to view, equally with the stamps of certain countries which, though we know not why, are exhibited in duplicate or triplicate.

"Is it dignified in a country like France to show to the public as a curiosity a collection in which there is absolutely nothing that is curious? And supposing that the authorities did take an interest in it, would it not have been much better to have sought in advance the advice of competent persons, and so have avoided committing the gross blunders which we observe? Those who pretend to instruct the public, ought to take care not to expose themselves to the chance of appearing more ignorant than their pupil.

"What at first sight do we remark?—old issues considered as current, and current issues regarded as old; the fiscal stamps of a displaced government put with the stamps of the government which succeeded it (the 6 and 9 c. Parma intercalated among the stamps of the provisional government); errors of date in abundance; and lastly—a capital error—the (apparent) belief that Denmark uses stamps with the value in *cents*, when it is known to all the world that that country has never adopted the decimal system. What would be said of any one who should seek for a Cleopatra franc! The error to which we refer appears in placing in the middle of the Danish stamps the single individual which does duty in the Danish West Indies, and bears the denomination '3 cents.'

"To us it is clear that the person charged with the arrangement of the collection has but very feeble notions of timbrophily. It is very possible, and we prefer to believe, that he wished to make it look well, and that the job gave him much trouble and labour; but it is labour lost, for nothing has been done.

"It is worth while noting the utter absence of anything like general order: on the one hand we see admitted the perforated and

unperforated stamps of Piedmont, Belgium, and Hamburg; whilst, on the other hand, the French stamps now in use are totally wanting. The envelopes are eliminated because they would occupy too much space, and yet the same space is occupied by two to four copies of other stamps, uselessly encumbering the frame, and by commercial, customs, receipt, and other stamps of France and India, which have nothing whatever to do with a postage-stamp collection.

"And, *apropos* of France, is it not vexatious to see that of all the old stamps only reprints are shown? And again, what business in the set of republic stamps has the 20 c. blue, which has never existed,* or been authorised?

"The exhibition of stamps definitively classed in frames, like this one of the Paris musuem, is a thing impossible; and a few new emissions or acquisitions will suffice to upset M. Dumas entirely, should he wish to continue the collection.

"The only practicable means of attaining the object in view appears to us to be by the classification of stamps, fastened by paper 'hinges,' and with all the details concerning them on fly-sheets, shown in the case. It may be objected, perhaps, that under such conditions the collection would take enormous proportions. We know that quite well. But as several rooms in the Exposition are consecrated to coins and medals, it seems to us that as much might be done for postage stamps, the two collections being sisters."

Thus far Mr. Slagmolder. If any of the museum officials should come across his critique, it will doubtless have the effect of reducing their pride in the perfect collection. Nevertheless, we think if the public will only take the trouble to examine this medley, philately will benefit by it; and if the director of the Hotel des Monnaies would only give the management of this stamp museum into the hands of a first-rate collector, or committee of collectors, with full power to classify the stamps scientifically, and to "annex" any such additional apartments as might be required; combining with this, perhaps, a small grant for the purchase of rarities; we are sure that a very valuable and instructive "gallery" of stamps might be got together, which would do more than anything else to popularize the study.

* Mr. V. Slagmolder is in error on this point. See the article on Reprints, by a Parisian collector, reprinted in our June number.

THE SOUTH AFRICAN REPUPLIC STAMPS.

BY W. DUDLEY ATLEE.

Nearly half-a-year has passed since we heralded the approach of the Transvaal stamps into the philatelic arena, and through their non-appearance collectors began to fear that they were acting like truant knights, and were not going to enter the "lists" at all. We are, therefore, very glad to be able to give a satisfactory excuse for the absence of our young *protégés*.

"Coming events cast their shadows before," says the proverb; but in this instance the shadow has come on with express speed, and left the substance to "foot it" a long way in the rear.

By the last mail, the postmaster-general informs us that the delay in the emission of the labels was caused by the plates not having arrived at the capital, but that they were daily expected, so we may hope to welcome the little strangers before long.

The threepenny stamp is not to be issued for the present, which will leave three values only to complete the set.

It is possible that on the exhaustion of this issue, another will be emitted, bearing the profile of his honour, President Pretorius, and of which we shall take care to make our readers duly acquainted.

Feeling sure that anything relative to the stamps of a new country will be worthy of preservation, we think it worth while to translate, from the government gazette (which from its general "get-up" is in itself rather interesting), the principle items in the official decree authorising the issue of the Transvaal stamps. It is printed in a kind of Africo-Dutch; the language spoken in the republic being far from a pure specimen of *l'Hollandais*.

The decree is preceded by a "Government Notice," signed by the president, which contains nothing worthy of reproduction. The decree itself opens with article No. 72, as follows:—

Postage Stamps.

Art. 72.—The day of the introduction of the postage-stamps to be determined by his honour the president.

To this succeed the articles providing for the management of the stock, and then come those specially relating to the stamps themselves.

Art. 78.—The postage-stamps to bear the arms of the South African Republic; the superscription and values to be determined by the States president.

Art. 79.—There are to be three sorts of stamps, viz., one shilling, sixpence, and one penny.

Art. 80.—Each variety of stamp to be in a different colour, in accordance with the decision of his honour the president.

Art. 81.—The stamps are to serve for prepaying the postage of letters, newspapers, books, and packets.

Art. 82.—The postage-stamp to be fastened over the address of the letter or packet.

Then comes the following rather amusing information :—

Art. 83.—More than one postage-stamp of the same or different sorts can be placed on a letter.

There is something very *naive* about this, and that such an "instruction" should be thought necessary is proof of the simplicity either of the rulers or the ruled.

The remaining articles are of a formal nature, but their peculiar phraseology gives them some interest.

Art. 84.—Each stamp can be used but once. The adopted stamps are to be obliterated in the manner preferable to the postmaster-general.

Art. 85.—Letters, newspapers, &c , bearing one or more stamps which have been previously used, shall be looked upon as unpaid, and as such treated; as shall also stamps having any mark upon them, either written or printed. Every packet bearing a genuine stamp knowingly for the second time used, or made unusable, shall be treated as hereafter mentioned in art. 87.

Art. 86.—The money value of one or more stamps wherewith a letter, paper, &c., is stamped, must be of the necessary amount of postage, if not the letter will be treated as not paid.

Art. 87.—The making, using of, or being accessory to the making or using of, counterfeit stamps, or the using of stamps which have previously passed through the post, shall be a criminal offence, and the person or persons so offending shall be given into custody, and punished.

Art. 88.—After the introduction of postage-stamps, the registration of letters, papers, &c., must be paid for with them.

Art. 89.—This decree shall become law after having been published one month.

We like the first portion of art. 87 very much indeed, and picture to ourselves Messrs. A. B. & Co., merchants in fac-similes, marching on (but not to victory), under the watchful care of the Transvaal "strong arm of the law," and being "taken in" themselves, by way of a change.

Some misapprehension of our remarks in the March number has caused collectors to imagine that each label is to be issued in more than one colour; we therefore have to state that such is not the case, but that each of the trio is unicoloured throughout.

THE WENDEN STAMPS.

Our remarks upon these stamps, in the course of our review of Mr. Van Rinsum's magazine last month, have led to the receipt of the following very satisfactory information respecting them from a lady correspondent, who, it will be evident from her letter, has had exceptional opportunity of ascertaining their genuineness.

Her letter is as follows .—

To the Editor of "The Stamp-Collector's Magazine."

Sir,—Seeing that the genuineness of the stamps of the "Wendenschen Kreises" is still doubted, allow me to state, that when in St. Petersburg a few weeks ago, I obtained several from a friend, whose letters from Dorpat were always prepaid with them, this town being the principal one of the district. None had been stamped, but had been erased with pen and ink; most, if not all, having a rude cross drawn over them.

Kew. F. H. H.

With this conclusive statement before us, made upon authority which is unquestionable, we must admit that our faith in the Livonian stamps is re-established.

CORRESPONDENCE.

THE "BRITANNIA" MAURITIUS.

To the Editor of "The Stamp-Collector's Magazine."

Sir,—When I stated some long time ago my opinion that the Mauritius Britannia had been reprinted, I wrote without any actual knowledge that such was the case, and, as your correspondent remarks, my views on the subject are modified, so much so, in fact, that it has been quite by oversight that I have not long ago retracted my expressions in these pages in which I had promulgated them. The absence of the green stamp from the set, and the peculiar *bleuté* gum of the red essay, are two incontrovertible proofs of their genuineness. At the time when I imagined them to be reprints, I had not had an opportunity of examining the red essay, and at that early stage of their discovery the absence of the green stamp was not a thing to be caught hold of, for we could not *then* say that it did not exist as plentifully as the others. At the time I now write the green stamp is so rare unused, that the specimens in that state can be almost counted on the fingers of one hand. Where so many specimens of those under discussion can have come from, is certainly a mystery, and one which the collectors in the island should be able to solve.

Yours faithfully,

Birmingham. EDWARD L. PEMBERTON.

DR. MAGNUS ON LITHOGRAPHIC REPRINTS.

Under the title "Réimpressions Lithographiques," Dr. Magnus has discussed in the last two numbers of *Le Timbrophile* the claims to "originality" of the copies of certain Luçon and New Granada stamps which are now freely offered for sale, and as, no doubt, these stamps either have found, or will find their way to this country, we deem it as well that our readers should learn the doctor's opinion about them.

He commences by remarking that when he wrote his articles on "Reprints," three years ago, no reprints of lithographed stamps were known; and, at the time, he accounted for their absence by the supposition, that after repeated workings the designs got too indistinct to admit of passable copies being taken from them. With his usual acumen, however, he foresaw the possibility of reproduction, by a new transfer, of stamps whereof the engraved dies or lithographic matrices had been preserved; and now, in proof that such reproduction has been effected, as also in illustration of the manner in which it has been done, he adduces the stamps of Liberia. His description of the *modus operandi* we must give in his own words, partly because of its intrinsic value, and partly to prepare the way for the expression of our own partial dissent from the conclusion at which he arrives:—

The three values appear to have been engraved *en creux*, one single die for each value. The sheets were afterwards composed by a transfer on stone of copies printed from these original dies; and when a stone became worn out it was easy to compose another in the same manner. However, as it is impossible for the ablest workman to reproduce a design absolutely without any variation, and as those charged with the reproduction at Liberia did not trouble themselves about the accessaries, it follows that three successive transfers may be distinguished:—

1. Stamps without an exterior single-line frame.

2. Stamps with an exterior frame special to each one, and so that every stamp is separated from its neighbour by two lines on all four sides. The white space between the stamps is also greater, viz., nearly 5 millimètres.

3. Stamps with an exterior frame; but of which, though the vertical lines are distinct for each stamp, the horizontal lines run into each other. What forms the principal characteristic of this edition is the comparative smallness of the space between the stamps (about 2½ millimètres), whence it follows that the perforations bite into the exterior frames, or into the borders of the stamps themselves; whilst, in the second series, the dents fall generally between the outside frames.

Now we venture to submit, with a diffidence due to our imperfect knowledge of the 'graver's art, that the distinctions described by Dr. Magnus do not bear out his statement, that it is impossible to reproduce the design with entire exactitude. The design engraved on the original die *is* reproduced in the second and third editions without the slightest variation in its details, without the slightest change in the position of any of its component parts, and the sole differences which our author notices exist in the disposition of the outer line. Now we cannot be wrong in saying that this outer line does not form part of the design *as engraved*, as, if it did, it must have appeared on the stamps of the first edition. To us it seems that this line was added *on the stone;* it was, in fact, an improvement made by the printers in the second edition. The copies struck from the original die were so arranged on the stone whereon the transfer was made as to leave a certain space between each stamp, and after the transfer of the design the lines were drawn round them on the stone; or, again, the lines may have been drawn first, and the die-struck copies placed out afterwards on the squares thus formed,—the order in which this outer frame was added is immaterial. For the third edition new stones were, of course, employed, and the bad arrangement of the copies taken from the die, coupled also with a certain inaccuracy or carelessness in the ruling, caused the differences observable in this edition as compared with the second, viz., the touching of the horizontal lines and the decrease in the space between the stamps. The variations, then, are unconnected with the design proper, which, as we have said, remains unchanged; and the possibility of making several entirely identical lithographic transfers is rather demonstrated, than disproved, by these very stamps.

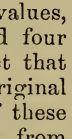
This question, it is true, bears but slightly on the matters specially treated of by Dr. Magnus, and to which we shall speedily come, but we think it is hardly possible to throw too much light on the processes whereby stamps are executed, especially on these more complex ones. The learned

doctor himself merely introduces the example of the Liberian stamps as, in a certain sense, prefatory to the consideration of the Luçon and New Granadine impressions. We do not gather from his subsequent remarks that he supposes either the Luçon or the New Granadine designs to have been reproduced in the same manner as the Liberian; he looks on the stamps of these countries, it appears to us, as lithographs pure and simple; that is to say, as impressions from designs drawn on the stones themselves, so that the Liberian stamps furnish no argument for or against the originality of these others.

This matter dismissed, we come now to the pith of Dr. Magnus' article. The first stamp of which he speaks is a Luçon—the 5 c. of the series known as that of the "four types." For the guidance of those of our readers who have but recently begun to collect, it may be as well to mention that this series was issued in 1859. The design bears a certain resemblance to that of the Spanish emission of 1855-7, from which it was evidently copied; in the centre of a pearled circle is the laureated head of the Queen, turned to the right, and the spandrels are filled with network; the upper margin contains the words CORREOS. INTERIOR; and the lower is inscribed with FRANCO and the value. The series is composed of two values:—

5 cuartos, orange, bright vermilion.
10 „ rose.

The design is identical for the two values, but on every sheet there are found four varieties of it, resulting from the fact that four stamps were drawn on the original stone, in two rows, and every one of these four differs in certain minor details from the rest. The four are found together, as in the diagram, framed in by an outer border, and the sheet of stamps is made by repetitions of this group. The sheets we may conjecture to have been composed after a somewhat similar manner to the Liberian; copies must have been struck from the original stone or matrix containing the group of four, and then arranged on stones of the necessary size and transfers made from them.



The two stamps of this series have always been rather rare, though Dr. Magnus says that the 10 c. can be got without much difficulty, even in entire sets of four. The 5 c. new is decidedly scarce, and, as our author says, specimens of this value could always be disposed of to advantage. Lately, however, groups of the four 5 c. stamps, unused, have been freely offered to Parisian amateurs, and Dr. Magnus having—if we may so say—"dissected" these new arrivals, finds that they differ in various particulars from the well-authenticated originals with which he has compared them. In short, he considers them to be the fruits of a speculation, spurious reprints, and therefore utterly worthless.

Leaving on one side certain trifling differences in design admitted by the Doctor himself to be indecisive, the following are the distinguishing characteristics of the "reprints," as signalised by him:—

1. *The colour of the impression*, which is pale orange and dark vermilion-red on the old stamps, and a strikingly brilliant orange on the new.

2. *The paper.*—That of the old stamps is yellowish, thick, and consistent; whilst that of the new is white, thinner, and semi-transparent.

3. *By the gum*, which is yellowish and of a certain thickness on the old stamps; white and very thin on the new.

From the existence of these variations, which are sufficiently marked to be observable even by a tyro, Dr. Magnus naturally argues that the new-comers have been but recently printed. He thinks it probable that they have been struck off at Luçon, but believes that they are only a *tirage de spéculation*. We, for our part, cannot understand how it is that, admitting these stamps to be "reprints," they can have been made in Luçon, if it be true that the post-office and all the *matériel* for the manufacture of stamps was destroyed in the great earthquake. Further on, in the course of his article, Dr. Magnus throws out a suggestion, to which we shall presently allude, as to the manner in which copies of other stamps have been obtained, and we see no reason why these 5 c. Luçon should not be fabricated by the same pro-

cess; in which case, their value is absolutely *nil*, and they can only be classed with the worst of counterfeits.

The 5 c. of the four-type series was succeeded in the same year by a very similar stamp, which, however, was only engraved once, and of which, therefore, no variations in design are known.

Apart from the principal difference, viz, that there is only one type to the sheet, the second 5 c. is distinguished from the first by certain minor details, among which may be noticed the touching of the crown by the hair *on both sides;* the greater size of the letters of the upper inscription (CORREOS INTERIOR), and the consequent diminution of space between them. The paper of the second is generally thinner than that of the first, though some copies are found printed on the paper used for the first. The colour of the one type 5 c. is very similar to that of its predecessor, viz., dark vermilion.

This value has unquestionably been reprinted, but the reprint copies offer variations from the original sufficient to admit of easy recognition. The impression is blurred; the colour is of two shades, pale brick-red and carmine-red (*rouge-carminé*), in neither of which are the originals ever found; and the paper has a slight bluish tint, which can be easily perceived on looking at the reverse of the stamp. If the reprint be held up to the light and looked at from the back the design will be observed to show but faintly through, whilst the originals, tested in the same manner, exhibit the details of the design with tolerable clearness.

From the Luçon, Dr. Magnus passes to the New Granadine stamps, and on these the result of his observations is, on the whole, reassuring and satisfactory. In view of the number of varieties of shade by which the first two series are characterised, and of the fact that most of these varieties can be obtained at a comparatively low rate, a general suspicion has arisen that they have been reprinted. M. Berger-Levrault gives expression to this doubt in a note appended to his list of the emissions, and from time to time it has been manifested in the pages of the stamp journals. Dr. Magnus, however, is of opinion that none of the values of the first series have been reprinted, and only one of the values of the second, though he does not profess to assert positively that such is the case.

He quotes with approval the following remark, made by Mr. J. P., the reviewer of M. Berger-Levrault's catalogue, in explanation of the occurrence of so many shades:—"These varieties ought not to be attributed to reprinting, but to the bad preparation of the colours, and to the inexperience of the printer. We have seen some copies of the $2\frac{1}{2}$ cent. green (second series) showing three perfectly distinct shades on one and the same row." And this, Dr. Magnus follows up by a statement that in his own collection he has an even greater curiosity, namely, a $2\frac{1}{2}$ cent. stamp, the upper and left sides of which are yellow-bistre, and the lower and right, green. "But," he adds, "if variety of shade is not an indication of reprinting, it does not follow therefrom that no reprints have been made."

The first series he dismisses briefly, with little more than the statement that he has never met with any reprints of it, but he halts at the second to describe one stamp which to him is more than doubtful—a 1 peso, dark purple. This stamp offers all the distinctive characteristics of a reprint—the impression is blurred and defective; the letters of the inscription are thinner than in the orignal; and the paper has a bluish kind of glossy surface (*un œil azuré*). This paper is thicker than that on which the genuine stamps are printed, and if the same test be applied to this as to the Luçon, viz., that of holding the stamp up to the light and looking at it from the back, it will be found that the details of the design are far from being plainly visible; whilst the originals, whether the paper be blue or white, show all the principal parts clearly.

Another test is furnished by the mode of impression, although that is not peculiar to the stamp in question, as Dr. Magnus says all the values may be found printed by the same process, as well as by the ordinary method employed to take copies of lithographed designs. By the process to which we allude, the impression is not taken by ink, but by means of a peculiar varnish or

size, technically known both in French and in English as "mordant," and it is obtained in this way. The size, to take the shortest word, is applied to the stone in, as we presume, the same manner as printing-ink, and on the stone being put under the press the design is reproduced *in size* on the paper, and is then barely visible. After some hours, dry colour in powder is shaken over the paper, and is held by the design, which then stands out in relief. It is then left a couple of days to dry, and at the expiration of that time the superfluous colour—the "upper crust," so to speak,—is brushed away, and the work is finished. To call to our aid a familiar illustration, the process is similar to that of sprinkling sand over a letter, the sand sticks to the ink, and the words appear in a kind of thick relief; the only difference being that as the ink is not tenacious the sand can be shaken off when it dries, whilst the size permanently retains sufficient of the colour to render the design visible in its integrity, and, biting into the paper, presents a level surface. In printing the stamp under consideration, gold or bronze powder was used, though why, we know not; and Dr. Magnus observes that, in many copies, some grains of this powder may be seen glistening on the purple ground. We, for our part, recollect having noticed this peculiarity on several copies of this and other stamps which have passed through our hands, but have never known to what cause to attribute it.

(*To be continued.*)

THE POST-OFFICE AT WORK.

Of all the public departments the post-office has by far the most interest for the general public, in so far as its actual working is concerned. Into the multitudinous blue-books which the other great departments are constantly emitting no one cares to dive, and how their business is carried on very few beyond those actually concerned in the management actually know. To the mind of the ordinary Briton a reference to the war-office, the home-office, or any of their kindred bureaux, conjures up a dim vision of elegant and fashionable young clerks, assiduous readers of the papers, and adepts in the art of "how not to do" any really useful work, but the post-office is an institution with which every Englishman feels himself on familiar terms. He probably knows the clerks, who are but ordinary human beings, and he certainly knows the letter-carrier, the hardest worked functionary in the establishment, around whose prosy person imaginative rhymesters have grouped all sorts of poetic fancies, and so it is natural that John Bull should take an interest in the concern, and should feel a pride in the prosperity which results from the carrying out of a system invented by an English head. The newspapers know John Bull's feeling on the matter perfectly well, and consequently every year the annual report of the postmaster-general is dissected in the columns of all the leading journals, and forms by no means uninteresting reading.

In our last number we gave an extract from the *Echo* on the "National Post-Bag;" this month we draw upon the *Times* for some interesting observations, and we do this without hesitation, although there may be but little in the report bearing directly on stamps, for we consider that as stamps form a portion of the *matériel* necessary for the working of the postal system, that which concerns the system itself cannot be without interest. We believe, moreover, that two distinct lines of study should be pursued with regard to stamps; the first with a view to ascertain accurately everything relating to them as stamps, *i.e.*, everything appertaining to their design, the manner in which they are printed, the paper, watermark, and perforation, so that they may be properly classified; the second, for the purpose of discovering the part which stamps play in relation to the system—in other words, what is their exact use, and why they are so used? and to make clear these points some attention must be given to the leading features of the postal system in every country. Careful attention to the manner in which the post-offices are worked, to the principles, liberal or otherwise, which guide the administration, will explain many apparent anomalies, and the employment of special values.

This is a subject which will bear thinking

over, and we trust our readers will meet with favour the theory we venture to broach.

And now to the report. The first fact to be noted is the progressive prosperity of our post-office. Every year it becomes more profitable, in spite of the cheapening of the facilities for correspondence and for forwarding packages, or rather in consequence of them. Eight hundred million letters, and upwards of a hundred million book-packets, newspapers, and parcels, were delivered during the year, and £4,500,000 has been paid into the post-office treasury.

Although no great measure has marked the past year, the postmaster and his subordinates have been on the alert to satisfy their great customer, the public. The country mails are sent away earlier from London, and the letters from France are delivered earlier in London. The city letter-boxes are now emptied every half-hour during the four busiest hours of the day, and sixty additional pillars and receiving offices have been established.

Turning to the provinces, Manchester has been divided into eight postal districts, provided with sorting offices like the metropolis. The people who live by herrings in the far north get their letters quicker owing to the opening of a railway, and the inhabitants of Orkney are now blest with a daily mail all the year round.

Abroad the general post-office has not been idle. It has arranged for the establishment of a system of international money-orders between this country and Switzerland, doubled the limit of weight for letters to Greece, extended the book and pattern post to China and Japan, and reduced the postage of newspapers and printed matter between this and all the countries in Europe with which we have a book and pattern post

Besides this there have been a number of contracts made with mail-packet companies for the performance of the postal service between "here, there, and everywhere," and the money-order system has been extended to the Falkland Islands, St. Helena, Natal, Hong Kong, Shanghai, and Yokohama.

Not a bad year's work, will, we think, be the verdict of those who read this rapid summary, and we agree with them.

There is only one little retrograde step noticed in the report, and that is the raising of the postage to India and Ceylon by 3d. per ½ oz., making the rate 9d. instead of 6d., *viâ* Southampton, and 13d. instead of 10d., *viâ* Marseilles. This had been talked of for some time past. We remember a long time back noticing in these pages that such an increase was intended, and its necessity must, we suppose, be admitted, when we learn that "even at these enhanced rates postal communication is maintained only at a heavy cost to the imperial and Indian governments."

This change in rate should give occasion for the emission of three new stamps, a six anna, and "an eight anna and eight pice" for India, and a thirteenpenny for Ceylon. This latter value would also be required on this side to pay the Marseilles rate.

With regard to the reduction of the rate of postage on newspapers, the postmaster-general says it will be his duty carefully to consider the question before the next meeting of parliament, when we hope the desired reform will be granted.

THE AMERICAN "CARRIERS'" STAMPS.

Of what are termed the "carriers' stamps," that is, stamps used for prepaying city letters delivered by carriers, there are, we believe, three separate types, viz. :—

1. Man on horseback; inscription, GOVERNMENT, in curved line above; CITY DESPATCH, below. Small oblong: col. imp. 1 cent. black, red.

2. Eagle at bay, in transverse oval frame, partially enclosed by a wreath; inscription, U. S. P. O. DESPATCH, above; PREPAID and value, below. Small oblong rect.: col. imp. 1 cent blue.

3. Head of Franklin; inscription, CARRIERS' STAMP. No value. Col. imp. Red-brown.

There is also a fourth stamp, inscribed CARRIERS' DESPATCH, but this, we believe, has never been considered to be other than an unmitigated local.

The first two of the above-mentioned three stamps are well known, the "Government

Despatch" especially, and they have been generally supposed to be state emissions. The third stamp is of great rarity; Moens includes it in his new catalogue, but Berger-Levrault makes no mention of it, and we ourselves can never recollect having seen a copy.

Doubts having been started by collectors in the United States as to the authenticity of Nos. 1 and 2, Dr. Yarrow, a correspondent of *The American Journal of Philately*, forwarded specimens of these stamps to Mr. Corell, one of the superior officers of the post-office department at Washington, with a request to be informed as to their origin, and this gentleman's reply, which appears in the current number of the *A. J. P.*, is as follows:—

Post-Office Department, Finance Office,
July 30th, 1869.

Sir,—Your communication of the 20th inst. is received. The blue stamp, "Eagle," was used for prepaying city letters delivered by carriers. It was issued about November 17th, 1851, and was withdrawn January 27th, 1852. It was very little used, except in Philadelphia, Pa., and Cincinnati, Ohio.

The records of the Department do not contain any reference to the other stamp, "Post-rider." It is supposed to have been issued by one of the numerous "city dispatch" companies located in New York. The specimens are herewith returned.

Very respectfully,
W. H. H. Corell,
Third Ast. P. M. General.

H. C. Yarrow, Esq.,
New York.

The official character of the Eagle stamp is thus definitely established, and the real value of the "Government Despatch" label is scarcely less clearly demonstrated.

To obtain information respecting the third stamp (head of Franklin), Dr. Yarrow addressed himself to another of the post-office staff, Mr. Ireland, whose reply also is published in *The American Journal of Philately*. The following is a copy:—

Post-Office Department, Washington,
August 10th, 1869.

My Dear Sir,—Yours referring to "carriers' stamp" has come to hand. The following is as near a description of it as can be made:—Head of Franklin, looking to left; frame oval, geometrical lathe work; ornamental multi-rayed stars at corners. The word "Carriers" in straight line at top of stamp; the word "Stamp" in straight line at lower margin. A five-pointed star at each end of the words, in brackets. Colour, *orange-brown*. Typographed in colours on white paper. Shape, upright rectangular. Proofs were issued printed in blue on pink paper; also in green and yellow. It was issued about Sept. 29, 1851, but was suppressed almost immediately, owing to its great similarity to the then three-cent stamp. Only about 300,000 were ever issued. There is but one specimen, a cancelled one, now in possession of the Department. I regret there are none, else you should be supplied. The plate was, according to our best information, destroyed after the stamps were suppressed.

Since the change in administration, nothing has been done in relation to the new envelope stamp. Several designs and dies were made and submitted, but not accepted by the Department; and I really think that no change will be made, at least for the present.

I am glad to be able to assist you in any way in this matter, although the stock of materials here to draw from is not very complete. It has always surprised me that the Department has never kept any official history of its stamps. Are there any of the regular issues of our stamps wanting in your collection? We have a few on hand, and perhaps I can supply you with any which are wanting.

Truly yours,
W. M. Ireland.

The contemporary from whom we have been borrowing says, by way of comment on this letter,—

It will be seen by the communications of the two gentlemen that the only carriers' stamps used in this country was *(sic)* 1 c. brown, head Franklin, issued about 29th September, 1851; and that, on account of its great likeness to the 3 c. stamp then in use, it was superseded, on the 27th January, 1852, by the 1 c. oblong eagle. But there is one thing we do not understand. Mr. Ireland says it was printed *orange brown*. Now, we have only been able to see four of these stamps, two of which were blue on pink paper, and *both were cancelled*, we think, by a number of square dots similar to the stamps of the French Republic. We took both of these from letters ourselves. Another was printed in orange on India paper, and was obtained by the owner direct from the P. O. Department at Washington. The remaining one now lies before us, and is printed in brown of the shade described in the letter, on similar paper to the 1851 issue U.S. stamps; it is uncancelled. The plate from which this one is printed appears to be cracked, the imperfection extending across the stamp on a line with the chin of Franklin.

These details will be read by collectors on this side of the water with interest, the stamp they refer to being almost entirely unknown here. With regard to the colour we may note that Moens gives it as red-brown.

Our contemporary, the *A. J. P.*, it will be seen, in summing up the information as to the two carriers' stamps, makes a mistake as to the dates of issue. The letters it publishes show that the Franklin stamp was issued on the 29th September, 1851, and the Eagle stamp about the 17th November of the same year, when, no doubt, its predecessor was withdrawn. The latter was

itself suppressed on the 27th January, 1852. Neither had more than a few weeks currency; but whilst the plate, and probably the surplus stock, of the first was destroyed. the plate at any rate of the second was preserved, and must have been extensively reprinted from, to judge from the number of copies which have been put in circulation among collectors of late years.

POSTAGE-STAMP EMBLEMS.—II.

Arms of Spain.

[Note.—Before commencing the description of the arms of a second country, we deem it well to remedy an accidental omission in our first paper by stating what are the colours used in heraldry. The metals are, *or*, gold, and *argent*, silver; and the five ordinary colours, blue, red, green, black, and purple, are termed *azure*, *gules*, *vert*, *sable*, and *purpure*, respectively. There are two other colours which are but rarely found in British heraldry, they are *sanguine*, a blood-red, and *tawny*, orange.]

Our last sketch was devoted to Rome; our present shall relate to the arms of the country that, hardly more than a twelvemonth back, was the home of the church's favourite daughter, the recipient of the golden rose—emblem of faithfulness to the mother church.

There are two Spanish coats of arms, one much larger than the other. The smaller consists of a shield divided quarterly, the base, or lower portion, being scalloped out as figured on the official stamps. In the centre of the shield is a small oval charged with three golden lilies on an *azure* field; the reigning house being a branch of the Bourbon family. The first and fourth quarters of the primary shield contain a castle *or*, with windows *azure*, on a red ground—for Castile. In the second and third quarters are the arms of Leon, on a field *azure*, a lion rampant *gules* crowned *or*. The point at the base before named holds a red pomegranate, with green leaves—for Granada.

Encircling the escutcheon is the order of the Golden Fleece, which consists of gold and blue sparkling stones emitting roseate rays, and having pendant to it a golden lamb. This order, since the suppression of that of the Holy Ghost, is second only to the Garter. It was instituted in 1429 by the grand-duke Philip the Good, of Burgundy, at his marriage with Isabella of Portugal; and as Philip's successor, Charles the Bold, died in 1437, without male heirs, the power of conferring the order fell into the hands of his daughter's husband, the emperor Maximilian I. From that time various disputes occurred with different royal houses as to the right of granting this distinction, when it was settled in Vienna, in 1725, that it should be conferred by Spain and Austria only.

The grand arms of Spain, since 1780, have been emblazoned in an oval shield, of which the previously described arms form a centre.

They are arranged in the following order, beginning with the top compartments, and counting from left to right:—

TOP.

1. On a field *or*, four red perpendicular bars; termed paly of four *or* and *gules*—for Arragon.

2. In the chief and base, paly of four *gules* and *or;* on right and left divisions, a black eagle on silver field—for Sicily.

3. Upon a field *gules*, a chevron *argent*—for Austria. (A chevron, an old writer pertinently says, "represents two rafters of a house well jointed together, or a pair of compasses half open.")

4. Golden lilies on a blue field, within a *bordure* of red and silver—for New Burgundy.

CENTRE.

5. On a field *or*, six lilies *azure*—for Parma.

6. This division is devoted to the bearings of the Tuscan house of Medici; the ground is of gold, upon which are six balls, or bezants; the largest is above, and is blue charged with three golden lilies; the remaining five are red.

§ Between Nos. 5 and 6 are placed the smaller arms first described.

BOTTOM.

7. Within a *bordure gules*, six bendlets sinister *or* and *azure*—for Old Burgundy. Bendlets are bars running from the upper left hand corner to the lower opposite corner of the shield. A bend sinister is exactly the reverse of this.

8. The next division, with the arms of

Flanders, has a black lion on a golden ground.

9. A silver field, charged with a red eagle with golden beak and claws. This bird holds in its beak a gold clover plant—for Tyrol.

10. Upon a field *sable*, a lion *or*—for Brabant.

The Spanish arms are without supporters, but they are sometimes placed between two silver pillars. The motto is "*Plus ultra*."

Of the two coats of arms the smaller one may be said to belong to the nation, including as it does the emblems indicating only the principal provinces of the realm and the immediate descent of the rulers; whilst the other appertains more personally to the sovereign, representing as it does the possessions of the Hapsburg-Bourbon house and its numerous branches. The latter speaks of the long past, of the days when Charles the Fifth was governor of half western Europe; the other indicates the Spain of to-day, or, should we not rather say, of yesterday, seeing that the lilies are no longer the arms of a reigning sovereign? With the latter, the one which appears on the official stamps, and on the regular series of 1854, collectors have most to do, and we trust the details above given may enhance the interest with which these stamps ars regarded.

A Professor at Fault.—We have received the following communication, which explains itself:—"In your article of last month about Guatemala, you say, 'M. Moens jocularly observes, that the word *timbre* does not exist in the Spanish language.' Allow me, however, to say, that if M. Moens, or the celebrated Spanish professor whom he consulted, were to look at the Spanish dictionary, he would find the word *timbre* mentioned therein, though not applied to postage stamps, but meaning the crest on the coat of arms.—Yours, &c., Victor G. de Ysasi."

The Circular Delivery Company.—During the past Trinity Term the case granted by the police magistrate, who convicted the secretary of this company for infringing the rights of the post-office, came on for argument before the full court of queen's bench sitting in banco. The point raised was that the company was incorporated, that it only delivered the circulars of its own shareholders, and that, therefore, it was protected by the permission expressly accorded by law to private persons to send their letters by their own servants. The judges, however, held that the society was acting illegally, and that in effect it defrauded the post-office, observing that any number of persons might become members upon a small payment, and defeat the intentions of the law. Judgment was given in this action for the post-office, and we may anticipate that after this decision the company will be dissolved.

NEWLY-ISSUED OR INEDITED STAMPS.

We have this month to introduce to our readers' notice a pair of novelties, which we think will be cordially welcomed. With the subjoined engraving before their eyes, it is hardly necessary to say that they hail from

Nicaragua.—All the world-philatelic will recognise at a glance the design which has been the subject of general admiration for the last six years. So long a time has elapsed since its first appearance, without any signs being manifested of an intention to add to the number of values, that it had become almost an understood thing that the two originals would always remain the sole representatives of the type.



To what change in the political state of the republic we owe the appearance of two new values we are ignorant. It would seem, however, that from the first it had been intended to issue other denominations, a correspondent of M. Moens, at San Juan, having informed him to that effect in a letter, dated April, 1863, which was published in the first volume of *Le Timbre-Poste*, but the deed has lagged far behind the intention.

The two new values are 10 and 25 centavos. The central design is exactly the same as that of the original pair, the framework alone differs. Our readers will see from our engraving what are the variations in the 10 c.; its companion has the corner numerals within a kind of lozenge, and the inscriptions are not on labels.

The colour of the 10 c. is a rather light vermilion, differing considerably in shade from the Salvador 1 rl. and the Costa Rica 2 rls. The 25 c. is printed greenish blue, a most ineffective colour, approaching very nearly to that dull, faded hue which a stamp originally mauve or lilac acquires after long exposure to the sun. With the choice of so many other tints, it is to be regretted that this of all others should have been adopted, and we trust it may soon be changed for a better.

Altogether the new values hardly come up to their predecessors in appearance, and we think the deficiency is in a great measure to be ascribed to the kind of paper on which they are printed. Instead of employing a stout toned paper, such as that used for the first stamps, and also for the Nova Scotia, Salvador, and other stamps prepared by the same company, a thin pure white has been chosen, which is by no means well suited to show up the design.

Bergedorf.—The annexed design is that of a type which the Bergedorf postal authorities had lithographed with intention therewith to supersede the stamps in circulation, but the war prevented the emission. The dangerous prevalence of forgeries, was, according to M. Moens, the reason for the change.



Our Belgian authority mentions having seen a set of proofs of the Bergedorf stamps struck in black ink from the original stone itself on which they were drawn. They are all printed on one sheet, whence may be learnt the order in which the stamps were lithographed. On the first line are the 4 and 1½ schg. On the second, the 3 and 1 schg., and below these the ½ schg. The essay above figured is also found on the same sheet beneath the stamps proper, and is, like them, printed in black on white.

M. Moens, at first suspicious of them, finds nothing wherewith to reproach them after careful examination. He notices, however, that the 1½ sch. is inscribed on the left SCHILLINGE, instead of *schilling*, and states that the error was corrected in the transfer or *report* by the suppression of the *e*, but some copies with the fault were put in circulation.

Canada.—The following is from *The American Journal of Philately:* "Canada is shortly to have a new set of stamps. Taking lessons in economy from our own country, it seems they are about altering their stamps to make them smaller, so as to save paper. The head will still remain exactly the same as now, but the frame and margin around the head will be considerably less. We cannot see how this can be done without spoiling the beauty of the stamp. As to whether they are to retain the same colour we are unable to say." We trust this intelligence is incorrect; that the example of the new United States stamps can have any attractive influence on the Canadian authorities is hardly possible.

Bavaria.—We give the annexed illustration of the type of a series of so-called local stamps under all reserves. They are introduced to our notice with the usual story that they are the emissions of a company which carries letters and packages between two neighbouring towns, the towns in question being this time Kissingen and Schweinfürt; but apart from the suspicion with which such stamps should on general grounds be viewed, there is one particular circumstance which, in our opinion, tells very much against them, which is that they are all struck separately from the original die. The copies before us show a margin almost as wide as that of the first Shanghais, and it is idle to suppose that if a sheet were set up a space of nearly three-quarters of an inch would be left between each stamp. No genuine letter-carrying company would be content to have its stamps printed separately, and if it did the public would not be likely to give it the preference over the state post-office, in view of the trouble which they would have in using them. To us the existence of the company at all seems very questionable, but if it does exist, its business must be confined to the conveyance of parcels; and, accepting this hypothesis, it seems strange that a firm of carriers should make use of such finely-executed labels merely to stick on the packages. The company styles itself on the stamps THE PRIVILEGED EXPRESS, but there is not a word to indicate that it undertakes or is permitted to carry letters, nor is it likely that the post-office would sanction the infringement of its monopoly by any private persons. It is possible enough that some such fraud has been perpetrated as took place in connection with



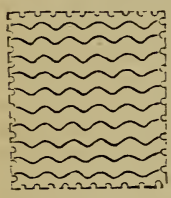
the Bancroft stamps; some dishonest speculator has used the company's title without permission, in order to foist these labels on collectors as of its emission. M. Moens, from whose journal we obtain the statement on which we have commented, and who gives it without reservation, has no doubt been deceived in the matter, and time will, we believe, prove the correctness of our suspicions.

For the guidance of collectors we have only to mention that of the above design there are (up to the present time) but three values and four colours in existence, viz.:—

1 (kreuzer) green.
2 „ carmine-rose and red-brown.
3 „ bright blue.

The impression is in relief, colour on white, and the copies we have seen are gummed.

North German Confederation.—According to M. Moens, the 1 and 2 sgr. have lately appeared with a watermark, which our engraving, a copy of his own, inadequately represents. That it is not more accurate is due to the fact that his engravers could not see it to advantage, and M. Moens himself admits that it is hardly visible, and that he has heard doubts expressed as to its presence. By way of confirmation he says that he finds the same watermark, which appears to him to be rather a kind of network than a series of undulating lines, on all the new telegraph stamps. We for our part have not had the opportunity of examining any recent copies of the two postage stamps he mentions, but we have made a most careful inspection of their telegraphic brethren, and must confess we find on them no trace of the alleged watermark. Should our readers be more successful than ourselves, we will thank them to send us any stamps on which they may discern it, and we shall then be happy to recognise its existence; meanwhile we can but consider our Belgian friend's eyesight as for once in fault.



Sarawak.—In the September number of *The Philatelist* we find the following remarks respecting the sole value in use in the Rajah's dominions, which we extract for the benefit of the sceptical:—

"In the month of September, 1868, we first presented the cut of a stamp which, although duly certified to ourselves on undoubted authority, has ever since been ignored, and scarcely even deemed worthy of a sentence of condemnation, so determined appeared every philatelic amateur to pooh-pooh it.

"With the stamp in question bodily present, and regularly postmarked on a letter, side by side with a 24 cents of the Straits Settlements, all doubt and derision are once for all at an end. A private letter from Sarawak states that the single adhesive issued is current there only, thus being strictly local. A copy of the government regulations respecting these latest novelties is appended, by which it will be seen that the individuals are used indiscriminately as postals or fiscals.

GOVERNMENT NOTIFICATION.

On and after the 1st of March, 1869, the following rules will come into force:—

POSTAGE.

On all letters not exceeding half an ounce	..	1 stamp.
For every half-ounce in excess, up to four ozs.		1 „
On all Receipts or Paid Bills over 5 dols.	..	1 „
On all Bills of Sale, &c., to become legal	..	1 „
On all Agreements to become legal	..	1 „
On all Bills of Lading or Mate's Receipts	..	1 „

By order,
W. M. Crocker,
Secretary.

Sarawak,
Jan. 12th, 1869."

Victoria.—The threepenny stamp has just changed its colour from lilac to orange—the hue of the eightpenny, which latter value is to be discontinued.

POSTAGE-STAMP PORTRAITS.—Nos. IX. and X.

THE TWO PRINCES OF SERVIA.

The moment of the withdrawal of the series of Servian stamps bearing the portrait of the assassinated prince Michel Obrenovitch, to give place to the new emission with the effigy of his son, seems to us opportune for the insertion of a short sketch of the lives of the two princes, published in the *Queen* newspaper at the time of the accession of the latter. The biography of the father being connected with the events which led to the liberation of his country, it is necessary

that they should be briefly stated by way of preface.

We take up the narrative then in 1804, in which year an adventurer, named George the Black, placed himself at the head of a band of partisans, gained numerous victories over the Turks, seized on Belgrade, and succeeded in 1806 in getting himself recognised as Prince of Servia. His triumph was short, and he ended by being decapitated. In 1816 a Servian shepherd, named Milosch Obrenovitch, a former companion-in-arms of George the Black, recommenced the struggle. The Turkish government was not able to subdue him, and the treaty of Adrianople in 1829 recognised the independence of Servia, under the suzerainty of the Porte, to which it pays an annual tribute of £23,000.

Michel, the late prince, and the second son of this Prince Milosch, was born Sept. 4, 1828. He, with his elder brother Milan, was educated first by a Russian professor, and afterwards by M. Ranos, a young Greek from Trieste. He early acquired a thorough knowledge of both the French and German languages. When Michel was ten years of age he was about to quit his native country, and, accompanied by his brother, to travel in Europe; but as they were starting their plans were suddenly frustrated by the revolution which broke out, and through which Milosch (who had alienated the love of his people by reason of his despotism and excestive covetousness) was compelled to abdicate. His eldest son Milan was called to succeed him, but his reign only lasted a very brief space, for he died on the 8th of July, 1839, just three weeks after his accession.

Prince Michel, who had followed his father into exile, was recalled, and proclaimed according to the terms of the hatti-sheriff of 1838. He proceeded to Constantinople, where he was invested by the new Sultan, Abdul-Medjid, who in January, 1840, conferred upon him the title and decoration of Muchir; and on his return to Servia the following March he took the oath of fidelity to the constitution. During his absence the country had been governed by his uncle, and by the chiefs of the opposition under Milosch; and these continued to exercise a sort of supervision over the conduct of the prince and state, their power being sanctioned by the Porte. The young prince's situation soon became insupportable; his mother, naturally desirous that her husband should be restored to power, complicated matters; but after intrigues of various sorts the young prince succeeded in banishing the chiefs of the opposition party, who retired to Constantinople.

After their departure Prince Michel put into operation several administrative reforms, but he failed to conciliate his people. He managed awkwardly; he was constantly stepping on the national toes, and his fiscal measures ended in rendering his government completely unpopular. In 1841 the Porte demanded and obtained the recall of the exiles; then a double revolution agitated the country, resulting in that most disastrous of all consequences—civil war. One campaign lasted seven days; the prince was defeated, and retired to Austria; the chiefs of the opposition entered the capital, and formed a triumvirate, which was recognised by the commissioner of the Porte. The prince protested against the national decision; he waited in vain for the intercession of the Powers, and then quitted Semlin, where his presence was a source of uneasiness to the new government at Belgrade. He proceeded to Vienna to visit his father, and then went to Berlin, accompanied by Vuk Stefanovitch, a renowned Servian philosopher and writer, and, while apparently occupying himself exclusively with study, his agents were stirring up rebellion in Servia.

From Berlin he journeyed to London and Paris, attentively studying the people, character, and constitution of each country, and most carefully concealing the while his projects of restoration. These projects were not realised for sixteen years; it was not until the revolution of 1858 that Prince Michel was again recalled to Servia to take the government once more into his hands. Since that period he has introduced the reforms he before attempted, and this last time with marked success, for experience had taught him prudence, and in doing so he carefully avoided wounding the susceptibilities of his subjects. In 1853 he had married Countess Julia Huniady, a Hun-

garian lady of high birth, but some years since he repudiated her on the same grounds that Napoleon repudiated Josephine. This unhappy woman, on hearing of her husband's sad fate, left Paris, where she had lived up to that period in retirement, and was among the saddest mourners over the murdered corpse.

The assassination of Prince Michel was the work of the pro-Russian party in Servia, to whom he had given great offence, especially as he owed much of his position to Russian influence. Since the withdrawal of the Turkish flag from Belgrade and other forts in the principality, the late prince showed a disposition to abstain from the intrigues that are being so actively promoted along the Danube. This policy proved fatal to him, and the infamous deed which was recently perpetrated was the result.

Servia is a rich country, and if the inhabitants devoted themselves to develop the internal resources of it, their prosperity would soon become considerable. The Government is a constitutional monarchy. Every citizen paying taxes is an elector, and is eligible to sit as deputy. There is no nobility in the country, or, as the people say, every Servian is noble. The land is very much subdivided, and the nation is composed almost exclusively of small landowners, living on their farms, half peasant and half soldier, and very proud of their independence.

The sovereignty is now hereditary in the Obrenovitch family. A law passed by the Skuptchina in 1861 gave to the Prince, in default of a direct heir, the right of appointing his successor. Prince Michel exercised that prerogative in favour of his nephew, aged 13. This young prince has been educated in Paris, his late uncle having taken him there some years ago and confided him to the care of M. Huet, a man of great worth and uprightness of character, and with grave, austere manners. Under this desirable professor the boy has made rapid progress; he is gifted with rare intelligence, and, according to report, is full of promise for the future. Up to the date of his departure from the French capital he was an out-door pupil at the college of Louis le Grand. He will have need of firmness and courage, for he is called upon to govern a people full of energy and industry, but, like all who have thirsted long for independence, are for a time after acquiring it inconstant and excitable; the future, therefore, that awaits this young Prince is by no means certain.

When the youth first heard the news of his uncle's assassination he was playing in the garden that adjoins his house in Paris, and was surrounded by his schoolfellows. He immediately uttered a cry of indignation, and the words "Je le vengerai." But vengeance, reprehensible enough among private individuals, is still worse in a prince, for the greater the power the more moderation should there be in the exercise of it. M. Huet, who has followed his pupil to Servia, will point out afresh that law does not take vengeance—it judges and condemns, and then punishes.

To the above we may add the following details respecting the young prince, given in *Le Timbrophile*, by one who knew him personally:—"Milano is the grandson of Milosch Obrenovitch, the founder of Servian independence. From 1865 to 1868, one might often see this child of ten to fourteen years playing with a dozen other boys in the garden of the Luxembourg, at Paris. When the Servian stamps appeared for the first time (1866), he received them before any one else in Paris, and distributed them to his young comrades.

"Some days ago, we showed to several of his old friends and fellow-scholars the new series of stamps with the effigy of Milano. They all cried 'Tiens, c'est *Pot-Cassé!*' it was the *sobriquet* under which he was known at the Luxembourg. If the engraving of the stamp is bad, the resemblance at least is pretty good."

OUR CONTEMPORARIES.

September 20, 1869.

Commencing at random with the paper which comes uppermost on our file, let us take for notice

The American Stamp Mercury (we drop its additional title as that does not concern us).

The number opens with a short article on "Timbrophily in the United States," in which the author claims that his country now stands ahead of all others "in point of activity in stamp-collecting." We think the writer is a little in advance of the time in this assertion, but we should certainly be the last to regret its substantiation, were it possible. We trust that philately has a worthy future to look forward to in America. The great improvement which has taken place in the editing of the stamp-journals, and the interesting articles which are now commencing to appear, is proof of the advances which the pursuit has made. We only regret that the magazine under notice should have found the necessity of opening its pages to the study of coins as well as stamps. In the current number the space is equally divided between the two subjects, but we find nothing suitable for notice among the remaining stamp articles.

The American Journal of Philately.—The most interesting paper in the number before us is that on Carriers' Stamps, the information on which we have utilised in the present number under a separate heading. "A plea for 'Revenue Stamp' collecting" reads rather like a fine satire on the pursuit it affects to advocate, than an argument in favour of it. After recommending the collection of the United States revenue stamps proper, representing the tax on drafts, cheques, bills of exchange, &c., the writer goes on to suggest the accumulation of match stamps, which, according to him, are really works of art. He then says:—

> Should you imagine you have exhausted the "match" line of work, commence with "playing card stamps;" follow then by "shoe stamps," they in turn to give place to private proprietary stamps, whose number is legion, and whose designs are, for the most part, beautiful and appropriate, many of them bearing upon their faces an excellent steel engraving portrait of the fortunate inventor of some celebrated empirical remedy, like "Hembold's Buchu," or "Schenck's Sea Weed Tonic." Should you become weary of these stamps (for you can never hope to have all of them), turn your attention to the cigar and tobacco stamps. It is no exaggeration to say these are the most beautiful of any stamps ever printed. * * * We now come to "Beer Stamps"—large convoluted circular ones, placed over the bung-holes of barrels containing the celebrated Teutonic beverage. We may also collect the large oblong stamps placed on barrels of spirits: there are a number of varieties of these, and being well designed, are quite pretty. Should my collecting friends succeed in obtaining all these different varieties for their own country, let them turn their attention abroad.

If they wait until then they will not, we fear, commence the study of foreign revenue stamps until a late period in life, and can have no hope of ever obtaining a collection to rival in diversity of contents that of their home labels. Seriously, it would seem almost impossible that anyone would follow the advice given by this writer. As far as we are concerned, we should only care to collect the "bung" stamps *on* the barrels to which they appertain, and as our *penchant* for their contents is far from strong, we fear that under such conditions a collection of three or four specimens would represent the labour of our lifetime.

Under the heading "The Memphis Envelope," the following letter from the Memphis postmaster is quoted respecting the *adhesive*. The testimony he gives adds little to what was previously known respecting the stamp, but coming from such a source is worthy of being put on record:—

> Memphis, July 17th, 1869.
>
> Dear Sir,—In reply to your note of the 12th inst., I would say that the stamps you enclosed me [the well-known Memphis 5 c. oval red and the M. C. Gallaway 2 c. blue] were got up by me here in Memphis. When Tennessee passed the ordinance of secession, the old government stamps were worthless, and as I found it impossible to get along without stamps, I asked and procured the consent of the government at Richmond to get up temporary stamps until the Postmaster General could furnish me with regular stamps. Those you enclosed me were in use for several months, and were the only ones used. A stamp was shortly afterwards manufactured at Richmond, after which those I issued were taken in and destroyed. Respectfully yours,
>
> M. C. Gallaway.

Following this is a short article on *The Cashmere Stamp*, which is copied verbatim from these pages, but no acknowledgement of the fact is made. We are willing to believe the omission was unintentional.

Mason's Coin and Stamp Collector's Magazine, this month, contains nothing worthy of special notice. The paper on "Philatelism as a Fine Art" is continued, but the new instalment shows no improvement, the information given is elementary, and therefore to all but very young collectors uninteresting.

The Philatelist..—The leading article in the current number is from the pen of Mr. Pemberton, and relates "The History of the Discovery of the Sydney Embossed Stamp."

It was written before the paper on the same subject was read by the President of the Philatelic Society, and goes over the same ground, but with the addition of some secondary details. Altogether it is well worth reading.

After this comes the continuation of a paper on "Philatelic Literature," by Mr. Dudley Atlee, in the course of which some very *apropos* remarks are made as to the advance which has been made in the style of philatelic publications in general; and then follows a short but interesting article on the St. Louis stamps, which we keep over for consideration in detail next month.

Whilst referring to our Brighton contemporary, we deem it but right to withdraw to a certain extent the opinion which we somewhat hastily wrote on the August number. We ought certainly not to have omitted to signalise as among its contents a valuable paper by Mr. Pemberton on the New South Wales stamps, and also some interesting notes by the editor on Parisian stamp albums which he recently examined. One of the stamps he mentions having seen deserves to have light thrown on its history. The following are the terms in which it is referred to:—

> In a third collection, the owner of which boasts of possessing about a hundred proofs, essays, varieties, &c., which cannot be found in any other, we noticed a stamp for Mexico, of which three specimens only are known to exist; one of them in the possession of the Princess Clotilde, wife of the Prince Napoleon, and the other in that of the King of Portugal. It is lozenge-shaped, green impression; pictorial representation in central oblong frame, topped by the word, MEXIQUE; 7 REALES below, and the same value abbreviated right and left.

Cannot the editor of *The Philatelist* inform us under what circumstances this design was engraved, and how it happens, if it be a *stamp* and not an essay, that but three copies are known to exist?

Le Timbre-Poste.—The current number is made up solely of the chronicle of new stamps, and a further instalment of Dr Magnus' article on envelopes.

Le Timbrophile we must also pass by virtually in silence. The continuation of Dr. Magnus' article on "Lithographic Reprints," constitutes the principal feature, and our observations upon it will be found under a separate heading.

REVIEWS OF POSTAL PUBLICATIONS.

Catalogue Prix-Courant de timbres-poste, essais divers, timbres-télégraphe, timbres fiscaux, timbres de chemins de fer, &c. Deuxième édition. Brussels: J. B. Moens.

THE well-known accuracy of the author of this work, coupled with his profound knowledge of stamps and all that appertains to them, is the best guarantee of the value of the above work, which is far more than a mere price-catalogue. Any collector who wishes to possess a complete list of the stamps of any particular country or countries, in all their varieties of colour, paper, perforation, and watermark, cannot do better than obtain a copy of this book. It is the catalogue of one of the best known and most honourable of stamp merchants, who enjoys, from the extent of his business relations, unusual facilities for the accumulation of data concerning the history of the emission of all countries, and for the verification of colours and shades by comparison with a large number of specimens. This work, which it would be useless to attempt to review in detail, is given to the subscribers to *Le Timbre-Poste*, and is sold to non-subscribers at a shilling—a price which, in view of the fact that it contains a hundred pages of closely printed matter, will not be pronounced extravagant.

POSTAL CHIT-CHAT.

THE POST-OFFICE AT CENTERVILLE, INDIANA, is in charge of a lady, who is complimented by the local journal as "obliging and gentlemanly!"

A NEW POSTMARK.—The E.C. post-office of the metropolitan district have adopted a double cancelling mark, large enough to obliterate two labels at once. This is, however, used when the letter is franked with but one label. The idea is no doubt a good one, though there are stamps to which seven broad bars would be a disfigurement; for our own penny label it does not signify.

A LETTER was received at the New York post-office, having the following directions:—

JORDAN, Minn., July 14, 1868.

Uncle Samuel,—Dear Sir:
Like a weaver's shuttle to the East let me flee;
To the State of New Jersey, down by the sea;
When at Millville I stop, pray give me a toss
To John Heathcote the fiddler, and weaving-room boss.

OUR WEST INDIAN ISLANDS.—Our Belgian contemporary mentions, but under reserve, a report that the Virgin Islands, Barbados, Grenada, St. Vincent, Tobago, St. Lucia, Antigua, Montserrat, St. Kitt's, Nevis, and

Dominique, are to be placed under one sole administration, and that in consequence the different stamps in use will be superseded by one uniform type. Have our readers heard anything of this rumour?

Newspaper Stamps.—It is rumoured that important changes will be made next session in reference to the stamps of newspapers and their transmission through the medium of the post-office. The stamp, whether impressed or affixed, will be reduced from one penny to a halfpenny, and the latter sum will suffice for any weight. A newspaper, suppose, with a double supplement, the stamp on which now costs three-halfpence, will then be carried for a single halfpenny. The stamps may be either impressed or adhesive, and the latter will be obtainable at all places where newspapers are sold. The stamp, however, will be obliterated on the transmission of any newspaper once through the post-office. At present, for the penny stamp, a newspaper may be transmitted several times through the post-office within fifteen days of the day of publication. Next year a stamp will be required for each separate despatch through the post. It is expected that this change will partly compensate for the loss of revenue caused by the reduction of the charge. The existing rule which prohibits the delivery of newspapers bearing an impressed stamp within the limits of the town in which it is published will be abrogated.

French Postmarks.—Most collectors are aware that the French colonial stamps are postmarked with a letter or letters indicating the name of the colony—for example, MQ. for Martinique, but it will be news to many that the application of this plan has been commenced in France. We have received a letter from Marseilles, the stamps on which are postmarked with dots, and in the centre of the square they form appear the letters ML., followed by 2° thus: ML. 2° The figure, we presume, refers to the district of the city, as we have had letters from other parts of the city which bear the usual obliteration, consisting simply of a number, one of a progressive series, whereby, as in this country, all the towns are designated. From San Michel we have an obliteration similar to that above described, M·CM., within a lozenge of dots. San Michel is the first town on the French side of Mont Cenis. Why these letters have been used, instead of S.M., we know not; it may, however, be that the first two (M.C.) signify Mont Cenis. Some time since one of our correspondents noticed the fact that the French stamps which pass through the branch post-office in Japan, are postmarked with an anchor. He stated that the Imperial stamps were used there, and we have ourselves seen specimens thus marked; but we have also in our possession a French colonial similarly marked, though with a more roughly-formed anchor. Whence it came we know not, but its existence proves either that the colonials are in use in Japan, or that the anchor mark is of more general use than was supposed.

Prussian Telegraph Stamps.—An esteemed correspondent, Mr. Max Joseph, sends us a specimen of one of the new telegraph stamps, and expresses his surprise that no notice had been taken in these pages of their appearance. We must, however, remind him that we keep strictly in view the object with which this magazine was started, viz., that of giving assistance to the collectors of *postage stamps*, and we consider it would be contrary to our purpose to give prominence to the emissions of other classes of stamps. As intelligence of subordinate interest to philatelists, information as to telegraph or other stamps is in its proper place in our "Chit-chat" column, and here we will now proceed to give a brief description of the Prussian novelties. The type of the new series is very like that of the current postage stamps, the value appears in the centre of a circle, on a kind of radiated ground, and on the inner edge of the circle is the inscription NORDDEUTSCHE BUNDES-TELEGRAPHIE; the word GROSCHEN in full occupies the lower margin, and an emblematic arrow appears in each of the four angles. All the values are printed in one colour, blue, and are as follows:—½, 1½, 2½, 4, 5, 8, 10, and 30 gr. The figure of value is printed in black ink, being surcharged on the stamp after the impression. In connection with the employment of these stamps, a very liberal rule will be put in force. If senders of telegrams, by accident or from ignorance of the tariff, should affix to their despatches more stamps than are required to pay the charge, the surplus values will *not* be obliterated by the officers but returned to the sender in cash.

CORRESPONDENCE.

FORGERIES AT LIVERPOOL.

To the Editor of "The Stamp-Collector's Magazine."

Dear Sir,—There appears to be a very large importation of *new* forgeries into this place, but I have been unable as yet to discover from whence they come. I have found them exposed for sale in five different shop windows; in each case I have informed the shopkeepers of the kind of article they were offering for sale, and in two cases I succeeded in stopping the sale of them for the future. In every case I found that the stamps were owned by *boys*. I annex a list of, I think, nearly all I have observed.

I am, dear Sir, yours truly,

SCRUTATOR.

Egypt, present issue—the whole set.
Ditto—Officials.
Greece—The whole set.
Cape of Good Hope—triangle, 1d., 4d., 6d., and 1/.
Bahamas—4d.
Grenada—1d.
Honduras—Printed *green!*
British Guiana, 1860—12 and 24 c.
Peru—first issue.
Virgin Islands—The set.
Nevis—The set.
Ionian Islands—The set.
Liberia—The set.
Vancouver Island—5 c.
Newfoundland—5, 13, 24 c.
Brunswick—first issue.
Brazil present issue, 10 and 50 r.
Tuscany—The whole set.

P.S.—In one instance I found these stamps "warranted genuine."

THE ENVELOPE DIFFICULTY.

To the Editor of "The Stamp-Collector's Magazine."

Dear Sir,—I think that your remarks on the arrangement of envelopes in the current number (in the course of your article entitled "Our Contemporaries") are very much to the point. To me, as an ordinary collector, the question how to keep my envelopes entire in the same book with my adhesives has been one of great difficulty, and I cannot arrive at any solution of it.

I have paid great attention to the recommendations which from time to time have appeared in *The Stamp-Collector's Magazine* to keep envelopes uncut, and tried to see the advantage of so doing, but have failed in a great measure. In matters philatelic I prefer rather to follow than to attempt to lead, as I am a collector of but recent standing, and have no Pendragon-like aspirations to found a new school. Consequently, I have been hesitating for a long time as to the disposal of my envelopes, hoping that some one would propose a way out of the difficulty; and all this time they have remained uncut between the pages of my album, to my great annoyance, as I like to see things in order. But as I cannot go on for ever halting between two opinions, I have at length made up my mind to follow my own inclinations in the matter, and sever the Gordian knot by cutting the envelopes and placing the stamps in the allotted spaces.

Perhaps you and your readers may blame me, but the balance of advantages seems to me to be on my side, for, first of all, as I have a Moens' album in which there are squares marked out for the envelopes, if I were to keep them in another book these spaces would always remain vacant; and I only follow the example of Nature itself in abhorring a vacuum.

Secondly, I must say (the truth will out) that there does not seem to me to be sufficient gain in keeping the envelopes uncut to compensate for the inconvenience of collecting them in a separate album or portfolio. As far as look is concerned, I think the stamps have a much better appearance cut out, with a reasonable margin round them, than they have when seen at one corner of an envelope. In the latter case there is a great expanse of white paper left, which is certainly nothing to look at in itself, whilst in the former the stamp, if properly cut out, is in the centre of a neat white frame, just large enough to show it off. An album in which all the envelopes are shown entire can resemble nothing in creation so much as a stationer's traveller's book of samples.

And, then, as to the utility of keeping the envelopes entire from a philatelic point of view, I think that has been rather overstrained. The doctors in philately are a little too hard on us poor students. It is all very well for a museum to have the skeleton of a whale entire, but if every humble student of natural history were obliged to get one, too, it is to be feared the science would not be pursued with much ardour.

The value of entire envelopes consists, so it is said, in their affording tests against reprints, and sometimes in their giving internal evidence as to the date of their emission; but, surely, whatever reason there may have been for preserving the whole envelope years ago, when stamps were little studied, there is no such necessity now. Every envelope that comes out now is noticed in the magazines, and there are a select few who keep entire copies, which will serve as tests for any doubtful specimens which may afterwards come out, but it is not needful that every one should keep them entire for the same purpose. If I buy a newly-issued envelope I know it is not a reprint, and always shall know it, and that is enough for me; should any other collector want to compare his copy with mine, he is at liberty to do so, with a guarantee from me that *my* copy is original. It may be worth my while, perhaps, to cut off the flaps, write on them the name, value, and date of emission of the envelope to which they belong, and keep them by for the benefit of brother amateurs; but that is the utmost extent to which my respect for envelopes would carry me.

I find I have been allowing my pen to ramble on too freely; pray excuse my garrulity, and if you can find a corner for these odd thoughts you will much oblige,

Dear Sir, yours respectfully,

COMMON SENSE.

ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS.

A. W. S.—The 6d. orange Victoria—in use for a short period in 1862—is very scarce; a good specimen is seldom to be found. We have never seen an unused copy.

L. W. D.—We doubt ourselves whether the Canadian 12d. ever was used to prepay postage, though it has been asserted (and we are not in a position to deny it) that a few copies did pass the post.

T. W. G.—The Kaltbad stamp is issued by the proprietor of the hotel on the Rigi, and pays the cost of the carriage of letters from the hotel to the nearest Swiss post-office. It is not issued by order of government. Its market value is about twopence.—The cost of advertising in *The Stamp-Collector's Magazine* is sixpence per line.

L. P., Chester; Impatient, Buckingham; T. T., Liverpool.—We are happy to be able to inform these inquirers, on good authority, that the long-delayed fifth edition of Doctor Gray's catalogue is expected to be ready by Christmas. Like that watched-for festival, it is at any rate *coming*.

F. E. C., Saxmundham, asks us rather a curious question, viz., whether we can tell him the way to find out whether the Lubeck envelopes have red, blue, or brown inscriptions when the stamp is cut quite close round. We frankly confess our inability, which is rendered the more complete by the fact that there are no Lubeck envelopes with red or blue inscriptions.

H. F., Barnsbury, N.—We fancy you have not given the catalogues a very careful perusal, or you would have found that the stamps you describe are mentioned in them.—The two Confederate 5 c. blue and green belong to the first series for those states; the Paraguay design is that of the well-known essay; the 10 c. French empire imperforate is generally recognised; and the other three stamps of which you speak, the 10, 30, and 40 c., are, we presume, members of the new laureated series.—The 50 centimes is, as you conjecture, a rank forgery.

R. K., Coleraine.—The 20 c. French stamp, of which you speak, inscribed timbre imperial articles d'argent, valeurs cotees, is put by the post officials on the little packages of jewelry or other valuable articles sent through the post, on which the value is declared, the rate of postage being a percentage on the value, with, we think, the 20 centimes, represented by the stamp referred to, added. We do not know, however, whether this stamp is still in use, and we give these details under all reserve.

R. B. E., Birmingham.—Your Bremen one-groten stamp is a commercial, so also is the "Kanton Bern," though the latter has been by accident used as a postage stamp on some occasions.—If you refer to any of the leading catalogues you will find the Hawaiian 1 c. black on blue paper mentioned; it was issued in 1859. The 25 and 50 bani Roumanian are newly-issued stamps, described in *The Stamp-Collector's Magazine* about four months back.—As to the portrait on the Chilian stamps, we are quite aware that it is asserted to be that of President Freire, but we do not consider the question settled. If it be Freire, why is he represented in an antique dress?—The star-watermarked Tasmanian were the earliest issued of the present type.

G. W. B., M.—All the Cingalese, except the new penny and threepenny, exist imperforate, and watermarked with a star. All the Hanoverians, with head of king, are likewise to be found imperforate.—We take the liberty to keep over your Mexican stamp for a short time, for the purpose of comparison; meanwhile, we can only say the watermark is quite new to us, and we think to collectors in general.—Your Austrian 2 kr. (1863), with watermark E, is curious as an error of impression; no doubt, this letter formed part of the marginal inscription, which should have surrounded the sheet, but by the accidental shifting of the sheet whilst under the process of watermarking, the inscription must have fallen nearer in towards the centre of the sheet, and hence has been printed on.—The Ionians are genuine. These stamps have never been reprinted.—We should recommend your preserving the Chilian stamps, numbered 7, 10, 11, and 12, on your sheet; we can find no watermark on the two latter, and the difference in the tint of the paper, and in the colour of the impression, seems to show that they were emitted at different times.—The La Guaira stamp has been already noticed by us.

THE STAMPS OF ST. LOUIS RECONSIDERED.

If our readers will turn to last year's September number, they will find, on page 141, an article on the St. Louis stamps. This article may be divided into two parts: the first devoted to the consideration of a specimen of the higher value (10 c.), which had been sent to us *on* the letter it had franked, in proof of the genuineness of the type; the second consisting principally of an extract from a correspondent's letter, giving details in reference to the emission of these stamps. This article was criticised in *Le Timbrophile* for October, 1868, by the writer who first raised doubts as to the genuineness of the St. Louis stamps, and two contradictory statements in it were pointed out by him, viz., that the date of the letter which bore the stamp we had described was the 17th December, 1845; whilst the date of emission of the stamp was, according to the engraver, "about 1848," or three years, more or less, afterwards. Of the gravity of this error, as affecting the value of our information, there can be no doubt; our French *confrère* rejoiced over it, as was no more than natural, and we ourselves felt that it placed us pretty well *hors de combat*. When a mistake has been made, excuses do not much mend the matter; still it is due to ourselves that we should state that the second part of the article was not received until almost at the moment of going to press, and several weeks after the first part had been in type; at the time we had not the means of comparing the two portions together, and hence the discrepancy passed unnoticed.

Our critic, besides signalising the contradiction referred to, put forth various arguments against the authenticity of the St. Louis stamps, based, it is true, on conjecture, but still of considerable apparent force, and sufficient to raise strong suspicion against any more questionable series. They have induced us to examine into the subject more fully than we had previously done, and we now propose to state the result.

Our first observation is, that the question of the genuineness of the St. Louis is in a great measure distinct and untouched by that of the genuineness of the particular stamp we received, or of the correctness of the information given by our correspondent. The stamp sent to us may be false, and the letter, postmark, and all, concocted for a fraudulent purpose (though we do not believe such to be the case)—or, on the other hand, our correspondent may have been misinformed—without affecting the position of the St. Louis stamps, as the proofs of their authenticity are far from being confined to those brought forward by us. These items only affect the date of emission. If the stamp and letter therewith which were sent to us are genuine, then the engraver is in error when he says the design was engraved "about 1848;" if he be right, then the letter we received was concocted. For our part, we believe the former to be the correct hypothesis. When a person speaks of an event which occurred a quarter of a century ago, more or less, and without books, papers, or any memoranda whatever wherewith to refresh his memory, nothing is easier than to assign a date two or three years on one side or the other of the correct one. Let any of our readers attempt to fix, from memory, the date of any personal event of a secondary nature, and, unless some circumstance has caused it to be specially impressed on their minds, they will find it very difficult to do so with anything approaching to certainty. In this case, Mr. Kershaw, the engraver, can only say that he recollects engraving the plate "about 1848;" or, in other words, during the administration of a particular postmaster—Mr. Wymer. Nothing but positive proof that this postmaster was not in office at the close of the year 1845 would absolutely disprove the assertion, based on the letter we have had before us, that the St. Louis stamps were in circulation in December of that year. A random recollection, such as Mr. Kershaw's, cannot for a moment stand alone against documentary evidence.

Then considered in itself there is a reasonable probability that these stamps were issued in 1845. Our Parisian critic urges, that a town like St. Louis was not likely to have used stamps before New York, the post-office stamps of which latter city, he

asserts, were not issued until 1848. But why should St. Louis wait upon New York? And again, what *proof* is there that New York did not issue stamps until 1848? What grounds he has for this assertion are unknown to us. The first United States stamps were emitted on the 1st July, 1847, and it is generally believed that the New York stamps came out before them. On this point we shall, later on, quote the opinion of the late Mr. Lesley, meanwhile confining ourselves to the statement of our own belief, that the original introduction of postage stamps was due to the initiative taken by individual postmasters.

The especial likelihood of the St. Louis stamps having been issued in 1845 lies in this fact, that the United States Congress, by an act passed on the 3rd MARCH *of that year*, "abolished the previous dear rates, as well as the annoying scale of varying distances; and whilst substituting the weight standard, reduced, at the same time, the rate for a single letter to 5 *cents* for any distance under three thousand miles, and 10 cents for all distances over three thousand miles."* What more probable than that the postmaster of a rising commercial city, such as St. Louis then was, should take upon himself to introduce stamps, with the view to give the reduction in postage greater effect by facilitating the prepayment? And in this connection our Parisian friend will do well to note that the two values for St. Louis, 5 and 10 cents, respectively represent the new postal rates, and that it was the higher value which we found on the letter addressed to New York which was sent for our inspection.

That the introduction of postage stamps was only an experiment, is proved by the small number printed (about 500), which further evidences that the experiment was not pursued. Its abandonment may have been due to a variety of circumstances, but principally, no doubt, to the fact, that prepayment was then *optional*, and that consequently the public did not avail themselves of the new facilities. Perhaps also Mr. Wymer may have gleaned that stamps would shortly be issued by the government, and felt it unnecessary to continue to circulate his own. The period between the date of the letter we have referred to (Dec., 1845), and the date of emission of the government series (1st July, 1845), is very short, and in itself almost sufficient to account for the rarity of the stamp. Our contemporary objects to the smallness of the number of copies printed, declaring that instead of 500 there would have been 50,000 wanted for a place like St. Louis, but he quite overlooks the entirely experimental nature of the series, the fact that it was issued when the cheap postage system was in its infancy, and that it was issued also, as far as we can know, on the postmaster's sole responsibility.

Coming now to the general question of the authenticity of these stamps, we have to observe, in the first place, the apparent ignorance of the writer in *Le Timbrophile* of the general belief respecting the St. Louis, and of the length of time during which they have been known. In his first article on the subject he states that he resided at St. Louis "off and on" from 1848 to 1853, at the time when (as he supposed) the stamps should have been in use, and never heard of them; and that to assure himself on the subject, he wrote to a friend at St. Louis, who, replying, stated he had inquired of all the postmasters *since the one appointed by Polk* (1845), and they knew nothing about it; adding, that no doubt it was a humbug, or at best an advertising label. In our Parisian contemporary's second article, the writer expresses astonishment that any one *could* continue to doubt as to the worthlessness of the stamps, after what he had stated; as if collectors were expected to give up a long-standing belief, to say the least, merely because certain post officials could not recollect the stamp. But perhaps the most telling item in the St. Louis friend's reply, read by the light of later intelligence, is, that he asked all the St. Louis postmasters but the right one—he asked all who had come *after* the one appointed in 1845, the year in which, as it now appears, these stamps were really issued, but not that particular one. There was, indeed, the best

* *The Stamp-Collector's Magazine*, vol. i., p. 154.

of all reasons why he did not ask Mr. Wymer, the postmaster in office in that year—that gentleman was dead; but the fact, nevertheless, remains, that the ignorance of the stamps shown by later postmasters throws not the slightest doubt on their genuineness.

Our friend of *Le Timbrophile* is an amateur of whom we desire to speak with all respect, but he must not expect to overthrow stamps which have stood their ground for years, by such weak evidence as he adduces, for he ought to know that official denials are frequently of very slight value when they relate to old issues.

We have already indicated various points in favour of these stamps, and have now to draw attention to the length of time which they have been known, on which it is of much importance to insist.

On referring to the first volume of *The Stamp-Collector's Magazine* (1863), we find the St. Louis 10 c. included in an addenda to Mount Brown's catalogue (p. 152); and in the December number of that year it is described, in the course of an article on "United States Local Postage Stamps," by [the late] Mr. Lesley, which has remained to this day *the* standard authority on the subject of what it treats. Mr. Lesley catalogues apart the New York, the Providence, and the St. Louis stamps, and he then adds, "I may state that there is a strong presumption that *all* of the above stamps were issued by the government postmasters of the respective cities, *in anticipation* of those in preparation by the post-office department. This much is, however, indisputable, that out of all the local stamps of which we have any account, these are the only ones on which occurs the name of a regular government post-office, with the name of the city attached; and it is equally clear that their values were too high for use upon drop-letters. It seems scarcely probable that any private individual would venture on so bold a proceeding as to usurp directly the name of a government office. It is still more unlikely that private individuals could issue stamps which should pass unchallenged through the government mails, and be considered as the evidence of prepayment." We commend this last sentence to the notice of our French critic, who thinks to account for the presence of the St. Louis stamp alone on a letter, by a statement that in America persons may stick what they like on envelopes.

It will be observed that Mr. Lesley speaks very strongly as to their having been issued *before* the government stamps. It is true that in introducing these post-office emissions he suggests that they were "issued very soon *after* the passage of the Act of Congress of 1847, authorising the post-office department to make adhesive labels, and when the rates fixed by law were, for a single letter, *five cents* under 3000 miles, and *ten cents* over that distance," but he overlooks the important fact, stated by himself, that it was the act of 1845, and not of 1847, which established these rates; and he overlooks also the fact, that not quite four months elapsed between the passing of the latter act and the emission of the first government series. It is far more reasonable to suppose that these local stamps were issued after the passing of the act of 1845, than during the short interval between March and July, 1847. In 1847, the city postmasters knew that they were about to be supplied with stamps, must, indeed, have been in daily expectation of receiving their supplies, and, unless a very sudden and general demand sprung up for postage stamps, could have had no reason for anticipating, by emissions of their own, the government issue then in preparation. No doubt, the New York stamp was in use in 1847, but on a review of all the facts, it seems most probable that it was issued a year or two before. This is the view taken also by the Editor of the *American Journal of Philately*, who says, "they were certainly used one year before any general issue for the United States ever appeared." As to the supposition that the local post-office stamps were issued upon the temporary exhaustion of the government series, it is hardly worth alluding to. If, owing to the prepayment being optional, stamps were but little used before 1851, and *Le Timbrophile* admits such to be the case, how could it happen that the supplies should run short, and that so long a delay should

occur as to force postmasters to provide temporary substitutes of their own?

But leaving this point, perhaps the most conclusive proof to collectors of the genuineness of the St. Louis stamps is found in their excessive rarity. They rank with the rose Mercury of Austria, and the oblong provisional British Guianas. There are not a dozen copies in this country, and we question if their be half that number on the continent. The Vice-President of the Philatelic Society has had a pair in his album for a number of years, and he, we may add, *en parenthèse*, has no doubt whatever as to their genuine character; these are the two from which our illustrations, as also those in *Le Timbre-Poste* and *Le Timbrophile*, were engraved. We have only seen one other, the 10 c. sent to us for inspection; and we believe our publishers, during the lengthened period in which they have been in business, have never received but this one copy, which was addressed to their care. Mr. Pemberton, indeed, enjoying exceptional advantages, has lately had the good fortune to examine four copies of the 5 c. and two of the 10 c., and from his examination is able to confirm the statement of a contributor to an American journal (the writer of the letter which we published last year), that there are two dies for each value. In the September *Philatelist* Mr. Pemberton gives a detailed description of the differences, by which this fact is established, and remarks that the existence of two dies is "perhaps the best evidence we could have for their genuineness,—no forger would make so many dies when a single one would answer the purpose of swindling."

His opinion, it will be seen, is entirely in their favour, so also is that of M. Berger-Levrault, who, in a note appended to his description of these, the New York and the Providence stamps, briefly states that they "ought to be considered as official." The reviewer of M. Berger-Levrault's catalogue accepts them. M. Moens includes them in his manual with the official emissions; and M. Mahé himself, the editor of *Le Timbrophile*, accompanied the engravings with the observation, that the stamps should be considered as perfectly genuine, adding, "it is needless to say they are of the greatest rarity, and no doubt but very few amateurs will ever succeed in obtaining specimens." Nor has M. Mahé given any sign of subsequent conversion to the views of his contributor.

As to the latter's suggestion, that they are Boston forgeries, it is really not worth considering. If the Boston "ring" of impostors was in existence so long since as 1863, when these stamps were first noticed, it is certain that none of their spurious productions had then come to light, and it would be folly to suppose that if the St. Louis design was of their concoction, they would have allowed the plate to lie idle all these years. In point of fact, the plate has been lost or destroyed; the St. Louis Historical Society tried to obtain it, but could not, and there can be little doubt but that its existence has been "put an end to." Should a sheet or two of these stamps be found in a drawer, or the panel of a wall, we should begin to suspect them; until then we prefer, in spite of the assertions of *Le Timbrophile*, to put faith in them.

We have now concluded our labour, and really, on looking back on what we have written, it seems almost as if we had been at the trouble of demonstrating a truism. Still, if the result be to place the genuineness of the St. Louis stamps beyond question, we shall not regret having written the present paper.

DR. MAGNUS ON LITHOGRAPHIC REPRINTS.

(*Continued from p.* 148.)

From the observations made on the one peso *dark purple*, it will result that the best course for collectors to adopt is to give the stamp a wide berth when met with, contenting themselves with copies of that value in lighter colours, printed, for preference, on yellowish-white paper.

Of the series of 1861, the well-known large rectangles, Dr. Magnus is of opinion that three of the values have been reprinted in the following shades, and on the bluish-faced paper, to which reference has been already made:—

2½ centavos, greyish-black.
10 „ pale blue.
20 „ dark brick-red, *pale brick*, *carmine-red.*

And he adds: "It is very important to note the resemblance of these last two shades of the 20 centavos, to those of the reprint 5 cuartos one-type, Lucon. It is striking and at least singular."

Dr. Magnus gives in detail his reasons for believing that the figures of value on the 2½ c. and the 20 c. have been re-made for the reprints. He notices specially,

1.—That the head of the figure 2 on the 2½ c. inclines more to the *inner* line of the oval frame or band, in the original, and more to the *outer* line in the reprint.

2.—On the reprint 20 c. the figure 2 is awry, and its head is bent towards the left.

Dr. Magnus also mentions finding on a one peso stamp, which has been in his possession at least five years, traces of the figures 2½, and of the word centavos, which proves that the stones for the one peso were made from the stones of the 2½ c., after changing the denomination of value.

The succeeding series, that of 1862 (arms on waved ground), has not, so far as our author is aware, been reprinted. The one peso exists on blue and on white paper, but both papers are those of the original series.

Among the 1863 stamps, only one value has been reprinted—the 50 centavos; of this there are no less than four reprinted varieties, viz.:—

50 cent. green on white paper.
50 „ „ „ bluish „
50 „ red „ white „
50 „ „ „ bluish „

The original stamp exists only in one colour and on one paper, viz., green on bluish, but a variety has lately been discovered, no doubt an *erreur d'impression*, red on yellowish white, and there is a corresponding variety of the 20 c., green (instead of red) on yellowish white.

There are in existence two or three original copies of the 50 c. green on white, but Dr. Magnus is of opinion that the paper was at first blue, and that the tint has been changed by a chemical solution.

The reprinted 50 c. are distinguishable, 1.—By the paper; the *white* has that bluish face which is the mark of so many others of the tribe; the *blue* is of a deeper tint than that of the originals. Furthermore, the 50 c. *red* on blue exists only as a reprint. 2.—By the colour; the original 50 c. red is vermilion, the reprint is a very pale red; the original green is bluish, the reprint is the other extreme—yellowish. 3.—By the details of design; the two old 50 c. stamps, red on white and green on blue, are identical in design; both have a stop after the word NACIONALES, which is wanting on the two reprints; the 5 is thicker, and the head more raised on the old than on the new, and the cipher is larger on the old and closer to the 5 than on the new. In the old stamps all the letters of the word CENT are of the same size, but the C is situated rather above the E, the upper part of the latter nearly touches the N, and this last the T, of which the horizontal line is slightly inclined downwards. In the new stamp the C is smaller than the E, and far from being above the E, it hardly arrives at the same line. The other letters are spaced out, and the horizontal line of the T is true. "These differences prove," says Dr. Magnus, "that the new stamps do not come from the same stone as the old, but if the *new* 50 c. are compared with the *old* 20 c., *the same disposition* of the letters of the word *cent* is found to exist." Thence one may be permitted to conclude that these new copies of the 50 c. have been obtained from the stone of the 20 c., or from a transfer of the 20 c., the "2" of which has been changed to a 5.

Dr. Magnus concludes with the following critical remarks, which merit the fullest attention from collectors: "There remains one point to decide, are the reprints official, *i.e.*, made by order of the authorities of the country? We do not think so. We doubt also very much that they have been made in the country, and that which gives us cause to doubt is the identity of colour of the reprints of the 1861 series [20 c.] with those of the one-type 5 c. of Lucon. Chance could scarcely be the author of such a coincidence between the stamps of two countries so far from, and so little in relation with each other. It is then in Paris, or at

least in Europe, that these reprints have been struck off, or, as we should more correctly say, *these transfers obtained by the aid of good copies* of each series, which for us are but the product of a fraudulent speculation, which it has seemed well to us to signalise to amateurs."

The suggestion as to the manner in which these spurious reprints have been fabricated, lays bare a new danger to collectors, and forewarns us as to the probability of new frauds. We learn now, for the first time, that it is possible to take a stamp and reproduce it on stone with such exactness, that it requires the most careful examination to distinguish the reprint from the original, and even such an examination only results in the discovery of certain comparatively trifling variations, which might easily escape the notice of an unskilled observer.

The stamps which have been manipulated in this instance are lithographs,* but a certain class of engraved stamps are equally easy to reproduce—we refer to those in which the design is in outline, or but roughly done—the 1d. Van Dieman's Land for example. Finely-engraved stamps are tolerably free from this danger, as, although the reproduction might be good as a whole, the lines would inevitably be thick, and the impression therefore less distinct—points which would be fatal to its success as a speculation. It is not necessary that the copy from which the transfer is made should have been originally printed in lithographic ink; if it were, there would be no need to fear the appearance of these fraudulent reprints. The ink of an ordinary copy may, with the aid of a pad, be surcharged with those qualities which would render it transferable to stone. By such a process a page of this magazine might be reproduced, and the reproduction would, for all practical purposes, be equal to the original. But this process is not a common one; it is the high art of lithography, and is generally employed for the making of *fac-simile* copies of rare old manuscripts. Stamps, however, are so much finer than manuscripts in their details, and may be so easily examined, that nothing short of perfect accuracy in a reprint will enable it to pass muster, and it is a source of satisfaction that this perfection cannot be attained.

The rogues who have done their best to reap a harvest with their concocted Granadines and Lucons, will not, we may be sure, rest satisfied with a single fraud. We should not, therefore, be surprised to find unused specimens of many rare stamps suddenly appear in considerable numbers. It will be the duty of all honest dealers, should such prove to be the case, to investigate the newcomers carefully, and avoid lending themselves in any degree towards the success of an imposition. No fraud, we are convinced, can ever be long successful, as detection and exposure must result from examination by careful observers, among whom Dr. Magnus stands foremost; and even were it possible to obtain a lithographic copy exactly identical with its original as to design, some difference in the shade of colour, or in the texture or tint of the paper, would certainly mark the impostor.

Since the foregoing article was in type we have heard that the 20 centavos *green* on white has been found reprinted, and we understand that Mr. Philbrick and Dr. Magnus are now in communication upon this subject, and upon some other cognate points requiring elucidation. We trust that in due time the results may be laid before our readers, and we feel perfectly assured that both of the gentlemen whose names are cited will assist in the verification of the genuine, and exposure of the false stamps. For our part no effort will be spared to advise and forewarn our readers, and we rely on the concurrence and aid of our numerous supporters to assist our endeavours to protect the honest, and to expose those who seek to trade on the credulity and ignorance of the unwary and inexperienced.

We are inclined to think that we shall fitly discharge our duty by publishing the names and addresses of all dealers who are shown to have sold the fictitious stamps, together with the date of the transaction; and by holding our columns open to such

* It may be noted that M. Berger-Levrault describes all the early New Granadines as being "typographed." "When doctors differ," &c.

persons to clear themselves from *fraudulent intention* by publishing their statement of the names and addresses of the persons from whom they bought the impostors, *together with the prices paid in each case.* When the dealer does not come forward with such particulars, the public can draw its own conclusions.

FACTS AND OPINIONS.

Extracts from Le Timbre-Poste.

It may not be known to many of our English readers, that at the time of the appearance of the French edition of M. Berger-Levrault's catalogue, an elaborate critical review of that work appeared in *Le Timbre-Poste.* The author, who contented himself with appending his initials (J. P.) to it, is, if we mistake not, a west-country English amateur, whose knowledge of stamps is exceptionally extensive, and who but too seldom favours his brethren with the results of his study. His critique has not hitherto met with the attention it merits on this side of the water, and we take blame to ourselves for our omission to notice it. We now proceed to atone for our neglect by extracting those paragraphs which are of general interest, *i.e.*, those which are not simply notices of inaccuracies or omissions in the catalogue, and this we do without at all binding ourselves to the opinions which they contain, but in the hope that some, at any rate, of the matters treated of may afford food for further discussion.

Russia.—If we are to believe what is written, the 10 kop. of 1857, unperforated, is of the same shade as the perforated stamp of 1858, that is to say, are both brown. This is not correct. All the 1857 stamps *authentically* postmarked which we have seen, and we have examined a rather large number, are of a very dark brown, we might say, black-brown; those of 1858, on the contrary, are brown and pale brown. There are, however, unperforated copies of this latter shade penmarked, rendered apparently new sometimes by removing the ink with oxalic acid. These stamps should not be confounded with those of 1857, as they come from sheets intended to be perforated and inadvertently delivered to the post-office by the printers, without having been so, like the 20 and 30 kop., of which the same varieties exist.

Finland.—According to the official information which has been communicated to us, the supposed adhesive stamps, first issue, have never existed. At first, stamped envelopes of laid paper were used, and also those of the thick woven paper, which is found in the second series of envelopes. It was not until 1856 that adhesive stamps of 5 and 10 kop. (there never was a 20 kop. adhesive) were put in circulation.*

Wenden.—Let there be an end to M. Berger's doubts; these stamps are quite genuine, and if he cannot procure a post-marked copy, we hold a rose (with legend) at his disposal. The blue stamp, with vignette in centre, is the only doubtful one.

Great Britain.—M. Berger makes no mention of the rarest of the 1d. English stamps, a pale rose variety, not perforated, and watermarked with a small crown. This stamp, of which we cannot determine the date of emission, is backed with *white* gum which has not re-acted on the impression, and it does not show the slightest bluish tint. All the other unperforated stamps, 1d. red, red-brown, &c., and 2d. blue, printed on white paper, show more or less either on the face, or on the back, the effect of the gum which we continue to call green.

Austria.—The red or *ponceau* Mercury, to which the date March 21, 1856, has been assigned as that of its emission, has always appeared to us suspicious It prepaid, so it is said, ten journals, and it was current for about two years and a half. But notwithstanding this rather long period of circulation, no authentically postmarked specimen has been met with, although the rose Mercury, older, less frequently used (since it franked fifty journals), and in use for twenty months only, is not so rare but what one might easily mention the albums in which it may be found.

* This statement has received implicit confirmation from Dr. Magnus, who, with Mr. Philbrick, revised the catalogue of M. Berger-Levrault. See the explanation by the Doctor in *Le Timbre-Poste*, No. 75, p. 22, March, 1869, and the note in small type appended.

This red stamp made its first appearance about four years ago [now five years and a-half], to the great astonishment of both dealers and collectors. It was then that they were offered to us *as reprints* by a London dealer, who had obtained them from Vienna. A date of emission it is true is given, but we must have something more positive than that This stamp is for us a fancy impression.

Parma, Modena, Tuscany, and Romagna.—These stamps have been reprinted, either all or a part. Those of *Parma* have all been, except the three stamps of 1852; those of *Modena* also, including the errors, of which we only admit 5 CNET, 10 CENL, 15 CNEP, 15 CETN, 40 CNET, and 49 CENT, all the others being humbugs. *Tuscany*, 1st type, with and without watermark, have all been reprinted, with one or two exceptions only. *Romagna*, all reprinted. The 6 baj. was never in use, but was on the point of being issued when the stamps were superseded.*

Naples.—M. Berger says nothing about the varieties of the ½ tornese (Savoy cross). They result, we know, from the alterations made on the plate of the ½ tornese (trinacria). There are as many varieties as the sheet contains stamps.

Cuba.—The value of the 2 Y¼ stamp, according to the information we have received, and the prices paid at Cuba by English stamp merchants, is a quarter-real, and not 2¼ rls. As to the impression Y¼ on the 2 rls. of 1856, we consider it to be false.†

* These assertions can hardly be fully accepted without some proof beyond the mere *ipse-dixit* of the writer.

† The only specimen we remember to have seen of this stamp was in the collection of an American amateur, well known in commercial circles, and was, if we remember right, obliterated. His album was exceptionally rich in Cuban stamps, among which were some proofs in black, which we believe to be almost unique. A set, however, is to be found in the Ph. collection, having come there from the album of the late Rev. F. J. Stainforth. The rarity of the Y¼ of 1856 is in itself some evidence of genuineness, and we should hesitate to adopt Mr. J. P.'s opinion as our own, without some proof of its correctness.

A LAUGHABLE MISTAKE.—It would seem, to judge from the following, that the new pillar-boxes at Antwerp are of exceptional dimensions. The other day a servant was observed standing in front of one, letter in hand, and knocking repeatedly. A passer-by inquired why she knocked. "Oh," she replied, "I want to get a postage stamp, but there doesn't seem to be anyone here."—*Belgian Paper.*

NEWLY-ISSUED OR INEDITED STAMPS.

THE new issues of the past month have not been remarkable either for variety or importance. They may be briefly described as being principally locals.

NORWAY.—*Drammens.*—This Norwegian town has suddenly become possessor of no less than seven local stamps. Even with their assistance it will hardly become famous, and our young readers will, perhaps, have some difficulty to find it on the map. The occasion



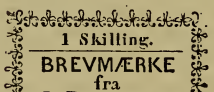


of the emission of these stamps is stated to be that in Norway letters are not delivered by the post, and that private persons have in some towns undertaken the duty of delivery for a trifling charge, which these stamps represent. The Bergen and Drontheim issues serve for this purpose, and now Mr. J. B. Hagens, of Drammens, has issued the annexed types.

The values are, it will be seen, one and two skilling. The colours are as follow:—

1 skilling,		blue on white.
1	,,	violet ,,
1	,,	blue on rose.
2	,,	lilac on white.
2	,,	violet ,,
2	,,	green ,,

Besides these there is a third stamp—of



which we also give illustration—used, as appears by the inscription, for a branch post-office, and printed in black on two papers, yellow and red.

The Bergen and Drontheim stamps are genuine, and so also may these be, but we do not see why they should be printed in so many colours. This peculiarity savours strongly of speculation, as does also the fact

that the stamps have appeared perforated and unperforated. However, a contemporary promises fuller details respecting them shortly; these, when received, may throw light on some doubtful points.

UNITED STATES.—From several quarters we learn that the current series, with the exception of two of its values, is to be shortly withdrawn from circulation, in consequence of the general complaint against it. The two values to be retained are the 6 c. and the 90 c. We shall regret the suppression of the beautiful 15 and 24 c., which, from their unique appearance, might attract the attention even of non-collectors; the others, excepting the two which are to be reprieved, are fit for nothing but to be superseded. A correspondent of *The American Journal of Philately*, gives the following details as to the projected series: "The new issue will all have heads as the principal design, and in all probability the six-cent stamp will be retained, except that it will be enlarged. The heads of Jackson, Franklin, Lincoln, and Jefferson, will all be represented on the new issue. The stamps will be the same size as the 1861 set, and only 100 instead of 150 in a sheet. The colour of the three cents will be red, but nothing definite has yet been decided on for the other values, although they are to be ready in about a month." *Le Timbrophile* falls into a curious error with regard to the portraits which are to appear: the *American Journal* having suggested that it would be well to put the heads of the first ten presidents on the ten stamps of the series, the Parisian magazine, copying from it, states as a fact, that these are the portraits which have been chosen, and gives a list of the president's names, with the values on which their effigies are to appear. The mistake is an excusable one, and the original suggestion good.

Mr. Pemberton writes us as follows respecting the carriers' stamp, head of Franklin:—"The specimen exhibited by me at the May meeting of the Philatelic Society was blue on pink, obliterated by a portion of a large circle, bearing part words NEW YORK. I also showed a specimen in orange-yellow, which had been sent me as a proof; it was not on *plate* paper, but on ordinary paper, as the early United States stamps, which is very strong and tough, but not thin. The name is written CARRIERS, with the apostrophe."

SWITZERLAND.—The stamp here figured is intended for the same duty as the well-known



Rigi-Kaltbad stamp, and is issued by M. Muller, the proprietor of another bathing establishment on the mountain. Its value is 5 centimes, and it represents the cost of transport of a letter from the Scheideck to Schwitz, the nearest post-town, which is in the valley of the Gersan. It is printed in green on a pure white paper, is unperforated, and is said to have superseded a red glazed paper label on which the words RIGI-SCHEIDECK were struck in relief.

Whilst writing under this heading, we must not omit to mention that the 10 c. Swiss envelope is now stamped on the left side. This is a retrogade movement.

NATAL.—A correspondent sends us an interesting clipping from *The Natal Mercury* of the 29th July last, as follows:—

POSTAL LAW.—In Tuesday's *Gazette* the Lieutenant-Governor notifies that the law "to confine the use of postage stamps to the purposes of postage," passed during this session, will be proclaimed in the government *Gazette* of the 10th of August next, and at the same time will be published a proclamation appointing and defining the postage stamps, valued respectively at 1d., 3d., 6d., and 1s., with the word "postage" printed thereon, as the postage stamps to be used under this law. Those who have postage stamps remaining in their possession, which have been rendered useless by this law, can return them to the postmaster-general, who will give others of the new issue in exchange.

We may, then, anticipate a new series very shortly, probably one of the usual De-La-Rue type.

GERMAN CONFEDERATION.—A correspondent sends us two stamps taken off one and the same letter, one with, the other without the doubtful watermark referred to last month. After careful examination we are disposed to concur in our correspondent's opinion, that it is only "a kind of mottling in the paper," without design, and we should hardly care to collect a stamp for the sake of this difference alone.

LUXEMBOURG.—The same authority calls attention to the fact, that most of the 10 c. stamps, of the current type, are inscribed

10 CENTIMES, the T being replaced by an I. He has also met with a 37½ c. with the denomination spelt CENTINES. The existence of errors in such microscopical lettering is not surprising.

FRANCE.—The statement of *Le Timbrophile* respecting the emission of the one c. empire, laureated, was erroneous. It now appears that the stamp to which it intended to refer was the one c. colonial, which has appeared perforated.

PHILIPPINE ISLANDS.—Mons. Moens mentions having received the current 12½ stamp surcharged with the words HABILITADO POR LA NACION, printed in black in three lines.

DRESDEN.—The envelopes of the spurious locals for this town are on green, rose, and bluish-green paper—a caution to sensible collectors.

CONCERNING THE STAMPS OF PARAGUAY.

BY F. P. HANSEN, OF THE BUENOS AYRES POST-OFFICE.

THAT much doubt and confusion should exist in Europe as to the postal affairs of the out-of-the-way republic of Paraguay, is a matter of small surprise, when we see the discussions to which have given and give rise, the stamps of the quondam Argentine Confederation, and of some of the states forming part thereof, although this country maintains extensive commercial relations with the Old World. It shall be my aim now to enlighten my brother amateurs respecting the postal administration of Paraguay.

Paraguay, like the republic of Uruguay, originally formed part of the vice-royalty of the Plata, and, in common with its sister states, used for postal purposes a hand-stamp bearing the word FRANCA. Subsequently, on obtaining its independence, the hand-stamp here represented was adopted, and remained in use up to April, 1865.



I should premise, however, that this latter stamp did not immediately replace the "Franca" stamp, being adopted not many years ago. It did duty on all correspondence despatched from Paraguay down to the last-mentioned date, and showed that the letter on which it was printed was prepaid (like the Franca stamps of the colonial epoch). The ink used was black.

In April, 1865, war broke out between Paraguay and the Argentine Republic. The war still rages, and since then, consequently, no correspondence or mail matter whatever has been received from the post-office of the former country.

To the declaration of war ensued a blockade, strict and unbroken, of the Rio Parana, which runs through Argentine territory, and which constitutes the only avenue of maritime access to Paraguay.

These facts establish that no adhesives could ever have been seen on Paraguayan letters despatched by the post-office of that republic, previous to the rupture with the Argentine. Since then, no correspondence having circulated, in what manner can the authenticity of the so-called Paraguayan adhesives be proved?

The nation to which they are reputed to appertain being closed up to foreign commerce, and correspondence being interdicted, in what manner have they come to light? Have any obliterated copies been seen, not cancelled *à fantaisie*, but with a genuine cancelling mark? The character of the stamps catalogued in some manuals as Paraguayan may thus be judged of. But whilst we may condemn such fabrications as stamps, we must not couple the essays with them. From an authentic source I learn that during the Paraguayan envoy's stay in France, a design for postage stamps was presented to him, but whether it was or was not employed remains a mystery, though its non-employment would appear most probable.

When a few months ago the allies occupied Assumption, the capital of the republic, among the articles forgotten in the evacuation and captured by our troops, was a die bearing the annexed design, being no doubt, the one offered to Lopez. This type is at present in the possession of the editor of a newspaper in this city, and I enclose with the present

an impression from the original stamp, which I have cut out of his paper.



The fact that Paraguay, owing to its present abnormal condition, is debarred from all correspondence with other nations, added to the circumstance of the interior of the country being dotted with but few and insignificant towns, has probably prevented the employment of this type by the Paraguayan government.

To the foregoing I may add a piece of news of some importance to timbrophilists. The allies being in possession of the capital of the republic of Paraguay, as I have previously observed, are endeavouring to institute a provisional government there. This once accomplished, an emission of postage stamps will soon follow. Already the Argentine postmaster in Assumption has received instructions to turn over the post-office under his care to the authorities the Paraguayan provisional government may name, so the accomplishment of my vaticination probably will not be long delayed.

Meanwhile the postal service in that portion of Paraguay occupied by the allies (the most important section of the country) is under an Argentine *chargé*, the stamps used being also Argentine, obliterated by an H surrounded by lines, thus.



Touching on this subject I may state that in the army of the Argentine republic letters circulate free, bearing the imprint, in black ink, SIN CARGO (literally, "without charge"), enclosed in a transverse oval.

The Brazilian army envelopes, mentioned in catalogues, are *confréres* of the fictitious Paraguayan stamps. The greater part of the mail matter for and from the army in Paraguay, passes through the central post-office of this city, yet the so-called army envelopes have never been seen here, or at the allied camp.

The writer of the above being an *employé* in the Buenos Ayres post-office, his negative testimony respecting the new Paraguayan designs is of value, as he sooner than most others would have known had any stamps been issued. He clenches the arguments as to the improbability of there having been any emission; and there can be no question of the spurious origin of the labels, which we regret having been led to support.

That our contributor has but recently become a stamp-collector, and has not had access to the standard catalogues of stamps, is evident from his giving intelligence of the Paraguayan essay, figured above, as of an entire novelty; but to the well-known facts respecting it, he is able to add some new and interesting particulars.

His account of the finding of the die in Assumption is confirmed by Dr. Magnus, who has received from a trustworthy source two proofs struck from it, which were also found by the allies at the late Paraguayan capital. To be accurate, however, we should observe that it must be a cast from the original die which has been discovered, as the latter is certainly at Paris, in the possession of M. Hulot.

Dr. Magnus observes that the proofs he has received are on a coarse yellowish paper, quite different from that on which are printed the proofs already known, and he conjectures that the cast whence they have been taken is a simple leaden one. He further notices that the right upper corner of the impression is flattened, as if the cast had been injured by a blow or fall. He is probably correct as to the cast being of lead, for we find on the impression before us, cut out by our correspondent from the Buenos Ayres paper, similar evidence of impression from damaged type; more especially, the outer line is broken or bent in several places, and the angles are blunted. It is very possible that more than one cast has been found, and the impressions from each one would show different defects. That they are copies of the original die is, notwithstanding, unquestionable, and as one, at any rate, of these casts has already got into the hands of a Buenos Ayres editor, we may anticipate that it will ultimately be bought up by one of the stamp speculators of that city, and

used for the fabrication of a new lot of essays. Such essays, however, can have but a mediocre interest for collectors, and we would forewarn our readers against giving extravagant prices for them.

THE PHILATELIC SOCIETY.

THE second ordinary meeting of the Society was held on Saturday, the 2nd of October, at Great George-street, Westminster.

In the absence of the president and vice-president, Dr. Viner, at the request of the meeting, took the chair. The meeting was opened by the reading of the minutes of the previous session, which were approved.

The secretary read a letter from Mr. Atlee, enclosing a reply he had received from the postmaster at Paramaribo, to a letter written by him requesting information as to the use of the Java stamps in Dutch Guiana. The following is the reply :—

Paramaribo, 20th April, 1869.

W. Dudlee Atlee, Esq., Birmingham.

SIR,—In reply to your honoured letter, dated July 2nd, I beg to state that postage stamps were never issued in Surinam (Dutch Guiana). This positive assertion renders every other information superfluous.

I am, Sir, your obedient,
ED. Cs. WEANHAGEN,
Postmaster.

Some of the members expressed doubts as to the value of communications from officials, denying the issues of stamps, or otherwise, and Mr. Hughes instanced the case of an application made by himself to the office in St. Martin's-le-Grand, for some of the higher values of our envelopes, when he was informed that no such impressions were ever in existence, and soon afterwards upon posting one as an experiment, he found it was so little known, that the clerks called each other to witness such a curiosity.

The secretary said he had obtained authentic information that the following governments and districts in the Russian dominion had already issued stamps, and in some instances envelopes (although up to this time such information does not extend to naming the places which emit the latter), and that other districts would shortly follow in the same direction, as the system was found to be so remunerative to the government :—

Government of Jaroslav.
„ Novgorod.
„ Samara.
District of Damiansk.
„ Kretetsk.
„ Ribinsk.
„ Valdai.
„ Soummy, Gov. of Kharkov.

The secretary placed before the meeting a copy of the last-named label, of which the following is a description : Inscribed in Russian characters, SOUMSKAIA ZEMSKAIA POEHTA (Soummy rural post), in white letters, on a circular ribbon surrounding a white disc bearing a courier-bag. On said bag is the value, 3 K. The whole on a ground of crossed horizontal waved lines, in a rectangular frame, with corners *fleur-de-lis* inside. Red impression, on thin white paper.

Mr. Pemberton's letter and papers therewith, concerning the preparation of the catalogue of the Society, were then discussed at some length, and it was thought desirable that no distinction should be made between collectors, such as terming them of the French or English schools, it being probable that those now collecting on the one system might ultimately adopt the other, and thus no useful end would be served. It was proposed that the two systems might be better termed the "Major" and "Minor" systems, if it were thought right to retain any distinction whatever. No resolution was arrived at, the question being adjourned for discussion by the committee previous to being again brought before the members.

Mr. Speranza wished to bring the question of designing an album, which might be permanent, before the Society, but no conclusion was come to as to which would be the best form, whether in moveable leaves, or fixed pages in covers, or in separate unbound sheets.

A vote of thanks was passed to Dr. Viner for presiding, and the meeting adjourned until Saturday, the 6th of November.

CURIOUS CANCELLATION.—Many collectors have been puzzled by the discolouration on specimens of "Blood's Penny Post" stamp. It is simply the method of cancellation employed. The clerk, instead of using a stamp and ink-pad, simply dipped a pencil in acid, and touched the stamp, which instantly destroyed the colour.—*American Journal of Philately.*

REVIEWS OF POSTAL PUBLICATIONS.

Album Timbres-Télégraphe illustré d'armoiries et de timbres, avec textes français, anglais, italien, and espagnol. By J. B. MOENS. Brussels : J. B. Moens.

IT may be thought by some that we are exceeding our duty in reviewing a telegraph-stamp album, but we feel we cannot pass in silence the appearance of the first work of its kind. Our own individual opinion is, that philatelists have enough to do to collect postage stamps alone, but there may be many among our readers who think differently, and who having commenced a supplementary collection of telegraph labels, may be glad to learn that there is in existence an album specially prepared for their reception.



The publication of this work may do for telegraph stamps what the albums of Oppen and Lallier did for their elder brethren, the postage stamps, and it is among the possibilities that the collection of the former will ultimately become popular. In view of the fact that they prepay *wired* communications instead of written, it must be admitted that they approach nearer than any other class of stamps to the postal emissions; and those who advocate their collection have this in their favour, that at present telegraph stamps are but few in number.

Intending collectors cannot do better than provide themselves with a copy of M. Moens' album. The name of the author is a guarantee for its general accuracy and completeness; and the fact that it is compiled after the plan of his stamp album is evidence of the excellence of the arrangement. It is at present of very moderate dimensions, and the price is proportionally small, ranging from 3/ in paper covers, to 8/ in morocco. Our own publishers, we believe, purpose laying in a supply.

An examination of its contents discloses some interesting facts. The total number of telegraph stamps in existence is rather over a hundred. These are shared amongst nine countries—England, France, Belgium, Russia, Prussia, Switzerland, Spain, Cuba, and India. Our own was the first to employ them, having commenced in 1857, but all its emissions are those of private companies, which have issued 42 stamps, counting varieties, or nearly half the entire number. Spain comes next in point of time and number, with 30 stamps, of which the first series came out in 1861; since then, it has had its yearly emissions; and the latest-issued stamp is remarkable as being the only one emitted since the establishment of the regency which bears the national arms. These are different from the arms on the postage stamps—the golden fleece (the Bourbon emblem) being omitted, and the two lower quarters being occupied with the arms of Navarre and Arragon, which had not previously been represented. Belgium commenced issuing telegraph stamps in 1865, and possesses a series of remarkable fineness and beauty. The Prussian labels date from 1864, and are four in number, to which must now be added the recently-issued Confederation series. France has used telegraph stamps since the commencement of 1868, and its four values are now found perforated. The Cuban, Indian, and Swiss labels all appeared in 1868. Of the Swiss design the annexed is an illustration. Russia issued a pair of very handsome labels not long since; and, as well as several of the other countries, has also a stamp impressed on a telegram form. It had been anticipated that our own country would issue a series on the adoption of the lines by the post-office, but we learn from an article in *All the Year Round* that it is not intended to do so. The postal series will be made to serve, as (to quote our contemporary's observation) "the department will be spared the cost of making several denominations of special telegraph stamps, and of stocking twelve thousand receiving offices with them. The public will be much more likely to have a sufficient supply of stamps near at hand, than they would be if the telegraph stamps were distinct from the



postage stamps; and the account of telegraphic revenue collected will be at least as simple as it would be if two classes of stamps were used." The most that telegraph-stamp collectors can hope for is, then, the application of a special cancelling mark.

Philatelists henceforth will, in so far as concerns the emissions of their own country, collect telegraph stamps *nolens volens*. The employment of stamps of a special form and type, even though in disfavour here, is certainly spreading on the continent; and it seems very possible that, in the course of a few years, these new aspirants for the notice of collectors may become almost as numerous as postage stamp ; in such case, the work under review will have a very primitive appearance.

POSTAL CHIT-CHAT.

The Five-Franc French Stamp, which is now on the point of appearing, has been so long delayed owing to an accident which obliged the engraver to recommence his work.—*Le Timbre-Poste.*

The Postmaster at New Lexington, Ohio, is said to be "a druggist and a dentist. He also keeps a grocery, dry goods, boot and shoe store; is a silversmith, jeweller, painter, cabinet-maker, and when times get a little dull, gets out a patent for some invention."

The Proposed Halfpenny Stamp.—We have reason to believe that a report favourable to the issue of a halfpenny stamp for the postage of printed matter under two ounces in weight, and newspapers, will be laid before a cabinet council next month by the postmaster-general, when it is probable that the government will resolve to bring in a bill authorising the issue of such a stamp.—*Echo.*

A Novel Postage-stamp Affixer.—The other day a lady went up to the post-office at Konigsberg, with a servant behind her, who carried a letter. Having bought a stamp, the lady desired her servant to hold out her tongue, over which she drew the stamp, and having fixed it on the letter, handed the letter to the servant to post. The post employés laughed heartily at the scene, but the lady conducted herself with the most irreproachable dignity.—*John o' Groat's Journal.*

A Pigeon Fancier at Toulon has found a novel use for the margins of postage stamps. When he finds a broken or cracked egg, and is able to make out that the living epidermis is intact, he proceeds to mend the egg with the gummed paper, and replaces it in the nest to be hatched. Eight times out of ten he says he succeeds in getting a young bird hatched. Sometimes, he tells us, he makes a hole in an egg to see whether the young bird is alive, and closes it again with gummed paper, and the egg is hatched just as though it had not been interfered with. One precaution must be observed, the paper used must be as nearly as possible of the same colour as the egg, or it attracts the notice of the hen, who makes efforts to pick it off when she turns the egg, and in so doing often effectually breaks it. Seeing the variety of colours of the stamps, M. Aquerone finds no difficulty in matching any egg.—*Globe.*

How the Post is Lodged at Pera.—The special correspondent in Turkey of the *Daily Telegraph* thus writes on the accomodation at Pera for the postal service. "You would say beforehand, being a stranger to the place, that the English, French, and Austrian post-offices were likely to be in decent, easily-accessible localities. The former you reach by climbing over heaps of loose stones; the latter you reach by one of the steepest and dirtiest alleys it has been my ill fate to traverse in any portion of the globe, not excluding Southern Italy. You go down a flight of steps, so steep, so ill-paved, and so slippery, that it is difficult to make your way; and then you come to the Slough of Despond, across which you have to wade before you reach the haven where you would be. If ill-advised, you try to find another way to the chief central letter-depôt than that which begins with a break-neck staircase and ends in a brick-field—than the way, in fact, which is dignified at its outset with the name of the Rue des Postes, and subsides soon after into Tom-tom street—this, as Miss Edgeworth used to say, in her novels, is a fact—you find yourself lost in a maze of squalid shanties, with narrow winding passages running between mud walls."

A Charge against the Post-office.—Sir,—Since the institution of that most convenient arrangement, the sample post. I have sent by it many parcels to India. Several of my packages were in the mails lost in the unfortunate *Carnatic*. On hearing of the wreck I wrote to the post-office to inquire whether the mails were enclosed in waterproof coverings, so that in the event of their recovery the contents would have escaped soaking. To my great surprise, I am informed in reply that "no waterproof covering is used to protect such packets"! I hope the attention of the post-office authorities will be drawn to the subject. Surely the mails might be put in waterproof bags or cases without either great difficulty or expense. An obstacle to the general use of the post for parcels is the risk incurred by the sender, as the post-office declines to be responsible either for loss or damage. It is to the interest of the post-office as well as the public, to reduce this risk to its *minimum*. I should like also to suggest to the authorities that they might profitably insure parcels sent through the post. A gentleman of great mercantile experience writes me, "I am strongly of opinion that a profitable business might be carried on by the post-office, if they would for a small premium take the risk in the same manner as any ordinary insurance office." Any arrangements that will facilitate the secure transmission of parcels between England and India cannot fail to be both convenient to the public and profitable to the post-office.—W. Marshall.—*Times (city article).*

Conceit and Flattery.—The gentleman at the head of the United States Internal Revenue Office has ordered a new series of revenue tobacco stamps, one of the lower values of which is to bear his own portrait, whilst two others will be respectively ornamented with the effigies of Grant and Sherman. In putting his own likeness on a government stamp, the commissioner would seem to have followed Mr. Connell's example; and it is worth notice that, like that immortal postmaster, he has chosen the value in most common use for the honour of bearing his effigy. The *Dispatch*, a paper quoted in *Mason's Magazine*, whence we have obtained the above information, makes the following pithy and humorous comment on the matter:—"There is a delicate touch of gratitude in this, as well as a stroke of policy in Delano putting the President's likeness on the stamps, as Grant is believed to be rather susceptible to this kind of flattery. But the worthy commissioner made a mistake. He should have put Grant's likeness

on the cigar-boxes, and represented him with a 'smoker' in his mouth. As it is now, the President's placid features will scarcely ever be seen, while Delano's 'prepossessing countenance'—he should have been represented with a cigar, too, as he is as inveterate a smoker as Grant—will be handed around in the cigar shops whenever they sell a five-pound package. This species of toadyism and mutual and self-admiration is only equalled by that of Clark, formerly chief of the Printing Bureau of the Treasury Department, who, with equal modesty, had his own likeness engraved on the five-cent notes. Congress, next winter, will have something to say about placing the likenesses of living men on the national currency and revenue stamps."

CORRESPONDENCE.

THE ARMS OF SPAIN.

To the Editor of "THE STAMP-COLLECTOR'S MAGAZINE."

DEAR SIR,—In reading the article under the above heading, I found the following: "*On a field* AZURE, *a lion rampant* GULES, *crowned* OR." Allow me to say that that is false heraldry, there being colour upon colour, which is inadmissible. The correct blazon of the arms of Castile and Leon being as follows: Quarterly 1 and 4 gules, a castle triple towered *or*, for Castille: 2 and 3, *argent*, a lion rampant, *purpure*, for Leon.

Further on, also, in describing the arms of the house of the Medici, is, "the remaining five" bezants "are red." Now, "bezant" is the name given to golden balls, while red balls are named "torteaux," and blue ones "hurtes."

Apologising for the length of this letter, and hoping it may find a place in your columns,

I am, dear Sir, yours truly,

Wigan. HERALD.

[We leave it to our contributor to reply to these criticisms.—ED.]

THE ST. LOUIS STAMPS.

To the Editor of "THE STAMP-COLLECTOR'S MAGAZINE."

SIR,—It may be right, when the claims of so many pretenders are being investigated, and so much reprinted rubbish is being offered for sale, to state that I for one can by no means subscribe to the attack made by M. Albis on the authenticity of the St. Louis stamps.

The fine nature of the engraving, the fact that a pair of each value were engraved separately, and the rarity of the specimens, in my judgment, are convincing proofs of the genuine nature of the stamps. The following details may be of interest to some of your readers.

The pair engraved in *Le Timbre-Poste* are specimens in my collection; the 10 cents was formerly in that of the late Rev. F. J. Stainforth, who acquired it from an exceedingly old and rich American collection; and the 5 cents was procured for me in 1862, through Mr. Mount Brown. I may state, neither Mr. Stainforth, whose knowledge and experience was extremely great, and who was one of our oldest collectors, nor Mr. Mount Brown, had any doubt as to the authentic character of these stamps.

Of our English authorities, Mr. Pemberton, the writer of the critique on the catalogue of Berger-Levrault, the writer of a Parisian amateur's letters to the *Philatelist*, are all, I believe, agreed; and I am not aware of a single amateur on this side of the channel who denies these stamps to be genuine.

In 1864 I had the pleasure of showing the pair to that most acute and accomplished pioneer of philately, Mons. Herpin, of Paris. To him they were then unknown, but after careful examination, he entertained no doubt whatever, and fully accredited them as authentic.

M. Moens, of Brussels, I can also personally vouch as being of the same opinion; M. Berger-Levrault has attested his by what he states concerning them in his catalogue; and lastly, M. Mahé, whilst admitting the *critique* of M. Albis into his columns, has by no sign given his adhesion to the opponents.

It is to be observed, all the above named formed their opinion entirely from the examination of the stamps themselves, and in no way were aware of the letter and specimen which was in the possession of Messrs. Alfred Smith, of Bath, who courteously submitted it for examination to those interested in the subject.

The discrepancy which M. Albis makes so much of—1848 for 1845—may be well enough accounted for (I have not seen the original) if the figures be in MSS.; a 5 and 8 are so much alike, they can be readily confounded. If this be the case, the whole criticism fails; but if not, the erroneous dates in no way invalidate the arguments derived from the stamps themselves.

I may add, in the famous collection of M. de Sauley a fine copy of the 10 cents, being that from which Mr. Pemberton discovered the second die, was found.

I am, Sir, yours faithfully,

London. FREDERICK A. PHILBRICK.

THE PHILATELIC SOCIETY AND THE PUBLICATION OF A CATALOGUE.

To the Editor of "THE STAMP-COLLECTOR'S MAGAZINE."

DEAR SIR,—So many of our members being absent from home, it is difficult to get a meeting together, and as it is very desirable that some step was made towards our intended catalogue or monographs, I address these lines to you in preference to waiting until we can get a full meeting together, as by this means the subject will be well ventilated, and we shall be prepared to act definitely when we can meet in sufficient numbers to carry weight with our decisions.

Without attempting to enter into the great differences, or to define them, between the two classes of collectors, I enter on my proposal for a catalogue with this fact before me, that the claims of both classes must be considered, else neither the society nor its publications can hope for ultimate success. I would not counsel the publication of a catalogue solely arranged on the so-called French system, as such a work would embarrass and puzzle nine-tenths of our collectors. I would not attempt to define what the so-called English school should collect, but I will briefly review the principal points of a thoroughly good catalogue (without any mention of papers or perforations), and it will, I think, be seen that these points might most legitimately be made the foundation of the so-called English school; see here: In classifying the stamps of any country, I would regard the NAME of the country as generic; I would give, under the heading DESIGN, the facial appearance, shape, and method of printing; if there were minor differences for certain values, I would use the word TYPES to define them, if not we get at once to SPECIES, which term I would apply to the individual specimens themselves, and those very marked shades which it is natural to imagine can only be official; up to here would comprise, as a general rule, everything collected by the so-called English school; if a greater or finer definition of shades were attempted, we should trench upon classification as carried out by paper and perforation, to which changes of colour are auxiliary. After SPECIES I would propose to give, under the heading

VARIETIES, a complete list, arranged in the fullest and clearest manner, of everything known to us. These I would also number, and I would render the identification of each variety with its primary species the work of an instant, by quoting the number of the species in parenthesis. This would facilitate reference, and be most useful to the inexperienced, and to students. This rough or skeleton list, will show the feasibility of my plan, and will, I hope, gain converts to its practicability and value.

BARBADOS.

Design. Britannia, rect., typograph, col. impress.
Types I. No value; name below.
II. Value in full; name above.

Species.

I. Blued paper 1852 } 1.—Green.
2.—Blue.
3.—Red.
White paper 1856 } 4.—Green, v.
5.—Blue, v.
? 1860. 6.—Rose.
1865. 7.—Rust-red.
1869. 8.—Bright red.

II. ? 1856. 9.—*Sixpence*, lake-red.
1866. 10.— ,, orange.
1869. 11.— ,, vermilion.
1856. 12.—*One shilling*, black.

Varieties.

I. Blued paper Imperforate } (*a*.) Blueness not penetrating all over.
Cartridge paper. (2). 1.—Deep rich blue.
Ordinary paper. (1). 2.—Dark green.
3.—Deep rich blue.
4.—Chalky blue.
(*b*.) Blueness penetrating all over.
Ordinary paper. (1). 5.—Blue-green.
6.—Rich green.
7.—Yellow-green.
(2). 8.—Deep blue.
9.—Darker blue.
10.—Dark greenish blue.
11.—Chalky blue.
12.—Sky blue.
(3). 13.—Red.
Pelure paper. (2). 14.—Deep blue.
&c., &c.

It will be seen that I propose to make particulars of classification and date marginal as far as practicable, as this facilitates reference. By a system of abbreviations of about a dozen terms in constant use, the use of various sized types, and "cuts" of the shapes of the stamps (after Berger-Levrault's plan), I think a great deal might be got into the margin of a page. I would propose to print only on one side of a page, leaving the opposite sheet blank for notes of new issues, &c. This is my plan, but there are alterations which would no doubt be advisable, and it is to obtain any suggestions that I publish this. The society meets at 3 o'clock, on Saturday, Nov. 6th, and letters addressed to the Secretary (36, Great George-street, Westminster), embodying suggestions, will have the consideration of the meeting.

Yours faithfully,

EDWARD L. PEMBERTON.

Birmingham.

ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS.

L. M., Cheltenham.—Your two 1 sgr. Hanover are distinct varieties: the deep carmine-rose is the earlier issue; the light-rose, which is also perforated, the later.

TIMBROPHILIST, Quebec.—The first vol. of *The Stamp-Collector's Magazine* is out of print, and will not be reprinted unless the sale of a certain number of copies be guaranteed in advance.

J. B. B., Norwich.—We are obliged for extract from Natal paper, of which you will see we have made use.—We shall be glad to receive any further details you may obtain as to the coming series.

J. C., Manchester.—To this correspondent we have to return thanks for the stamps elucidative of the new "watermark" on the Confederation series, and also for the offer of future assistance.

L. F., Friedrichshafen.—Your stamp is not used for postage, and we believe it to be a simple label without monetary value; it certainly is not worth collecting, and of its exact use any one in your town could no doubt give you information.

W. DEAN, Bath.—Thanks for extract sent, but we do not see its point. The "image" is effaced on all stamps, and if the Spanish authorities were anxious to indicate that Queen Isabella's image is effaced, the mutilation of a plaster cast would be the simplest means. As a witticism the remark is certainly "no joke."

W. B., Oxford.—1. Your carmine 5 lept. Greek is most probably a forgery or a changeling, but we cannot speak positively without seeing the stamp.—2. Your blue stamp inscribed WURT. WAHL. STEMPEL, is the Wurtemburg election stamp. It was impressed on an envelope, and franked the elector's voting paper, which had to be sent to a central office.—3. Your Haitian stamp is spurious; for full description thereof, see *Stamp-Collector's Magazine*, vol. vi., p. 153.

NOBODY, Bury St. Edmunds.—The 10 c. Italian of 1856 is found in some eight or ten shades, varying from a light yellow ochre to sepia; the grey and brown shades are somewhat rarer than the others, but all are common.—The provisional Madeira continues current.—Your Prince Edward Island fourpenny is genuine.—We have no information to the effect that a new die is being engraved for the 5 c. Peru; the green dinero exists both perf. and unperf.

ARGUS, Bristol, sends us an envelope which bears an English official frank stamp. In the left upper corner, in place of the usual adhesive, is an irregular transverse oval hand-stamped impression: the fac-simile signature of W. F. Forster crosses the oval, and the words HORSE GUARDS are placed in a curved line below, following the border. This is not postmarked, but just below is a circular hand-stamp with the words LONDON OFFICIAL, and the date in the margin and PAID in the centre. The envelope itself bears the national arms on the flap. Altogether this is a variety well worth preserving.

B. C., Hungerford.—The early Mexican issues, head of Hidalgo, bear the surcharged inscription at the side in heavy *block* characters, whilst the recently-issued stamps of same design have this inscription always in *gothic* letters. We are not surprised at your question, as the similarity between the two emissions is very close, and some test, such as the one given above, is required, to enable collectors to distinguish between the two.—We cannot say whether your 15 c. Parma, second issue, on brown paper, is genuine or not, without seeing it.—The Indian and other stamps bearing the word SERVICE are those used to frank the correspondence of the public departments to which they are issued.

OUR CONTEMPORARIES.

November 19, 1869.

The Philatelist for October opens with an essay "On the Benefits arising from Stamp Collecting," which gained the first prize offered by the publishers. It is well-written, and says all that can be said on what is now a well-worn subject. Following this, is a sketch of the history of Angola, which could hardly be other than humorous when reference had to be made to such comically-named celebrities as Ngingha-Angola-Chilombo-Kickasanda, and to such tragi-comical events as the killing, salting, and sending to Lisbon in pickle, of a rebellious Angolian king. In the article on "Recent Emissions," the editor makes allusion to the fact, that all the specimens of the 10 c. and 25 c. of Nicaragua which have come over to this country are ungummed, but this is easily explained. Most of the stamps received from tropical countries are forwarded thence with a sheet of thin tissue paper between each sheet of stamps, to keep the latter from adhering to each other; very often, however, the tissue paper itself sticks to the stamps, and can only be removed by wetting the sheets, an operation which, at the same time, removes the gum. From a similar cause, Nicaraguan stamps are frequently found with gum on the face.

Turning to the November number: the best article is unquestionably that entitled "Our Colonial Stamps seen through Foreign Eyes," in which M. Moens' list of our English colonials is closely and justly criticised. Perhaps the most amusing error pointed out is the cataloguing as a Maltese stamp an English sixpence lilac of the current type, but printed on unwatermarked paper. A single sheet, by some accident, was printed on this paper, and formed part of a supply sent out to Malta, but this renders it in no degree an emission peculiar to the island.

We commented last month on the mistake made by *Le Timbrophile*, in stating, as a fact, that the heads of the first ten presidents of the United States would respectively adorn the ten expected new stamps for the republic; but the French paper stands excused, the *Philatelist*, professing to quote from the *American Journal of Philately*, having fallen into just the same error.

Le Timbre-Poste, for October, devotes an article to the consideration and attempted refutation of Dr. Magnus' arguments on the 5 c. "four-type" Luçon; we fail, for our own part, to perceive that the doctor's conclusions are materially shaken. M. Moens has had in his possession specimens agreeing, in one or more of their characteristics, with the assumed reprints, and received one copy, identical in every respect with them, a twelvemonth since, from Barcelona; but that leaves untouched the question—where do those come from which are now put in comparatively large numbers on the market? Let it be borne in mind that it is not merely separate specimens, but entire series which are being offered. We must say, we look on the sudden appearance of a large supply of unused copies of a stamp which has for years been rare, as in itself a very suspicious circumstance, and one which can only be disposed by a frank explanation of the source whence they are derived. It is not by the discovery of a partial resemblance between these stamps and unquestioned originals that their authenticity can be established, but by the production of evidence as to the how, when, where, and by whom, they were obtained.

The current number is full of interesting matter. A translation of the first article after the *Chronique*—that on a newly-discovered 2 c. Spanish of the 1854 type—will be found in the present number, under the heading "Two Spanish Stamps." Following this is a short paper on the 1½ sch. Bergedorf, in which M. Moens essays the refutation of a correspondent, who argues that the engraver in order to correct his error in adding an *e* at the end of the word *schilling*, had to re-make the entire word. Anyone who looks at the stamp as it is, will see that from the position of the word there is no room for a properly formed *e* at the end, but in the design as at first drawn, the word is differently placed, its first letter being much nearer the lower margin, and there being still a fair space between the extra letter and the upper margin. M. Moens contends that the word was shifted on the making of the lithogra-

phic transfers from which the ordinary stamps were printed; but we should like to know how, either on the original stone or on the transfers, this could be done. A thing once graven on stone may be added to, but cannot be altered, without first effacing that portion which it is desired to correct; in short, neither the words as a whole, nor the letters separately, are moveable. There seems no reason against the belief of the re-draught of the word, except the absolute identity in the size of the letters, and their position, relatively, to each other, which, according to M. Moens, exist between the two inscriptions, *schilling* and *schillinge*; but this alone does not overcome the palpable impossibility of bodily shifting a lithographed inscription. Perhaps some secret of the art is connected with the apparent resemblance. The point, at any rate, is a minor one, not affecting the character of the stamps, and only interesting from its connection with the *modus operandi* of stamp engraving.

After the Bergedorf article comes a paper aptly headed "The New Crusade," in which reference is made to the activity with which, happily, the attack on false stamps and their vendors is at present being pushed on by all the leading philatelic journals. The names of the promoters of the "Clara Rothe" and Kissengen stamps are given; respecting the former we may have something to say later on, as to the latter, we trust Mr. Ferdinand Elb, of Dresden, will now either bring forward proof of the genuineness of his *protégés* —a difficult thing, we imagine, to do—or institute such inquiries as will enable him to give the names of the original fabricators. *En passant* we may note that *Le Timbrophile*, in speaking of these stamps, which were first noticed by M. Moens, says with strange coarseness, that anyone must be thoroughly stupid not to have suspicions of them, a remark at which our esteemed *confrère* of Brussels not unnaturally takes umbrage. Our Parisian contemporary having expressed considerable doubt as to the nature of the Russian locals, M. Moens justly remarks that their present extreme rarity is greatly in their favour, for if a speculation, they would certainly have become common ere now, and winds up with this very *apropos* little parable: "You buy, say a pair of boots, for which you pay in advance, and which ought to be delivered at your house. At the end of three months you are astonished at not having received the said boots. Is it the shoemaker or the quality of the leather that you suspect?"

The number closes with an article on the varieties of the 2d. brown of Victoria (Melbourne), in which the position and number of the stamps on a sheet is sought to be demonstrated. As to this we cannot help asking, if the philatelist, when he has succeeded in placing the stamps in what he believes to be their original order when printed, is any wiser than he was before. The knowledge of such an arrangement gives no information of value as to the history of the stamp, nor any check on counterfeits, and it really seems to us to be no more instructive than the putting together of a child's puzzle.

Le Timbrophile for the 30th September is principally distinguished by an article on the first-issue of the Argentine Republic, in which the writer proves the existence of two types for each of the three values, differing from each other, however, only in secondary details. We must content ourselves with the bare statement of the fact, as to give a list of the differences whereby the types are distinguished from each other, would be to transcribe the article entire. We can merely suggest to our readers the careful comparison of their own specimens.

The editor, under the heading, "Un Insulteur," deals in a fitting manner with the Boston forger, Lyford, who, in a scurrilous publication which he has been at the pains to circulate gratuitously, has coupled his name with that of our publishers, and other respectable dealers, in his abusive tirades. We refrain from adding any comment ourselves; to paint pitch black is useless labour—we should but soil our own hands in the attempt.

From a letter published in this number we learn that the current 12 c. Spanish has been counterfeited; and it would seem that the post-office has been victimised by the false stamps, as the administration has been at

the pains to give notice of the differences between them and the "real things"—whether to the public or to its own servants we are not informed; but here, at any rate, are the distinguishing points signalised. "In the false stamps the four corner ornaments are farther from the external line of the oval than in the originals, and the exterior line-borders are larger. In the oval band, inscribed CORREOS ESPANA, the O is separated from the C, and very near the R; and the two A's of ESPANA are narrower. In the words DOCE CUARTOS, the U slants, and the R and S are smaller. The ground of the oval is covered with very coarse lines, whilst this part of the design is very finely engraved in the originals. The forehead is more bent, and not so well drawn as in the genuine stamps; the distance from the nose to the outer line of the chignon is very great, whence it results that the bust is much larger; the right section of the base of the neck is only shaded by four lines [hatchings] instead of five. There is also some difference in the perforation." Such are the variations indicated by the post-office itself, and they do credit to its critical comparison; but we should have thought its best plan, on discovering the existence of a forgery, would have been to issue a new type, as it had previously done in similar cases; and since such designs as Spanish engravers can produce offer no great difficulty in imitation to Spanish rogues, a watermark—a test which might be read by those who run, even if they did not know their letters—might put an effectual stop to their mischievous ingenuity. We respectfully present this suggestion to all and sundry the Hidalgos whom it may concern.

The American Journal of Philately for September contains nothing of an extractable nature; but in the course of an article on the new United States stamps, a quotation is made from the *New York Herald* respecting them, in which the novel statement is made, that "Every other country has been able to fix upon *an intelligent postage stamp*, recognisable all the world over." We must admit that among the many excellent attributes of postage stamps we never yet thought of including "intelligence," but this, perhaps, only shows our own inappreciativeness; for, according to the New York paper, it is either palpable, or visible, or both. After this, we shall expect to hear of new stamps passing competitive examinations before being allowed to circulate.

The October number opens with an article describing the manufacture of the United States, which we shall take the liberty of reprinting in our next. Following this, is an article from the *New York Times*, on "Postage Stamps Abroad and at Home," characterised by just such a combination of smartness and superficiality as might have been expected. After referring to the approaching withdrawal of the current United States set, it adds, "We suppose it is indecorous to criticise that which is already moribund, but we may safely say, it is not because the present stamps are beloved of gods or men, that they are taken away from us in their youth." Again, it is suggested that Queen Isabella's nose, as well as her feelings, were depressed by the shadow of her coming abdication, judging from the toning down of that feature on the later emissions. The raised square on the United States stamps is happily christened "a nutmeg grater;" and of the English stamps it is remarked that they "are on paper watermarked with a coronet, which is practically invisible, being covered with engravings, somewhat as the Irish gentleman wished to be portrayed in a landscape—behind a tree." The writer's want of knowledge of engraving is evidenced by his assertion that the French stamps are, and the Russian "seem to be," lithographs!

The only other noticeable feature in the *American Journal of Philately* is a letter, whence it appears that the select few who have a *penchant* for the collection of "bung stamps," cannot gratify it without considerable risk, the law ordaining the destruction of such stamps when removed from their appurtenant barrels, and the payment of a heavy fine by any person in whose possession they may be found.

The American Stamp Mercury.—The three numbers before us do not call for any comment.

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TWO SPANISH STAMPS.

I.—The Twelve Cuartos of the 1857 Series.

BY OVERY TAYLOR.*

This stamp has long possessed a doubtful reputation, and some (myself among the number) have gone so far as to doubt its existence as a genuine emission. All the copies I had until lately seen were on a pure white, and rather thin paper, ungummed, and with a very new look about them, suggestive of a reprint; colour, a rather light orange.

A short time since, however, I obtained from a dealer of known integrity, a gummed copy printed a deep orange, on a rough, thick, white paper, somewhat resembling that of the 1856 series, but destitute of watermark, and both paper and gum showing evident marks of age. This copy I forward with the present to the Philatelic Society, in the belief that it is an original, in which opinion I am supported by M. Moens, who considers the stamp to be "irreproachable." It may be that other members of the society (or some of the readers of *The Stamp Collector's Magazine*) are in possession of similar specimens, and can confirm my opinion, but I do not find any mention of the special characteristics of this specimen of the value in any of the leading catalogues in which it is mentioned.

It is included with the other stamps of the series as if no question of its authenticity were entertained, yet *prima-facie* there is considerable reason for suspecting it, and placing it at best in the category of *timbres de fantaisie*, nor can we ever remember an attempt being made to elucidate its history. The principal reason for doubting it is the fact that this value, 12 cuartos, excluded from the series of 1854, does not re-appear among the Spanish stamps until 1860, and further that the stamps of that denomination, whether belonging to the earlier or the later series, have always been common, thus proving its extensive employment. And, again, no *postmarked* copy of the 12 c. has, I believe, ever been seen; did there exist one the fact would have been noted ere this, and of every other stamp whose actual circulation has been ascertained there are duly obliterated specimens in existence.

That it never had currency may, I think, be assumed, and M. Berger-Levrault supports this view in a note following his description of the 1857 series, wherein he briefly says: "It is not certain the 12 c. stamp was in circulation." The true explanation of the creation of this stamp is probably indicated by the date which M. Mahé gives as that of its emission—1860. It may be only a guess, but I imagine it to be a correct one, and if we take it for granted that this 12 c. was, so to say, issued in 1860, we can at once account with reasonable probability for its never having been in circulation.

Let it be borne in mind, first, that it was in 1860 that a new type and series was issued, which included the 12 cuartos. It follows that some considerable time previously the authorities resolved on making such changes in the rates as would render a 12 c. stamp necessary. What then more probable than that their first idea was to promulgate the altered rate at once, and, pending the preparation of a new type, to employ the old one, that of 1855-7, for the fabrication of a stamp of the required value? The order given, the dies were prepared, the supplies were struck off, and handed to the post-office, and there they must have remained. What may have been the causes which influenced the authorities to reconsider their decision it is not important to us to discover; perhaps the new series may have been so nearly completed by the time the stock of the old type was ready, that it was deemed unwise to issue a stamp which would either have to be recalled after a few weeks' currency, or which, if continued in circulation conjointly with the new series, would have destroyed the uniformity of the latter, and have had a tendency to create confusion.

Of the sudden issuing of a counter-order respecting the supply of this stamp, we have, I think, indirect evidence in the existence of so many ungummed copies. Of these latter I regret I have not a specimen to compare with my gummed copy, having never,

* Based on a paper read before the Philatelic Society, on the 13th ult.

in fact, cared to obtain one, but my impression is that they are identical in point of design, and on second thought I am inclined to believe that the apparent difference in the paper *may* be due simply to the gum, which is "crinkled" in every direction.

As the ungummed are so common, it would seem as if the order countermanding the emission was received at a very early stage in the application of the finishing touch to the supplies printed, or it may be that the adhesive specimens will ultimately prove as numerous as their companions, and that it is only now that the authorities or other the possessors of the stock of these stamps have struck upon the gummed "strata."

It remains now only to say, that the 12 cuartos—or, at any rate, my specimen—is identical in type with the other stamps of the 1857 type, saving the difference in the lower marginal label. The other stamps have the value in white letters, on a dark ground, but in this one the label was cut away, the space left white, and the value inscribed thereon in coloured letters; these letters are larger than those on the other values, as in making the change alluded to, the network spandrels were cut into, and thus a wider margin was formed. My own copy, like all I have seen, except a few new ones which passed through my hands some years ago, is cancelled by horizontal pen-and-ink lines, ruled in the post-office to prevent its being fraudulently employed.

II.—The Two Cuartos of the 1854 Series.

(*Translated from "Le Timbre-Poste."*)

There has been exhumed from some waste paper—we say waste paper, as we might say just as well, secrétaire, drawer, &c., &c., for the fact is we do not know where the exhumation took place—a 2 cuartos, 1854 (arms), which we shall introduce to our readers a little further on, and which, strange to say, has remained unknown up to the present time.

Let us, however, first consider the origin of the 2 cuartos. The rate for local correspondence having been extended and fixed at 2 cuartos for all the towns of Spain, a privilege previously enjoyed by Madrid alone, the 2 c. green, with arms, undated, which we are all acquainted with, made its appearance in September, 1854. It replaced at Madrid, the 1 c. bear, to which the forethoughtful administration had already prepared a successor of the same type, the 2 cuartos, which was never in circulation. It will be remembered that at that date the rate was divided by moiety between the sender and the receiver, each one paying a cuarto, the first on prepaying his letter, the second on receiving it. This system presented no slight inconvenience, as may well be supposed, the 2 c. then was created to unite the two charges.

As a rule this stamp was printed in green, more or less pale, on paper slightly tinted, later on, at a date which we are not in a position to fix, the impression was made in yellow-green, and dark yellow-green, on white paper a trifle thicker, and so continued, in all probability, until the end of March, 1855, when the new series appeared (with the effigy of Isabella II.) printed on bluish laid paper, with watermark of loops.

It is on this same *watermarked paper* that this 2 cuartos now comes to us. Was this variety in circulation, or was it not? Either supposition is equally admissible. We ourselves should be tempted to believe that the stamps were in use, although, so far as we can say, our copy is the only one as yet known.

When it is considered that the 2 c. on white paper, which had a five months' currency, is of extreme rarity, is it to be wondered at that we have never met with the one on bluish paper, which perhaps only saw the light during a period which cannot have exceeded one month? However it may be, we do not despair of being able shortly to elucidate the question.

Our copy is, as we have said, on blue laid paper, with loop watermark. The paper is rather thick, and the laid lines very distinct, a remark which holds good respecting the 1855 series, the stamps of which are found both on thin paper and on card, as we recently announced. In conclusion, our stamp is dark green, and the impression demonstrates to the least observant, that it dates from 1855, and not from 1869. What shall we say to it?

NEWLY-ISSUED OR INEDITED STAMPS.

Perhaps the best news we can give is that of the emission of an entirely new series for

Belgium.—In the spring of the year we gave engravings of two designs which were submitted to Mons. Jamar, the Minister of Public Works, for approval. Neither of these has, however, so far as we can with certainty speak, been adopted. In the new series, the old arrangement is maintained, of keeping stamps ornamented with the national arms for the prepayment of newspaper postage, and the stamps bearing the portrait of the king for the superior honour of franking the written correspondence of the country. The new emission includes all the previously employed values, and two additional ones—the long-talked-of 6 and 8 c. —making in all 10. There are but five colours for the ten values, which are thus arranged:

1	centime	(arms),	green.
2	„	„	blue.
5	„	„	amber.
6	„	„	carmine.
8	„	„	violet.
10	„	(head),	green.
20	„	„	blue.
30	„	„	amber.
40	„	„	carmine.
1	franc	„	violet.

The only value we have yet seen is the lowest, eight of which prepaid our copy of *Le Timbre-Poste*. Its design is very neat, though it is a question whether the prominence given to the numeral does not in some degree impair its beauty. In the upper part of the stamp, surmounting the central oval, are the national arms, consisting of the lion rampant, in a small oval surmounted by crown, and with the motto on scroll below—L'union fait la force. This heraldic device is on a diminutive scale; but below the central oval the Belgian lion appears again, and this time "as large as life," reposing on a tablet, which bears the simple inscription, belgique. In the central oval itself is the figure 1, on a solid ground; and in a curved line below, what would be the word centime, did not the lion's head obliterate some of the letters, and leave only c . . time visible. The groundwork is formed of prettily-disposed leaf-work, which does much to improve the *tout-ensemble* of the design. After this tolerably exhaustive summary, it only remains to say that the word postes does *not* appear; that the stamp is on pure white paper, perforated, but unwatermarked. Our readers, however, will have an opportunity of seeing for themselves what the new stamp is like, as we believe our publishers intend giving a specimen of the stamp itself with the present number.

As to the higher values, we can only repeat the information given by our Belgian *confrère*, to the effect that they bear a very good and well-executed likeness of the reigning king, Leopold II.; and that the frame of the portrait, which differs for each value, is very well put together. Honour to whom honour is due—M. Hendrickx—the engraver of the series.

France.—After Belgium—proceeding in a south-westerly direction—comes France, and next in importance to the Belgian series comes the French five-franc stamp. That



M. Hulot's work should be as near perfection as we can ever hope to see anything, is not surprising; and yet, in spite of the patent excellencies of the stamp, we feel inclined to quarrel with it, for the simple reason, that it is, if one shuts one's eyes to that most necessary inscription in the lower margin, a bill stamp. In all material points it is both of the design and shape of a fiscal label, only the latter are upright oblongs, and this is a transverse oblong. To make this stamp, it would seem as if all that had been done was to turn the emperor's head (though certainly it's not in every one's power to do that), and to alter the marginal inscriptions. In the bill stamps, the entire margin is occupied by the inscriptions; and

the lined spaces, above and below the portrait (or, as it is now placed, on either side), bear the value, and the limit of amount which is covered by the value, in red ink. It is true, that on placing a bill-stamp by the side of its congeneric postal label, it is evident that the former is considerably longer than the latter, and that therefore the frame, at any rate, has been re-made for the latter; but why, as the manual labour was the same, was not an entirely new type invented—one which there would be no chance of confusing with commercial stamps? And why, again, copy their shape? The newcomer is printed in lilac; there is therefore no likelihood of its being confounded with the other values; and its design (the head of the Emperor) would have prevented it from being mistaken for the 20 c. TIMBRE IMPERIAL, which is impressed in a similar tint. As an addition, however, to our French page, the new five-franc stamp will be welcome, as, properly placed, its peculiar shape will render it one of the principal attractions.

ST. VINCENT.—On the authority of our Brighton contemporary, we chronicle the actual emission of the one shilling, printed in brown; and the forthcoming appearance of a fourpenny of a new colour. This change, we may assume, has been decided on, to remedy the inconvenience which the similarity of shade between the two values named must have produced.

GREECE.—Somewhat mysteriously, a pair of 5 lepta of the Paris series, printed in *rose*—the colour of the 80 lepta—have come forward. The editor of *The Philatelist* last month described a copy which a correspondent had sent him, and which, strange to say, was found by its possessor in a shilling packet of stamps bought by him a couple of years since. Last month we also received an inquiry, as to whether this variety was known to exist, from a correspondent who himself possessed a copy. Our contemporary suggested that the specimen sent to him was one of the proofs or essays shown at the Paris exhibition; we, for our part, not having then had the opportunity to examine the variety, doubted its genuineness. We have now before us the stamp referred to by our correspondent, and find ample evidence of the correctness of our prevision that it was a forgery. Looked at apart, its remarkable fineness is calculated to deceive even a practised observer; but careful comparison with any genuine copy of the series will dispel the illusion. It will then be found that the letters of the word LEPT, in the lower margin, are much wider apart and thicker than in the original; the two figures 5 are likewise very coarse, and the Greek border will be found to differ in detail from that of the original. Again, the shading of the edge of the cap is not brought so far forward in the forged as in the genuine; in the latter it reaches to the temples, whilst in the former it does not come so far as the ear. The line of the neck in the genuine curves outward just below the chin; in the forged there is no such curve—the line is straight until it reaches the angle which terminates the neck; lastly, the little dots, which in the genuine are found between the undulating lines, forming the groundwork in the angles, are entirely absent in the false. This by no means exhausts the list of differences, but by these salient points any one may detect the impostor. It remains to be seen whether the copy sent to *The Philatelist* is distinguished by the same characteristics or not; its owner can now examine it himself, and he would be rendering some service to collectors were he to state the result of his examination. Meanwhile, we may point out that if he has had it two years, it can hardly be one of the exhibited proofs, for they must have been in the exhibition *at that time*.

SOUTH AFRICAN REPUBLIC.—We have just received copies of the three values for this state, which are, or very shortly will be, in circulation. The design agrees in every respect with the engraving given in our September number, which nearly equals the stamps themselves in fineness. The heavy effect of our illustration is due to its being printed in black, which brings out the solid border in too great prominence. The stamps have by no means a bad appearance, allowance being made for the deficiencies in the engraving. The white ground on which the arms are placed shows them up clearly, and the colours employed are bright and decided. The following is the correct list of the series.

1 (*een*) penny, rose.
6 (*zes*) pence, blue (ultramarine).
1 (*een*) shilling, chrome-green.

From this it will be seen that the colours originally announced for the 1d. and 1s. have been transposed. The paper employed is thin, and the stamps are divided by lines of dents.

Leitmeritz.—We shall soon have to catalogue apart the barn-door vermin of which a new plague seems to threaten us. It might have been supposed that Mr. E. A. Hofer, after the very cool reception given to his fifty-five varieties of fictitious "Leitmeritz Express" stamps, would have been cured of his propensity to defraud collectors; but no; if he cannot achieve success in that line, he is determined to do his best to deserve it, and to that end has issued a new series of "stamps,"



duly inscribed with the words Express fur local briefe, though "Expressly to dupe philatelists" would be a great deal nearer the truth. Collectors, however, will not need much cautioning, and if we say that the new emission comprises ten values, and—*pro. tem.*—only the same number of colours, viz.:

1 kr. pale blue.
2 „ carmine.
3 „ canary-yellow.
4 „ yellow-brown.
5 „ dark green.
10 „ vermilion.
12 „ dark blue.
15 „ violet.
20 „ brown.
50 „ pale yellow-green.

we have said nearly all that is necessary. Should the proprietor of these stamps succeed in disposing of his stock in the above colours, we should recommend him to print *all the values in* green next time—it would be suggestive at once of his own hope of selling his productions, and of the purchaser's credulity in buying them.

Trinidad.—All the current values exist with the words "Too-late" surcharged diagonally in black; and, according to *The Philatelist*, all values but the highest with the same word twice repeated in red letters. This inscription is we think printed on a whole sheet of stamps at once by the press, and not separately struck with a hand-stamp. But why are all the values thus surcharged? Are we to understand that all the "Too-late" stamps are sold at a price above their nominal value, the additional sum representing the extra tax on the letter? This is certainly the most reasonable supposition; but what a procrastinating set of people the inhabitants of Trinidad must be to require a whole series of "Too-late" stamps!

Ceylon.—We are informed that some Ceylon stamps have lately come over surcharged with large capital letters after the fashion of the South Australian. *Le Timbre-Poste* notices three: a tenpence with letter D in blue; a shilling, marked D. E. in red; and a twopence green, marked P. E. The latter has the letters in a horizontal position, reading from top to bottom, the others cross the stamp. The former arrangement, seeing it occurs on an obsolete colour, is probably the one first employed.

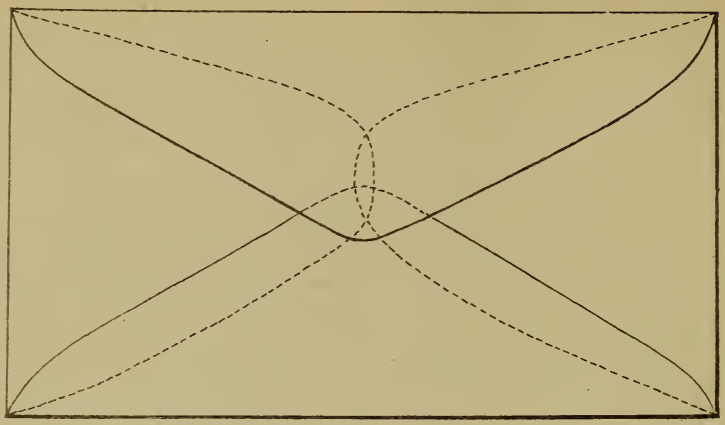
Spain.—It is rumoured that a new series of an entirely new type will be issued on New Year's Day. This seems almost too good to be true.

Peru.—From *Le Timbrophile* we glean the intelligence that a yellow 1 peso stamp, which was engraved at New York is now in circulation.

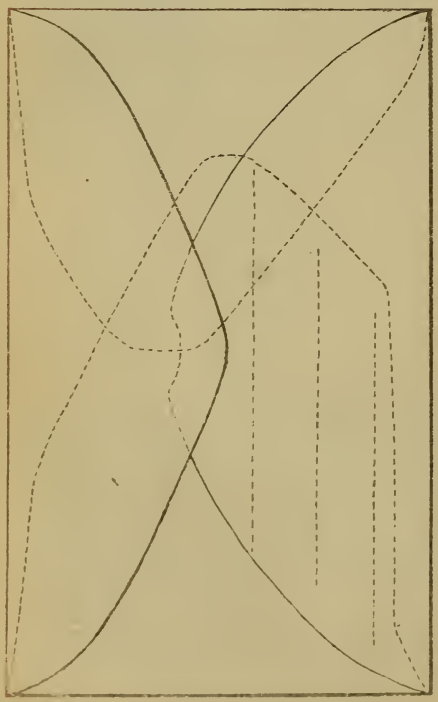
Italy.—The same journal contains a report of the probable emission of a new series of stamps, comprising a set of unpaid letter stamps.

St. Domingo.—Our Belgian contemporary notices the appearance of the 1 rl. in light and deep blue, on ordinary paper.

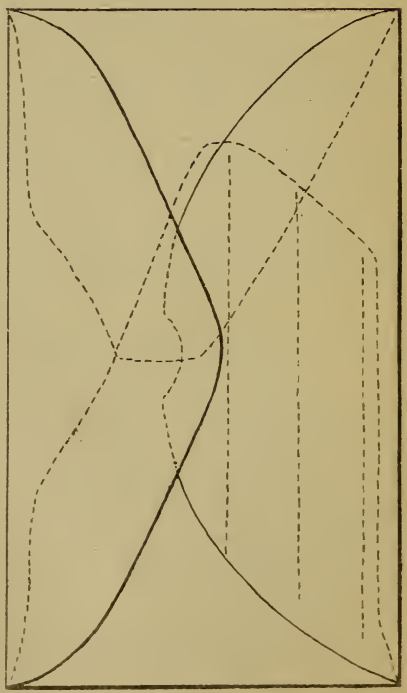
Russian Locals.—Mons. Moens announces the appearance of a specimen of the Bogorodsk 5 kop. imprinted in red, instead of blue as at first, and also promises to give an engraving next month of a new local, probably the Soummaia, which was described in the report of the October meeting of the Philatelic Society. We have ourselves just received a letter from a correspondent at St. Petersburg giving some further details respecting these locals, which we are compelled to hold over until next month.



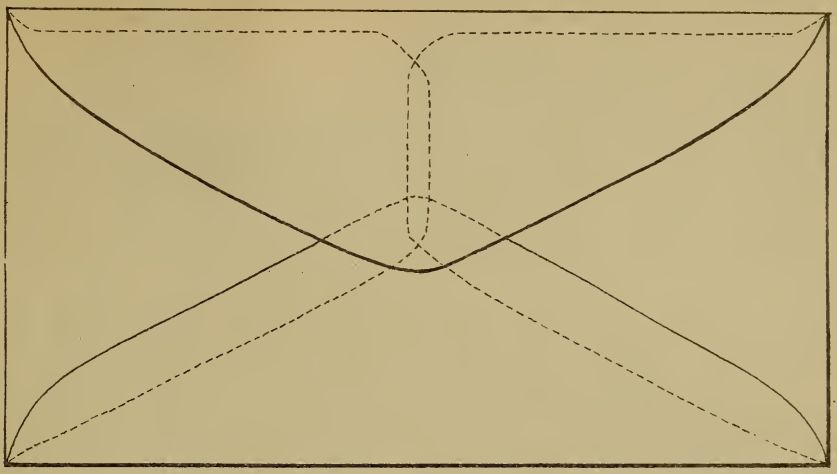
No 2. LETTER SIZE. *F*
Second shape.



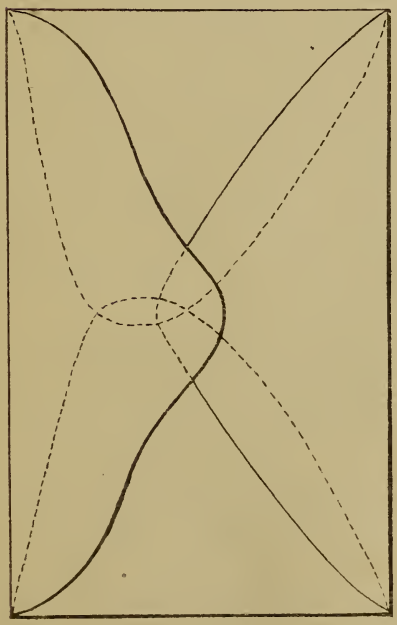
No 2. LETTER SIZE. *G.*
Second shape Security & Patent.



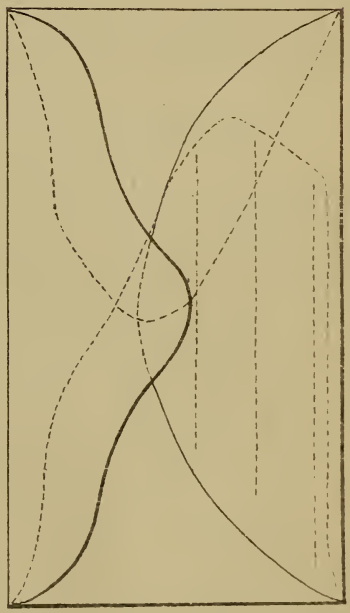
F. VAR. OF *D.*
(depth less.)



No 4. SECURITY SHAPE. *I*
Variety of size & make.



No 3. LETTER SIZE. *H.*



No 3. LETTER SIZE. *E.*
Security & Patent. (Less than G.)

SCALE, 8 INCHES TO THE FOOT.

THE ENVELOPES OF THE UNITED STATES.

BY EDWARD L. PEMBERTON.

SECOND PAPER.

In the July number I finished the examination of the first series issued, comprising the large 3, 6, and 10 cents. The second emission contained those usually known as the small 1, 3, 6, and 10 c., and in examining them I bear in mind that these papers are more to be devoted to the envelopes than to the stamps themselves, the latter being well-known, the former quite unknown to the majority of collectors. The shapes first used were engraved in July last, and were in use apparently until quite the end of 1864, at about which date it appears that a change was made in the make of the envelopes, and this change, though but slight, would be an easy means of detecting any reprint of an obsolete entire envelope, which might be made now. In this paper I shall exhaust all my means of examining specimens of the envelopes A and B (see p. 108), and in my next commence the examination of those issued since the end of 1864, the make and shapes of which are identical with those in use. As reference is often necessary to the succeeding shapes, I deem it better to engrave them here, as they will be at hand for reference, should it be necessary to draw attention to any of them. A few words, however, on the varieties of paper, of which so many were mentioned in July. I have since determined to mention none but those which are exceedingly clear, as every fresh specimen I obtain differs more or less from previous ones, from which I conclude that there is no commensurate good to be derived from the laborious cataloguing of their varieties, to which I was at first inclined; in some instances it may be desirable, and in such I shall not fail to be explicit.

I have never found the *large* 3 and 10 c. on any envelopes except those marked A and B; the same shapes were used for the *small* series 1, 3, 6, and 10 c., and for the compound 4 c. value, but there are two varieties of the patent envelope (engraved as D and E), which appear first upon the 3 c. value of this series. Of course the 1 c. and compound 4 c. also appear in the new shapes, F and G, as they have never been superseded by other types. When we come to the series with numerals of value on each side (commencing in 1861), the 3 c. rose and 10 c. green show the shapes A and D, and subsequently F and G. Of the 3 c. rose of 1861, there is, moreover, a variety having the envelope smaller in size (engraved as H), which in or after 1864 was subject to the same alterations which the shapes A and B show in the more recent F and G. The official shape C has always been confined to the 6 c. red of 1853, and 6 c. rose of 1861, on white and on yellow in both cases. The official shapes of other and higher values, are of a different construction.

In 1857 a one-cent envelope seems to have been required, and an exceedingly plain device appeared, bearing the head of Franklin embossed to the right, on a solid oval disk, within a double oval frame, the oval frame bearing at top ONE CENT, below U. S. POSTAGE, in capitals in relief, on a solid ground, with a five-rayed star on each side. This value is still in use, and is found on envelopes A, B, and F, possibly on G; but it is only with A and B that we are at present concerned; of these shapes I have but three specimens to show, they are

39.—Crisp brown-buff, shape A.

40.—Soft yellow-buff, shape A.

41.—Ditto, shape B.

The colour of this 1 cent is a dark glossy kind of indigo, with little variation. No. 39 is the only one of the three which has the flap gummed; possibly this low value was not always deemed worthy of this extra finish.

On the 10th of Sept., 1860, the *small* series was completed by the emission of a 3 c. vermilion-red, a 6 c. ditto, and a 10 c. green. They are a trifle smaller than the 1 c., and bear the head of Washington to the left. Of the second one I can give no information, but I am collecting materials for a complete account of this hitherto unknown value; when I say *unknown*, I mean that the bare fact of its existence is believed, but I know no collector who can produce anything but the cut reprint, therefore I feel I am correct in calling it *the unknown value*. Added to these values we find the compound envelope

4 c., composed of the 1 and 3 c. stamps, side by side; when this was first issued I cannot say, but it was in circulation for many years, and seems to have been current since 1864, that is, if the make of the envelopes is to be taken as any criterion.

The specimens of the 3 c. which can be shown, present very little variation in shade. Of the 6 c. there are no original specimens known to me, and those of the 10 c. are quite unattainable. In M. Berger-Levrault's catalogue, the 10 c. of this series, on white paper, is not given, which will be a proof of its rarity; it does, however, undoubtedly exist, for I have obliterated cut specimens myself. The entire one from which I describe is Mr. Philbrick's, as are the entire ones on buff. The 3 c. coming first presents the following varieties:—

42.—3 c., vermilion-red, on toned white, *c*, shape A.

43.—3 c., ditto, on light buff,[v.] ditto.

The 4 c. (compound of 3 and 1 c.) on the same envelope, gives the following in shape A:—

44.—4 c., on white, *a*, dark blue and vermilion-red.

45.—4 c., ditto, lighter blue and vermilion-red.

46.—4 c., on thin yellow-buff, dark blue, and vermilion-red.

47.—4 c., on stouter yellow-buff, lighter blue, and vermilion-red.

Of the scarce 10 c. the following are the descriptions: the shape is A:—

48.—10 c., deep dull green on white, *e*.

49.—10 c., deep dull green, on yellow buff.[v.]

From these notes it will be seen that the patent envelope B has not been found by me bearing any stamp of this series other than the 1 c. The 3 c. is found, however, upon envelopes with the patent lines inside, and of the two shapes, D and E; the latter, as will be seen, is an excessively small one, probably designed for ladies' use. The specimen from which the drawing of the construction was made, appears unique, as far as inquiries on this side of the Atlantic have extended. The shape D is slightly less in depth than A, B, F, or G; in construction it is very similar to G, the great difference being, that the bottom flap has a deeply curved notch, which in G is much less bold; also the side flaps of D are cut to leave more sinuous edges at top than those of G. The small envelope E has the bottom flap coming to a gentle point; of this we have no examples in any other envelope bearing the patent lines. The specimens of these two envelopes are these:—

50.—3 c., red on smooth white, shape D.

51.—3 c., red on thin yellow-buff, ditto.

52.—3 c., red on dark buff, ditto.

53.—3 c., red on smooth white, shape E.

In taking leave of this series, I must claim indulgence for any omissions which American collectors may detect, such as may occur (and many must, from our rather limited sources of comparison) are due to their absence from my own and from Mr. Philbrick's set, and are doubly "my misfortune and not my fault." For the specimens of the small 6 c., I will leave two or three numbers vacant (hoping to fill them next month), so that in the *resumé* which I intend giving in the concluding paper, there may be no awkwardness in the numbering of the various varieties and types.

Coming to the issue of July, 1861, which I am at present only concerned with, the 3 c. rose and 10 c. green, I find a new variety of shape in a 3 c., on a small-sized envelope, the sketch of the construction of which is marked H. All the other early specimens of both 3 c. and 10 c. are of shape A and D; no specimens of patent envelope, shape E, being known to me, though it is only reasonable to imagine that some may have been emitted.

The design of the 3 c. is simple: the head of Franklin to the right, embossed, on a solid oval disk, within a double oval, lettered at top UNITED STATES, below THREE CENTS in open capitals; a small oval each side bears a figure 3. The colour is pale rose. The varieties are as follows:—

55.—3 c., on toned white paper,
56.—3 c., on full white paper,
57.—3 c., on yellow-buff, thick,
58.—3 c., on yellow-buff, thinner and smoother,
} Shape A.

59.—3 c., on toned white, shape D.

60.—3 c., on toned white, shape H.

The design of the 10 c. is more elaborate; the same head occurs, but on a larger oval; this is edged by a solid white frame, bearing at top, TEN CENTS, below, U. S. POSTAGE, in thin coloured capitals, a large white oval each side, double the width of the frame, bears 10 in coloured figures, the whole is made into a slightly transverse oval shape, by the introduction of a leaf, &c., above and below each oval.

Of the 10 c. green it appears advisable to study the variations in the colour of the impression, comparing it with the 10 c. of the first issue, and with those in use up to a very recent date. The 10 c. of the first series in the latest shade was deep dull green, this was continued on the small 10 c., and appears the shade of the first issued 10 c, the type under hand. After getting a little lighter, it became a very bright light green, yellowish by comparison with the next shade, which was cold light green; this gradually became darker as it appeared on envelopes of shape F. It is curious that I find a 10 c. on shape G, which in colour would appear coeval with the early-printed 10 c. The varieties in colour are these, shape A:—

61.—10 c., deep dull green,
62.—10 c., light bright green,
63.—10 c., clear cold green,
} on slightly toned white.

64.—10 c., deep dull green,
65.—10 c., dull yellow green,
66.—10 c., light bright green,
67.—10 c., clear cold green,
} on yellow buff, thin, and little glazed.

For shape D, which *probably* occurs, we leave a blank.

68.—10. c., green.

The last stamp issued on shape A appears to have been the 2 c. of 1863. The design is singular and hideous—the embossed head of Andrew Jackson to the left, on a solid shield-shaped disk, with six curved edges, occupies the centre, the two upper and two lower edges are duplicated by the frame, and respectively bear U. S. POSTAGE, and TWO CENTS, in capitals, on a solid ground, a pointed oval on each side bearing an unmistakeable figure 2, the inner edges of the ovals forming the side edges to the central disk, completing the design. The varieties are limited, according to my means of verification, to one; there are certainly slight variations in the tint of the paper, but they are not striking; this value is not known upon white paper.

69.—2 c., black on light buff, usually thin, shape, A.

[NOTE.—Of the varieties of dies of the values treated herein, we shall discourse next month.]

NOTES AND QUERIES.

BY AMATEUR.

Hong Kong.—Can any one explain how it is that the 96 cents, watermarked crown and CC., of the ochre-brown shade, is not to be met with *unused?* In none of the dealers' catalogues, English or Continental, is it quoted at a price; and an unused specimen is not to be met with in any of the chief collections known, here or abroad. Obliterated copies are very common, and cheap enough.

The 12 cents blue, with the same watermark, is also scarce in an unused state, but may occasionally be procured.

Great Britain.—The accidental use of an unwatermarked sheet of paper for a sheet of the sixpence has attracted the observation of collectors, and the variety so issued is sought for, and duly catalogued. Within the past few weeks another error has been found: a sheet of the sixpence, watermarked spray of rose, present issue, has been put into circulation without being *perforated.* This, it is believed, is the only instance of stamps of Great Britain being thus issued since perforation was adopted. These stamps have been found in strips, unsevered, both longitudinally and perpendicularly, so that this is satisfactorily proved to be a distinct variety.

Hanover.—In the very remarkable series of papers upon envelopes which the distinguished French amateur, who uses the *nom de plume* of Dr. Magnus, is now giving in *Le Timbre-Poste*, he mentions a fact, with which the writer's experience entirely agrees, viz., that he has never seen any specimens of the first-issued envelope, 1 silb. gr. rose, entire, either of the larger or the ordinary size, the variety being that with the figure of value placed beneath the bust,

at the bottom of the oval. No doubt, speaking from past experience, some time or other copies will turn up; but, meantime, Dr. Magnus very cautiously puts a query against the precise shade of the colour.

Since attention has been directed to the subject, the writer has noticed several specimens from the die of this value cut closely round, and of a hue which our French friends would denominate *rose chair*, which may be translated into flesh-rose: the little remnants of green inscriptions on these copies show that they are ancient, and very probably these may come from the most ancient envelopes. At all events, the writer has never met with an entire envelope showing this tint of colour.

If this suggestion be well founded, it would resolve the doubtful point of what was the precise shade of colour of these envelopes in the 1 silbergroschen.

Newfoundland.—Of the first series of this colony, does any one know of the 6½d. or 8d. rectangular in the *orange*-vermilion shade? All other values are found in this shade, viz., 2d., 4d., 6d., and 1s.; and of the *carmine*-vermilion, all values above-mentioned can be met with. Perhaps your readers will look over their specimens, and if the above 6½d. or 8d. orange are found, send a note of the fact to the editor.

Mexico.—The 4 reales, head of Hidalgo, black on yellow, with Gothic lettering, said to have been in use in 1867, under the republican government, appears rarely to be met with; indeed, the writer has never seen a specimen quite unquestionable. Undoubtedly copies of this stamp, with Gothic lettering, do exist, and some came over just prior to the emission of the first set of the empire. There seems no means of distinguishing these latter from those issued since the present republic, and collectors must rely on the history of the specimens. Can any distinction be found in the stamps themselves, which may assist as a guide?

Ceylon.—The sixpence envelope is to be found on laid paper, *with the lines of the vergeure vertical*, instead of oblique, as is usual in this series: does any one know of other values thus impressed? The variety has the seal ornament on the flap with flowers, and is therefore of the second series of printing.

St. Louis.—At the last meeting of the Philatelic Society, London, an original and unquestionably old letter, dated St. Louis, 17 Decr., 1845, was exhibited. It had a 10 cents stamp of St. Louis on its back, where the address was; the obliterating mark in red ink was circular, ST. LOUIS, 18 DECR., 1845; and the face of the letter, as folded, bore the word PAID in red ink. The letter was in German, and from a house in St. Louis to its New York correspondents.* It bears marks of having been folded and put away with papers, and has the regular clerk's endorsement of name of sender, date, date of receipt in New York; a space for date of reply is left but not filled in. The appearance of this letter so stamped was decisive, in the opinion of the meeting, in favour of its entire genuineness; and the members present were further unanimous that the stamps of St. Louis are perfectly authentic, and entitled to rank, as M. Berger-Levrault places them in the French edition of his catalogue, as an issue accredited by the authorities, and therefore in a position above the stamps of mere private firms.

THE PHILATELIC SOCIETY.†

THE meeting originally appointed for the 6th November was not actually held until the 13th, when the members listened with much interest to the following papers:—

1.—On the Envelopes of Germany, by W. A. Westoby, Esq., of Paris.
2.—On the Spanish 12 cuartos of 1857, by Mr. Overy Taylor.
3.—On the Locals of California and Oregon (2nd paper), by E. L. Pemberton, Esq.

An American Dispatch-post local was exhibited by the Secretary, still fastened to the original envelope, sent from New York to London in 1844.

Mr. Pemberton also sent for examination two imperforate 80 c. laureated French, which he had received on a letter.

* [Is not this the same letter referred to by us last year? The dates, &c., are identical.—ED.]

† Our usual report not having reached us, we are compelled to replace it by a simple outline of the proceedings.

THE FIRST BOLIVIAN SERIES.

We borrow from *Le Timbrophile* the following additional details respecting this series, given by the contributor who obtained the information concerning it which is reprinted in our number for March last. The world, we think, now knows the whole truth about these interesting stamps.

In the first place, the engraver of the stamp is Senor Estruch, of Spanish origin, born in Catalonia, who with his brother was in business for some little time at La Paz. This city, and the American continent itself, he left about eighteen months since. His brother, and partner, was at Paris three months ago, and we may presume that from him M. Albis has obtained some of the particulars which he relates.

The correct list for the first edition of the series is as follows:

5	centavos,	dark green.
		pale green.
		apple, or yellow-green.
10	,,	sepia.
		black.
50	,,	orange-yellow.
		yellow.
		pale yellow.
100	,,	slate blue.
		dark blue.

It will be seen that the 15 and 20 c. and the 1 peso are scored out, it being certain that as genuine stamps they are nonexistent.

The second edition was not resolved on because, as is generally supposed, the stamps of the first had been counterfeited, but simply to satisfy the public requirements pending the arrival of the expected new series from New York. It consists of the following values and colours:

5	centavos,	violet.
		red-violet.
50	,,	light blue.
		dark blue.
100	,,	dark green.

The colour of the 50 c. was changed because the yellow (the stock of that colour, as we understand) had in some way become too pale, and without other motive than simple fancy, which fancy we presume also dictated the change in hue of the 5 and 100 c.

Only a very small number of the sheets of this second edition were printed, and the paper differs from that of the first in being thinner, especially for the 50 c. blue. The 100 c. green is very rare, and the others far from common, although they are to be found in not a few collections.

The first engraving executed by M. Estruch was that of the 5 c., of which he made two steel plates. All the stamps differ not merely in the sketching of the eagle but also in the inscription. There were seventy-two stamps on a plate, arranged in six rows of twelve. The differences between the eagles of the two sheets of stamps are considerable; there are not two alike; the heads, the wings above all, and likewise the bodies, present such variations that many of these figures have no resemblance to eagles, but are more like pigeons or pheasants.

The ink employed to print the sheets of 5 c. green was sometimes so greasy and oily as to give the stamps printed by it the appearance of paper soaked in oil.

The second engraving executed was that of the 10 c. stamp, and although of a design more correct and uniform than that of the 5 c., the working was decidedly less successful, in consequence of the bad preparation of the plate which was too much corroded by the acid. Many of the stamps are altogether indistinct. and it is difficult to recognise on them, not simply an eagle, but any bird at all. Some of the impressions, in lieu of a figure 10 at the right lower angle, show only a 1, the cipher not putting in an appearance.

In the 10 c., as also in the 50 and 100 c., the ground is not the same as for the 5 c. In this last it is composed of crossed diagonal or rather oblique lines,* whilst in the other values the ground in the oval containing the eagle is formed of vertical lines simply, and the ground of the frame is composed of horizontal lines without any kind of crossing,

The ill success of the working of the plate of the 10 c. caused the prompt abandonment of that stamp, of which only a small number

* [This is hardly plain enough: in our own copies the ground on which the eagle is placed is formed of vertical and oblique lines crossed, whilst that of the exterior frame consists wholly of vertical and horizontal lines.—Ed.]

of copies was printed, and the Bolivian postal administration itself withdrew this value from circulation after the sale of a few sheets, which fact explains the rarity of the stamp, especially of unobliterated copies.

The 50 c., which was the third in order of execution, is better than the two preceding stamps. The type adopted for the eagle gives tolerably well the aspect of the bird, and although the seventy-two stamps of the sheet are all different they still belong to the same type, particularly as regards the wings and body; the head alone presents numerous varieties easily distinguishable at a glance.

In conclusion, the 100 c. was the last engraved, and is by far the best of all the old stamps; the engraving is rather good, and the impression very successful. One peculiarity in this plate is that in nearly all the stamps, the A's of the word Bolivia are without the transverse bar.

REVIEWS OF POSTAL PUBLICATIONS.

Alfred Smith & Co.'s Descriptive Price Catalogue of the Postage Stamps of All Nations. Illustrated with upwards of 100 Engravings. Thirteenth Edition. London: E. Marlborough & Co.; Bath: Alfred Smith & Co., Office of *The Stamp-Collector's Magazine.*

JUST in time to serve as a Christmas present comes the thirteenth edition of our publishers' well-known catalogue. The arrangement of the last two editions is maintained, but the illustrations are again printed alternately in black and red, in lieu of blue and red, as in its predecessor.

It is needless to add that it has been, to use the hackneyed phrase, "brought up to the present time;" and for collectors of the "English" school it furnishes a complete guide, so far, at least, as design and colour are concerned. So much is already given for the money, that we hardly like to suggest additions, which would reduce still further such microscopical margin of profit as the publication may now leave; but if our publishers are willing to ignore the question of profit and loss, and aim only at increasing the usefulness of their already valuable list, we should recommend them to distinguish between all the perforated and unperforated series, and in some cases between the quality or thickness of paper. They admit the principle that it is good to notice such distinctions, by separately cataloguing the perf. and unperf. Hamburg, and the blue and white paper New Zealands and Trinidads. Why not, then, give the Austrians with small and with large perforations—to take a prominent example,—and also the unperf. Bahamas, the watermarked and unwatermarked Belgians, the unperf. and perf. Hanoverians, Italians, Portuguese, Russians, Servians, &c. Such additions, if they increased the cost, would certainly augment also the value of the catalogue; and we should imagine they would facilitate the ordering therefrom, as collectors cannot now specify many of their wants by a number, as they ought to be able to do.

Presenting these suggestions for what they are worth, we take our leave of the thirteenth edition, with the simple wish, that it may spend a short but profitable life.

POSTAL CHIT-CHAT.

PRESIDENT GRANT'S FATHER fills the humble office of postmaster of Covington, an insignificant town in Kentucky.

UNITED STATES POST-OFFICE.—It appears that in the fiscal year ending June 30th, 1869, 760,000,000 letters passed through the mails of the United States, being an increase of 40,000,000 over any previous year. This is about 20 letters per head for every man, woman, and child in the United States.—*Times.*

ACROSS THE NEW WORLD.—The post-office department of the United States government keeps a register of the time occupied in the transmission of the mails between San Francisco and the chief eastern cities. The average time between New York and San Francisco is seven days, two hours, and twenty-three minutes, but frequent trips have been made in less than six days and sixteen hours. It is intended to reduce the schedule time, so as to bring it down by half a day on the average.—*Times.*

THE RATE OF POSTAGE BETWEEN ENGLAND AND AMERICA.—We learn that the rate of postage between the United States and England will very shortly be reduced to 3d., or 6 cents. The measure has long been talked of, but now it seems to have been finally decided on. The result will be an immense addition to the correspondence between the two countries, and the post-office will in the end be richer, instead of poorer, for the change. Every reduction hitherto made has had that result. The new rate will come into effect on the 1st of January next. Poor immigrants will be the first to benefit by the wise policy of the two governments.—*New York Times.*

BLISSFUL IGNORANCE.—Yesterday, says the *Memorial de Lyon*, a young girl of Cremien, fresh as a rose, was seen in contemplation before the two bronze slides which

the postal administration has just put at the corner of the *Hôtel des Postes*, at Bellecous, and under which is placed an inscription as simple as it is clear—LETTER-BOX. The young girl held in her hand a letter, but in face of the two openings, both silently appealing for her patronage, she remained motionless and hesitated. All at once she addressed a passer-by. "Monsieur," said she, blushing, "in which hole must I put my letter?" "My child, can you read?" "No monsieur." "Ah, well then, look here,—here is the men's side, and there the women's side. If you write to a gentleman, put it here; if to a lady, there." The passer-by looked back when he had got some distance away—the young girl was putting her letter in the gentlemen's box.

CORRESPONDENCE.

THE ARMS OF SPAIN.

To the Editor of "THE STAMP-COLLECTOR'S MAGAZINE."

DEAR SIR,—My thanks are due to your correspondent, "Herald," for his corrections of my article upon the above subject.

The substitution of the word *azure* for *argent* is certainly a glaring error, and was caused through a hasty revision of the proof sheets. It would of course be detected by anyone with the slightest knowledge of the study, for, as stated by "Herald," "colour upon colour is inadmissible." I did not re-read my remarks, or should have corrected the mistake in your last number.

As regards the Leon lion being *purpure*, my authority, a celebrated German savant in the science (Ed. von Schmidt), gives it as *roth*. Another writer agrees with him; whilst a third terms it *purpure*, and I am now inclined to the latter as being the correct colour

While admitting that red roundlets are termed *torteaux*, and blue ones *hurtes*, I must contend that the more generic name for all the tincutures is bezant. It is only among English heralds that a separate name is given to each colour, and by them they are now more often described as (for example) bezant *vert*, and bezant *purpure*, instead of *pomey* and *golpe*, respectively. The other names are, for *argent*, plate; *sable*, pellet; *tawny*, orange; *sanguine*, guze; and for *or*, the simple term bezants.

Yours truly,
THE WRITER.

THE ORIGINALITY OF M. MOENS' DISCOVERIES, AS EXEMPLIFIED IN THE CURRENT *TIMBRE-POSTE*.

To the Editor of "THE STAMP-COLLECTOR'S MAGAZINE."

DEAR SIR,—In the current number of *Le Timbre-Poste*, is an article on the "Twopenny Queen on Throne Victoria," and the formation of the original plate of the same, illustrated by diagrams. As I am the *sole* discoverer or maker-up of the plan of the plate, as there given, I am astonished to see my results published in *Le Timbre-Poste* as original discoveries of the writer. I wish to say that *my diagrams were obtained surreptitiously by the writer of that article*, and their results published without my knowledge or sanction—indeed, without so much as the bare civility of an acknowledgement. As not a soul saw my diagrams *until* I had remade the plate (on Dr. Magnus' old model), to my entire satisfaction, I can safely lay claim to its authorship. I had no intention of publishing my discoveries until they had been fully discussed by the Philatelic Society, both out of respect to Dr. Magnus' previous arrangement (from which mine differs in seven points), and in the interests of perfect accuracy. M. Moens had no such scruples, and I can only regret that he had not, *then* my discoveries would not have been published in an inaccurate and incomplete form, as the sole work of the editor of *Le Timbre-Poste*.

Yours faithfully,
Birmingham. EDWARD L. PEMBERTON.

THE TWOPENCE "THRONE" VICTORIA.

To the Editor of "THE STAMP-COLLECTOR'S MAGAZINE."

SIR,—I have just read in the *Le Timbre-Poste* for the present month, a paper on "The 2d. Throne Victoria," which altogether ignores the fact that it is to the researches of Mr. Pemberton—following up those of Dr. Magnus—that the relative position of these stamps on the sheet has been ascertained, and I believe accurately so, as far as the engraved series is concerned. I lately communicated to M. Pl., an earnest continental collector, the result of Mr. Pemberton's investigations of the engraved series, and the diagram which appears in *Le Timbre-Poste* is copied from that furnished me by Mr. Pemberton. To this latter gentleman is also due the suggestion that the W. M. in all probability represents the initials of the engraver, as it is difficult to say why this stamp should come in such a position, unless the letters were of some such nature. The position of this stamp is pretty clearly ascertained, as two pairs are known to exist, consisting of the 49th and 50th side by side, and the 40th and 50th lengthways.

These stamps are supposed to have been first engraved on metal, as the earlier impressions bear every mark of such having been the case. Transfers were afterwards taken, from which we have copies that are frequently very indistinct, and are also recognisable as being of a different colour from those of the engraved series. It is clear that any research into the proper position of these stamps on the sheet should be made from the engraved series, and not from the transfer series, which is liable to all sorts of accidents in the operation. The *Le Timbre-Poste* is in fault, therefore, in adopting the transfer series for its researches, and it would be well to know which of the pairs it mentions are pairs of the engraved series, and which are pairs of the transfer series. I mention this because it seems to throw a doubt on the supposition of Dr. Magnus, that the disposition of the transfer series is not the same as that of the engraved series, and that the Doctor was under a delusion when he saw H. M. followed by I. O. Mr. Pemberton, however, has lately shown me a pair of the transfer series, where D. I is followed by W. A., which admits of no delusion, optical or otherwise, as the letters are clear and well formed. Little dependence can, therefore, I think, be placed on a sheet formed out of single specimens from the transfer series, as to the relative position of the stamps. We have yet to discover the arrangement of the stamps in this series, and this may possibly be found to vary according to the number of transfers which were taken.

I am, yours, &c.
Paris. W.

THE SYDNEY STAMPS.

To the Editor of "THE STAMP-COLLECTOR'S MAGAZINE."

SIR,—The history of the design on the Sydney stamps, said to have been copied from the colonial government seal, appears still enveloped in much obscurity. Had it been capable of immediate elucidation, the president of the Philatelic Society, whose former connection with the colony must have given him such ample facilities for information and research, would, it may reasonably be supposed, have long since enlightened us on the subject.

Still the mystery may not be quite unfathomable, and with a view to throw a little light on the subject, which may perhaps give a clue to farther discovery, I beg to draw attention to the following facts :—

In Jewitt's *Life of Josiah Wedgwood*, it is related, that the great botanist and traveller, Sir Joseph Banks, afterwards President of the Royal Society, and in high favour with George III., sent home some Australian clay to Wedgwood, in order to have its capabilities tested as to whether it was available for pottery. Sir J. Banks had accompanied Captain Cook in his voyage round the world, was with him when he discovered that part of Australia now called New South Wales, and was the means of sending out in 1788, the first colonists to Botany Bay (no doubt named by him after his own favourite pursuit). It is not improbable, therefore, that he had an idea of establishing a pottery there, as a means of employment for the infant colony. Be that as it may, Wedgwood, after publishing the result of his analysis in the "Philosophical Transactions" of the Royal Society, of which Sir J. Banks had recently been elected president, appears to have made no further use of the small quantity of clay consigned to him, except to model a beautifully executed medallion, emblematic of the rising settlement. But few copies of this medallion exist in this country, most of them having been at once forwarded through Sir J. Banks to the far-off colony, to show the inhabitants what their materials would do, and thus to encourage their industry. Jewitt, however, gives an excellent engraving from a specimen in the possession of Mr. S. C. Hall, the able editor of *The Art Journal*.

It represents a figure of Hope addressing three emblematic figures of Peace, Art, and Labour, on the shore of Sydney Cove; a ship, a few houses, and a church being in the background. Underneath is the word "Etruria," the well-known name of Wedgwood's pottery in Staffordshire, and the date, 1789.

Miss Meteyard, in her more voluminous, but less interesting life of Wedgwood, gives an engraving of an *oval* medallion (Jewitt's is circular), with the figures differently arranged, from Mr. Mayer's collection.

May there not have been also a third variety, from which the seal may have been copied, with, perhaps, the Virgilian motto, so appropriate when connected with the Staffordshire Etruria—*Sic fortis Etruria crevit*, by which Wedgwood, who was by unwearied industry and perseverance the architect of his own fortunes, may have intended to teach the new colonists that thus *his* Etruria grew to its then state of prosperity, and that they could only hope to prosper by like means?

As nearly all the specimens appear to have been sent away, it is to the colonists we must look to hunt up a copy of this now rare medallion, which I cannot but think will after all prove, if not the exact pattern of, at least to have suggested the Sydney government seal.

FENTONIA.

ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS.

J. G. S., Whitechapel, London.—We believe that there are no agents for the sale of *Mason's Coin and Stamp Magazine* in this country; you must write direct to the publishers, Mason & Co., 50, North Tenth street, Philadelphia, U.S. If you wish to subscribe, the annual subscription is 6/.

H. M. R. writes us that having seen a most astonishing "clearing out of old stock," by a stamp-firm at Warrington, and being suspicious of its character, he sent for a sheet of stamps on approval. Per return of post he received a sheet of what he not inaptly terms "bobbin labels." On the sheet there were 78 stamps, to be sold at 2d. each, which would bring in 13/, but if he bought the whole, he might have them for *four shillings!* A profit of 9/ on 4/ is enough to tempt any boy ignorant of the real nature of the stamps that are sent, and it is thus that forgeries are propagated.

G. W. B.—Pray excuse the delay which has occurred in replying to your last letter. Further examination of your Mexican proves the watermark to consist of portions of the large capital letters R. P. S., which run over several stamps. The existence of this watermark was noticed last year.—Your 50 kr. Austrian, watermarked E. and 50 soldi, watermarked N, are, we think, simply errors caused by the shifting of the sheets; still the recurrence of these letters on no less than three values, demands attention.—Your No. 3 is forged.—No. 4 is worth, say, 1/6.—Nos. 5 and 6 are both genuine, notwithstanding the differences in spelling.

W. B., Oxford.—Thanks for sight of your Greek 5 lept. rose, which for your sake we regret to say turns out to be a forgery; for the results of our examination of it we refer you to the monthly article on new issues. Of the stamps you send, Nos. 1 and 19 are originals; No. 2 is a recent emission of the Dominican Republic; 3, a Swiss fiscal; 4, a genuine Roumanian; 5, a forged Honduras; 6, a Brunswick envelope; 7, a reprint, and 13, a forged, Romagna; 8, the Grecian above alluded to; No. 10 (Montevideo) is condemned by its bearing an English postmark, and by the value, which is 86 or 06 centesimos, in lieu of 60 c.; the 120 c. (No. 9) is also a forgery; Nos. 11 and 12 are genuine Modenese; No. 14, an original Spanish of 1857; 15, forged Liberian 24 c.; 16, the genuine large-figure Argentine; 17, a forged Confederate; 18, a reprint American local.

Shades inquires whether we consider it requisite in collecting to have a number of *shades* of the *same* stamp, and suggests that very often the differences are the accidental result of a new mixing of colour. To this inquiry we can neither give a direct affirmative or negative answer. The collection of shades within a certain limit is, we think, to be commended, as often it is but a difference of shade which distinguishes the priceless original from the comparatively worthless reprint; and again, it very frequently happens that change of shade is accompanied with some other more important change, as in the texture of the paper, the watermark, &c.; and each successive shade marks an epoch in the history of the stamp. Not seldom changes of shade are intentional, even where the colour substantially continues to belong to the same class, as, for instance, when the ingredients of the original colour are found to be too costly, or some difficulty occurs in the working. Sometimes again, as in the case of the 10 c. Confederate blue, the change in hue results from the printing being entrusted to another firm than the one originally charged with the impression. To sum up the result of our observations: where, then, a stamp exists in a number of shades (the 10 c. Sardinio-Italian, for instance), it is sufficient to include three or four of the most marked; where there are only two or three closely similar shades, it is sufficient to take one; but whenever a shade is indicative of a new edition—the light green Heligoland is a stamp in point—we should decidedly say, accept it, and further we should take every strongly-marked distinct shade as a matter of course. Thus much for the guidance of collectors who have not time, space, or inclination to launch into the accumulation of varieties; those who really desire to study stamps thoroughly, and not simply to "make a collection," will not despise the least important variety, bearing in mind that it may point the way to some hitherto unnoticed but valuable fact.