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INDEX TO VOL. VIII.

*** Where only name of country is given, its stamps are intended to be indicated. The addition of an asterisk after a number signifies that there is an engraving on the page referred to.

Album, On the Choice of an, 5
Alsace and Lorraine, 149 *
Angola 13, 136 *
Answers to Correspondents, 16, 32, 48, 64, 80, 96, 112, 128, 144, 160, 176, 192
Antigua, 52, 78
Antioquia, 2, 8,* 27, 41,* 73, 105 *
Argentine Confederation, 46; Republic, 192
Auctions (Stamp), 99, 189
Austria, 108, 122, 128, 169, 187
Azores (The), 26

Baden, 150
Bahamas, 52, 192
Barbados, 51, 52, 78, 79, 111
Basle, 16
Bavaria, 2, 16, 40, 57,* 81, 160
Belozersk, 168
Belgium, 2, 8,* 32, 40,* 46, 58, 72,* 91, 151 *
Bergedorf, 46
Bergen, 57 *
Bogorodsk, 20
Bolivia, 2, 31, 61, 64, 122, 139, 141, 144
Borowitz, 20, 47
Brattleboro' Stamp (The), 161 *
Brazil, 2
British Columbia, 2, 192
——— Guiana, 46

Californian Locals, 25, 62
Canada, 2, 12, 42, 58, 75,* 81, 83, 90,* 154, 180
Cape of Good Hope, 2, 13, 46, 190
Card (A), from Lord Hartington, 97
Ceylon, 2, 25, 59, 74
Collection of Heads (A), 108
——— On the Commencement of a, 33, 55
Columbia, United States of, 4, 8,* 11,* 17, 27, 41,* 73,* 81, 100, 105,* 106,* 120, 138, 153,* 169 * 184 *
Concerning Reprints, 59
Confederate States, 57,* 65, 80, 82, 89,* 153,* 169,* 174 192
Contemporaries (Our), 43, 49, 81, 98
Contrast (A); Post-office regulations and changes in 1753; 102
Correspondence, 14, 28, 47, 63, 78, 95, 110, 127, 143, 159, 174, 190; Heraldic Terms, 14; the twopence "throne" Victoria, 14; M. Moens' reply to Mr. Pemberton, 15; the perforation of the French stamps, 28; the St. Louis Stamps, 29, 63; Mr. Pemberton on Foreigners, 30; the inscription on the Russian local stamps, 47, 63; a variety of the 20 lepta Grecian, 63; the colour of the last issue of five cents Bolivia, eagle series, 64; the "too-late" Trinidad, 78; the stamps of Antigua, 78; the Barbados stamps, 79; the Boston swindlers and *The Philatelist*—Koorshedjah—Guadalajara, &c., 79; the United States postage stamps, 95; Spanish
Correspondence continued:—
Congress stamps, 95; Mr. Pearson Hill on the date of issue of the penny English black stamp, 95; the *new* Paraguay, 110; the twopenny stamp of Barbados, 111; the fifth edition of Dr. Gray's Catalogue, 111; Dr. Gray's catalogue—the black penny English 111; the Italian and Roman postage, 127; Honduras stamps and United States locals, 127; Dr. Gray's illustrated catalogue, 127; English embossed ten-penny stamp (The), 143; an old Natal stamp perforated, 143, 160; the Italian and Roman postage, 143; Mr. Pemberton on the stamps of Bolivia, 144; the English sixpenny embossed stamp, 159, 174; papers for beginners—the English envelopes, 159; English envelopes on coloured paper, &c., 174; the so-called Portland local stamp, 174; the English newspaper band and envelope, 174; the South African Republic stamps—an American mare's nest, 175; Natal and Cape varieties, 190; an early English variety, 190; the Portland and Westervelt locals, 191; *The Philatelist's* prize essay on the detection of Swiss forgeries, 191
Craig, the late Edward A., 187
Cuba, 3, 10,* 42, 59, 75, 80
Cundinamarca, 138, 169

Danubian Principalities, 16, 19, 46, 108, 172, 183 *
Deccan, 25, 56, 90 *
Denmark, 3, 16, 43, 121,* 138, 185
Dominica, 71, 91 *
Dutch Indies, 9,* 59

Egypt, 12, 46, 59, 78, 186
Eighth Year (The), 1
Envelopes (The) of the United States, 21
Errors of Engraving and Printing, 45, 100, 116, 146

Field Post Envelopes and Cards, 136, 150, 168
——— of the French Army, 118
Finland, 44, 96, 100, 151 *
France, 3, 12, 26, 28, 32, 41, 44, 53, 82, 91, 100, 112, 118, 122, 151, 168, 177, 181, 183, 190
Franking Privilege (The), in France, 53
French Post (The) and the War, 158
——— Stamps, The Perforation of, 28, 32

Gambia, 3
German Confederation (North), 3, 11, 16, 26, 90, 100, 120, 136, 150, 151, 186
Great Britain, 13, 42, 57, 64, 69, 74, 84, 95, 102, 107, 111, 113, 126, 129, 134, 143, 148, 152,* 157, 159, 160, 165, 169, 174, 184,* 190, 192; envelopes, 157, 165
Greece, 63, 100
Guadalajara, 25, 79, 154

Halfpenny (The) Post, 54, 62, 94, 97, 126, 135, 148, 152, 188, 190

Hamburg, 3, 101
Hanover, 91, 101
Hartington, a Card from Lord, 97
Heads, a Collection of, 108
Heligoland, 3, 96
Helsingfors, 151*
Heraldic Terms, 14
Hints for mounting Stamps and Envelopes, 35
Holte, 185*
Holland, 3, 59, 73,* 96, 101, 108, 122, 139, 152
Honduras, 59, 81, 127, 176

India, 25, 31, 56,* 90,* 101, 176
Italy, 3, 12, 40,* 77, 101, 127, 137,* 143

Jamaica, 192

Kissingen and Schweinfurt Express, 40, 45
Knoxville, 66, 80
Koorshedjah, 31, 56,* 79, 81

La Guiara, 3
Lament (The) of a Postage Stamp, 14
Levant, 121,* 137
Liberia, 4, 116
List of newly-issued and inedited Stamps noticed in *The Stamp-Collector's Magazine* for 1869, 2, 19
Lorraine and Alsace, 149*
Lubeck, 16, 117
Lucon, 19, 60, 75, 80, 117
Luxembourg, 117

Mauritius, 43, 75, 82, 117, 139
Mexico, 4, 12, 25, 26, 48, 64, 79, 112, 117, 154, 176, 192
Modena, 117
Montevideo, 112, 146
Mulready Envelopes, 69, 95; caricature, 126

Naples, 61, 147, 176
Natal, 13, 27, 57, 59, 75, 143, 160, 176, 190, 192
Nevis, 13
Newfoundland, 19, 169
New Granada, 4, 8,* 11,* 17, 27, 41,* 73,* 81, 100, 105,* 106,* 120, 138, 153,* 169* 184*
Newly-issued or Inedited Stamps, 8, 26, 40, 56, 71, 88, 104, 119, 134, 149, 168, 183
New South Wales, 13, 33,* 74, 105,* 147
New Zealand, 24, 103
Nicaragua, 13, 19, 59, 144
North German Confederation, 3, 11, 16, 26, 90, 100, 120, 136, 150, 151, 186
Norway, 57* 185*
Notes on the Envelopes of Great Britain, 157, 165

Oldenburg, 148

Paraguay, 91, 110, 137, 168, 185*
Paris, A new Postal Scheme for, 181
Papers for Beginners, 4, 33, 55, 69, 84, 113, 129, 169
Pauwels, Jules, Esq., The Late, 164
Perforation (The) of French Stamps, 28, 32
Peru, 19, 59, 80, 96, 136* 186
Philatelic Society (The), 1, 13, 24, 32, 99, 109
Philippine Islands, 19, 60, 75, 80, 117
Portland Local, 154, 174, 191
Portugal, 19, 43, 50, 75
Portuguese Possessions, 135
Postage Stamps from the Seat of War, 177
Postal Arrangemen s between England and France, 27
Postal Chit-chat, 14, 62, 77, 94, 126, 143, 159, 190
Postal Reform in the United States, 182
Postal Scheme (A New) for Paris, 181
Postmaster General's Advertisement (A), 139
Prince Edward Island, 19, 137, 153*
Prussia, 49, 93, 112, 150

Queensland, 19, 93

Reform (Postal) in the United States, 182
Re-impressions of New Granada, 17
Regensburg, 57*
Reprints, Concerning, 59
Reunion, Ile de la, 59*
Reviews of Postal Publications, 47, 61, 76, 92, 110, 125, 159, 173, 188
Riasanski, 20
Roman States, 19, 137*
Roumania, 16, 19, 46, 108, 172, 183*
Russia, 19, 56,* 108, 120, 168
Russian Locals, 10,* 20, 47, 63, 168, 171
—— Steam Navigation Company, 121,* 137*

St. Christopher, 72, 103, 105*
St. Domingo, 20, 89, 139
St. Helena, 49, 121
St. Louis, 25, 29, 31, 63, 94, 99
St. Thomas and Prince Islands, 135*
St. Vincent, 13, 20
Salvador, 91
Sarawak, 31, 57
Schluesselburg, 11, 20, 47
Schweinfurt, 40
Seat of War, Postage Stamps from the, 177
Segna Tassa Stamps, 77, 127, 143
Servia, 16, 20
Shades of Colour, how produced, 91
Shanghai, 43, 49
Soummy, 11,* 20
South African Republic, 20, 25, 27, 43, 58, 91, 96, 121, 138, 175
South Australia, 20, 27, 42, 58
Spanish Colonies, 9,* 42, 59, 75, 186
Spain, 9,* 16, 20, 27, 42,* 61, 73,* 75, 81, 95, 106,* 111 120,* 126, 135, 154, 186
Spires, 57*
Story of a Soldier's Letter (The), 67
Straits Settlements, 74
Suez Canal Company, 16, 94
Surcharged Spanish Stamps (The), 75
Switzerland, 11, 16, 57,* 122, 145, 178, 185, 191
Sydney, 13, 33,* 147

Tasmania, 43, 96, 176
Tolima, 106,* 120, 138
Transvaal Republic, 20, 25, 27, 43, 58, 91, 96, 121, 138, 175
Trinidad, 21, 78, 139
Turkey, 21, 41,* 59

United States, 6, 12, 21, 25, 59, 62, 74, 80, 88, 95, 104,* 112, 119, 139, 144, 152,* 154, 161,* 168,* 174, 182, 186, 191
Uruguay, 112, 146
Usrusskajo, 11*

Venezuela, 93
Victoria, 11, 14, 21, 41,* 72,* 80, 107,* 121, 176, 192; the "twopence Throne," 14, 15, 30
Virginia, 67

Western Australia, 14
West Indian Stamps, (Our), 51
Wurtemburg, 21, 150, 168*

THE

STAMP-COLLECTOR'S MAGAZINE.

THE EIGHTH YEAR.

We allowed our last volume to be commenced without any greeting to our readers, but we could not permit the present occasion to pass, without being chargeable with some lack of courtesy.

Let us, then, first discharge the most pleasurable duty of wishing all and every one of our readers a very Happy New Year, and (for we must not forget the capacity in which we address them) many and valuable additions to all and every their stamp albums. The next thing we have to do is to solicit them, not only to continue to favour us with their own support, but also, where possible, to endeavour to *increase* the number of our subscribers. We, on our side, can promise them that no efforts shall be spared to maintain the interest and increase the usefulness of the magazine. The number seven has always been looked on as rather a mysterious number; and now to the many other wonderful facts related in connection with it may be added this new one, that seven volumes of *The Stamp-Collector's Magazine* have been published. That it would ever last so long no one at the outset would have thought of predicting; but its constitution is good, and with our readers' help we may yet multiply the seven volumes by three.

Turning now to the past year: we find it has been marked by one very interesting event—the establishment of the Philatelic Society at London. The society has already proved itself of great value, and as time goes on it will, no doubt, become increasingly useful. Whether it will be possible to establish branches of the society remains to be seen, but we ourselves think the project feasible; and if those among our readers who think with us, and are willing to assist in the formation of such branches in their respective towns, will send us their names, we will lay the matter before the central society.

Another of the leading events of the philatelic year has been the exposure of the Boston swindlers. The home-blow which has been struck at these impostors has been severely felt by them, as their ridiculously-abusive pamphlets sufficiently testify; and we may hope that it will prevent, for some time to come, the emission of any more concocted designs.

The study of stamps, both here and on the continent, has made a steady advance during the year; and there has been about the usual number of new issues, among which may be mentioned, as specially worthy of note, the Antioquian, British Columbian (provisionals), Roumanian, Russian, Servian, South African Republic, and Trinidad stamps.

Among new books, we may call attention to Mr. Van Rinsum's *Permanent*, or, as we prefer to call it, *Polyglot Album*, M. Moens' *Anglo-French Album*, and the twelfth edition of our old friend Oppen, though we can hardly in fairness omit to mention Mr. Stafford Smith's *Permanent Album*, which came out at the end of 1868. Of new catalogues there have been none, but we are justified in promising that the long-awaited fifth edition of Dr. Gray's work will very shortly be issued; with which piece of good news, coupled with our reiterated good wishes to our readers, we may be permitted to conclude this brief inaugurative article of our (editorial) Eighth Year.

A Postal Convention has been signed with Great Britain, by which the postage for letters from France to England and *vice versâ* is reduced from 4d. to 3d., and the weight allowed for a single rate is raised to ten grammes.

LIST OF NEWLY-ISSUED OR INEDITED STAMPS, NOTICED IN *THE STAMP-COLLECTOR'S MAGAZINE* FOR 1869.

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

Antioquia.

Arms of Colombia and stars in an oval. Inscription, E. S. DE ANTIOQUIA. E.S. U.S DE COLOMBIA in surrounding border, CORREOS at the top. Col. imp.; rect.

2½ centavos blue.
5 „ green.
10 „ lilac.
20 „ brown.
1 peso carmine.

Bavaria.

ENVELOPE.

Arms in white relief. Inscription BAYERN. Col. imp.; rect. perf. Transverse inscription above the stamp, KONIGL. BAYER. POST COUVERT.

3 (drei) kreuzer rose.

Belgium.

Design of 1865. Col. imp.; rect. perf.

2 c. purplish-lilac.
20 c. „ „

Numeral of value in oval, lion *couchant* on inscribed tablet below, arms and motto above, leaf-work in border. Inscription BELGIQUE. Col. imp.; rect., perf.

1 centime green.
2 „ blue.
5 „ amber.
6 „ carmine.
8 „ violet.

Head of King Leopold II. in oval, frame of different pattern for each value. Inscription BELGIQUE. Col. imp.; rect. perf.

10 centimes green.
20 „ blue.
30 „ amber.
40 „ carmine.
1 franc violet.

Bolivia.

Design of first series (1867-8). Col. imp.; rect.

5 centavos violet.
100 „ green.

Brazil.

Design of 1866. Col. imp. on bluish tinted paper. Rect., perf.

10, 50, 80, 100 reis.

British Columbia.

PROVISIONAL SERIES.

Design of 1865, with surcharged value crossing the lower margin. Col. imp.; rect. perf.

5 cents orange-red, imprint black.
10 „ lake, „ blue.
25 „ yellow, „ violet.
50 „ lilac, „ red.
1 dollar green, „ green.

Canada.

Design of 1868. Col. imp.; rect., perf.

One cent orange, yellow.

Cape of Good Hope.

The sixpence lilac of the 1865 series, with new value surcharged in red ink and crossing the upper part of the stamp, the original value being obliterated by a broad red bar. Col. imp.; rect. perf.

Fourpence lilac and red.

Ceylon.

Head of Queen, diademed, in lined oval. Inscription CEYLON, foliate ornament at angles. Col. imp.; rect. perf. Wmk., CC and crown.

One penny blue.

ENVELOPE.

Embossed head of Queen in oval, inscription CEYLON. Col. imp.; oval.

Tenpence pale vermilion.

"SERVICE" STAMPS.

Current series with the word SERVICE printed across the face.

Black imprint, 1d., 2d., 3d., 4d., 8d., 10d.
Red „ 6d., 2s.

Cuba.

Design of 1868. Col. imp.; rect. perf.
5 centimos pink.
10 „ light brown.
20 „ orange.
40 „ lilac.

Same design, with surcharged inscription HABILITADO POR LA NACION.
10 c. light brown.
20 c. orange.

Denmark.

ENVELOPE.

Design of 1864, but without the letter s. after the figure of value in lower margin. Col. imp.; oval.
2 sk. ultramarine.

France.

Laureated profile of Emperor to left in beaded circle, in centre of oblong frame. Inscription EMPIRE FRANCAIS. TIMBRE POSTE. Col. imp.; obl. perf.
5 francs lilac.

JOURNAL-TAX STAMPS.

Arms on shield in octagon. Inscription in upper and lower margins TIMBRE IMPERIAL. JOURNAUX. Col. imp.; large rect. perf.
2 c. violet, blue, red.
5 c. violet, blue, red.

[NOTE.—The violet stamps represent only the duty on the journals to which they are fixed; the blue represent the tax and the postage within the department; the red, the tax and the postage to any part of the empire.]

Gambia.

Embossed design, head of Queen to left in circle, ornaments in spandrels. Col. imp.; rect.
Fourpence dark brown.
Sixpence dark blue.

German Confederation.

Device of 1868. Col. imp.; rect. perf.
⅓ gr. green.
½ „ orange.
1 „ rose.
2 „ pale blue.
1 kr. green.
3 „ rose.
7 „ blue.

ENVELOPES.

The envelopes of the series last in use in the States now forming part of the Confederation (those of Prussia included), reissued with the embossed device covered by an adhesive stamp.*

REGISTRATION (?) STAMPS.

Numerals on ground formed of minute repetitions of the value. Inscription NORDDEUTSCHER POSTBEZIRK. Col. imp.; obl.
Numerals in oval frame.
10 groschen grey.
Numerals in oblong frame.
30 groschen bright blue.

Hamburg.

Type of 1864, variety, on unwatermarked paper.
2½ schg., dark green, yellow-green.

Heligoland.

Design of 1867. Col. imp.; rect. perf.
½ schilling light green.

Holland.

Arms and wreath in beaded circle, spandrels lined. Inscription NEDERLAND. Col. imp.; rect. perf.
1 cent black, green.
1½ „ rose.
2 „ yellow

Italy.

UNPAID LETTER STAMPS.

Numerals of value (0.10) in transverse oval, ornaments in spandrels. Col. imp.; rect. perf.
10 cent yellowish brown.

La Guaira.

Steamship, sailing to left, in centre, value on small scroll above, and inscription J. A. J. & Z. CURACAO in two lines below, on white rectangular disk; PAQUET in upper margin, LA GUAIRA on left, PTO. CABELLO on right, and SAN TOMAS below. Col. imp.; rect. perf.
½ real green.
2 „ rose.

* For further particulars as to this reissue, see page 41 of the last volume.

Liberia.

Design of 1860, but without external lines. Col. imp.; rect. perf.

Six cents pale red.
Twelve cents „ blue.
24 „ „ green.

Mexico.

Type of first series. Col. imp. on *white;* rect.

4 reales red.

New Granada.

Arms supported by flags and surmounted by stars and eagle, with head turned to left, in double oval frame, the inner one inscribed ESTADOS UNIDOS DE COLOMBIA, the outer CORREOS NALES and value, numeral in corners. Col. imp.; rect.

5 c. orange.

Similar design, but eagle's head turned to right, figure of value at sides, and Roman numerals in corners. Col. imp.; rect.

10 c. lilac.

(*To be concluded in our next.*)

PAPERS FOR BEGINNERS.

BY OVERY TAYLOR.

I.—*Introductory.*

THE following papers will contain little to interest advanced collectors. All that will be stated will be familiar to them, and will, perhaps, hardly represent a tithe of their present knowledge respecting stamps. These papers are intended solely for the guidance of beginners, and my motives for writing them are capable of easy explanation.

In brief, *The Stamp-Collector's Magazine*, and all the other philatelic periodicals, have, by a natural process, become somewhat too learned for the comprehension of young collectors, or even of collectors of mature years who are now commencing to form their albums. The study of philately has made a great and steady advance, and elementary facts having long since been fully stated, there exists no reason for their constant repetition by the journals whose pages are now properly occupied by more erudite speculations and arguments. The secondary details of stamps are now the object of study, and in writing upon them the knowledge by the reader of the leading facts respecting the emissions discussed, is of necessity assumed, and such facts are only referred to incidentally, if at all. But to new collectors half the contents of the current periodicals must be a mystery, and they cannot find in them any guide as to the formation of the collections they have just commenced; nor can they put their hands on any publication giving in a concise but readable form, the elementary information which they require respecting stamps. In short, they cannot get "posted up," unless, indeed, they have the time and chance to read through *The Stamp-Collector's Magazine* from the commencement, and as the early volumes are now out of print (or nearly so), this with the best of will is not an easy matter. It is true there are catalogues, and good ones too, in existence, but they are certainly at best but dry reading, and, however clear, they still must unavoidably leave a great deal to be *understood*. I have for some time past been engaged in editing the fifth edition of Dr. Gray's catalogue, and struck, as I went on, by the want of any general guide to the history of stamps, endeavoured in some measure to meet it by adding freely to the notes which I had inserted in the former edition, but the limits of such a publication, as might be supposed, place considerable restrictions on a system of annotation, and it was on finding how little I could thus do, that the idea occurred to me of writing a series of papers which should combine a statement of the principal facts in the history of stamps, together with hints to collectors as to what and how to collect.

My qualifications for the work I project are, as I am fully conscious, but slender, and I should have rejoiced to see it performed by abler hands. In matter of opinion as to what should, and what should not be collected, I take myself a midway stand, and my own practice halts behind my principles. When I admit myself to be the author of the paper "On Varieties, and Why they should be Collected," which, under

the signature, "A Philatelist," appeared in the fifth volume of the *Stamp-Collector's Magazine*, it might naturally be supposed that I am a collector of the ultra-French school; but, in fact, I give but a slight and unsystematic attention to the collection of varieties of perforation or paper. I cannot and do not turn my back on my own arguments in their favour, and I see as clearly as ever the *logical* necessity, which I attempted to demonstrate, of following out the study of stamps to the end; but subsequent consideration has led me to feel that it is *impossible*—at any rate for the bulk of philatelists—to pursue collecting to its logical consequences. The number of stamps is constantly on the increase, and the number of minor varieties of paper and perforation is increasing in the same proportion, the collection of stamps threatens, therefore, to become more and more expensive, and to require an excessive amount of application, in order to keep up to the level of knowledge respecting these minor varieties; and in the same ratio the circle of philatelists must almost necessarily diminish. I cannot, then, under existing circumstances, venture to recommend to those who may favour me by reading these papers, the giving of a regular and systematic attention to such varieties. On the other hand, I would guard against the supposition that I am desirous of suggesting their entire rejection. Prominent varieties of this class are, in my opinion, well worth collecting, but they should be such as are plainly visible or palpable, according to their nature, not requiring the application of a guage, nor a special knowledge of the art of paper-making, to demonstrate their existence. To illustrate what I mean, let me take the example of the small and large perforated Austrian: here the difference is plainly *visible*, and does, to a certain extent, alter the appearance of the stamp; I, therefore, collect both. Again, the thick and thin paper, which distinguish some emissions from others, are equally *palpable*, and of these, in like manner, I admit both kinds. But on this point, of course, I can only give my own opinions. I do not attempt to lay down any inflexible rule, nor do I attempt to throw any discredit on the French system of collecting, which has resulted in so much good to philately. I cordially admire the spirit of careful research which "French" collectors bring to their labours; but the higher walks of the science which they traverse, are unapproachable, except to a select few.

These explanations are due at the outset to my readers, whose pardon I should otherwise have to ask for their seeming egotism. Some statement of the principles on which these papers will be written is necessary, that the readers may know what to expect, but collectors who are now beginning their books, if they will go with me as far as I go, will find nothing more than what I have said above to discourage them from afterward going farther if they like.

II.—*On the choice of an Album.*

The cage before the bird is a good plan to go upon, and the first thing for the consideration of intending collectors must decidedly be, what album they had better take to commence with. A blank album is decidedly inappropriate at first. Until a collector knows something about stamps, is accustomed to handle and arrange them, to calculate the space they will occupy, and to decide on what general plan he will collect, a blank album is worse than useless—is a simple source of perplexity and "bother." One or other of the ruled and printed albums in existence must be chosen. For juvenile collectors the best to take is, I think, Stafford Smith's "Permanent" album, not because it is what it professes to be—"permanent," but because of the simplicity of the arrangement.

Young philatelists, then, should get a copy of this album, and in the first place would do well to make it their aim to fill the numbered squares therein. For the benefit of those unacquainted with the book, it may be necessary to say that a numbered list of the stamps issued is put at the side of each country's page or pages, and the squares opposite bear corresponding numbers. The list, it is true, is far from a complete one, varieties of every kind being almost uniformly excluded from it, but as on most of the pages there are several extra and unnumbered

spaces, and also a number of unallotted pages scattered through the volume, there is plenty of room for the addition of the unnoticed varieties. The young collector, then, whilst making it his special care to fill up the numbered spaces, can add at will such other stamps as he may obtain. That he may cultivate a spirit of order, he should endeavour to arrange these extra stamps as far as possible in their proper places, and keep those of one emission separate from another; but, in any event, this album can only be treated as a temporary or primary one, and therefore the unappropriated pages should be freely used. When the collector has acquired a sufficient number of stamps (and he need not wait to fill the book), and when also he has acquired some definite knowledge of them, he may reasonably begin to think of arranging his stamps in a blank album on a higher and clearer plan.

For intending collectors of maturer years, who are now on the point of commencing, the best book would be the last edition of Moens' album. Lallier's is altogether to be discarded, from the slovenliness of its arrangement, and from its inclusion of all sorts of *non*-postal stamps. Moens' album is very clearly and sensibly arranged, and though not without its defects (which I purpose hereafter pointing out), it is well worthy of general acceptance. This album includes a much greater number of varieties than the permanent album of Mr. Stafford Smith, and instead of unhesitatingly applying himself to the filling in of all the spaces, as in the case of the former, the collector must, in this instance, use no small discrimination in filling in or leaving blank. This album, equally with the other, must be accepted simply as preparatory to one framed according to the individual tastes of the collector, and he must resolutely follow his own idea in filling it, looking on it merely as a means to an end. I purpose myself reviewing it page by page, in connection with the notes on each country's stamps which will follow these introductory papers, and shall thus afford an opportunity to my readers to decide what to reject and what to accept.

The discussion as to the make, shape, &c., of the final album, hardly comes within my present scope, but to those who, with an eye to the future, wish to glean some information as to the best kind manufactured, we recommend reference to Mr. W. D. Atlee's able paper, in the last number of *The Philatelist*, on this and kindred subjects.

HOW THE UNITED STATES POSTAGE STAMPS ARE MADE.

BY COSMOPOLITAN.

Through the courtesy of Mr. Nicholls, the gentlemanly superintendent of the printing department of the National Bank Note Company, I am enabled to redeem my promise to the readers of this journal, and give them a description of the mode of manufacturing our new postage stamps.

Let us commence at the beginning, and follow step by step the different and interesting processes these little bits of paper are subjected to. In the first place, a number of designs for stamps are furnished the government by the bank-note company. These designs are upon steel, and engraved in the finest style of steel line engraving, and are perfect marvels of art. Should a design be accepted, it becomes necessary to duplicate it, as it would be impossible to print the large number of stamps required from a single plate. To do this the original die is transferred to steel plates, 300 designs being upon one plate. The machines for accomplishing this "transferring" are beautifully made, mathematically correct in work, and so accurate that millions of stamps printed from perhaps hundreds of plates are all exactly alike. The plates being finished, they are sent to the press-room, and are ready to receive the ink used in printing. This ink, or rather the different coloured inks, are made upon the premises, their formulas being very valuable to the company. The printing is done by hand-presses, and although seemingly laborious, the company are now printing one-million-and-a-half stamps daily. The plate is first inked by an ordinary roller, then wiped with a cloth, and finally with the operator's hand. This is a very nice operation, and requires much dexterity. The paper used is of a fine variety, manufactured expressly for the com-

pany by a firm in Massachusetts, the amount per annum consumed being over sixteen tons. Before being placed upon the plate it is wetted down to enable it to receive the ink evenly. As the sheets of stamps are printed, they are laid carefully away to dry; as soon as they are dry they pass to the "gumming room," and receive their coat of mucilage. This mucilage is dextrine, a preparation of starch, and is the same as used by calico printers. It is laid on the backs of the sheets (which are held fast by an iron frame), with a large brush somewhat resembling those used for white-washing. A dexterous young woman can easily gum 30 or 40 sheets per minute. After receiving the gum they are placed on wire frames aud deposited in a drying room, where they remain until entirely dry. This operation being finished, they are consigned to the "embosser," who, with a remarkably complicated and delicate machine leaves the little square chequer-board mark we see upon our stamps. This mark is to permit the obliterating ink to sink into the fabric of the paper, so that stamps cannot be readily cleansed. After passing through the embossing press, they are perforated by young girls on peculiarly constructed and beautiful machines, the invention of this company. After being perforated they are subjected to the action of a powerful hydraulic press to get rid of all wrinkles, and give the stamps a finished, smooth appearance. The sheets are then cut in half, leaving 150 stamps on a sheet, and in this condition are ready for the postmasters, to whom they are sent in registered letters upon a requisition approved in Washington. The stamps printed in two colours require to pass through the press twice, as only one ink can be used at a time on a plate.

Have my readers any idea of the number of stamps used in the United States, and printed by this company? They reach the enormous aggregate of from four to five hundred millions per annum. Of the 3-cent stamp there were used last year 37,879,100; of the 2-cent stamp 6,322,500, and the other values in proportion.

I was surprised to find upon inquiry, that it is very seldom the company lose any stamps by their *employès*. At the present time this company employ about 400 workmen and women, but the system is so thorough, and the surveillance so searching, that it is impossible for theft to be committed without detection. At present the National Bank-Note Company are working upon 2 and 3-cent stamps only, as the post-office authorities propose to call in the rest of the new issue, owing to the manifold objection made by the community at large.—*American Journal of Philately.*

Not long since Mr. Goodall, Vice-President of the American Bank-Note Company, presented to the British Museum a very handsome book, containing a description of the process of engraving employed by the Company for the impression of bank notes, accompanied by a series of splendid steel engravings made by the company, among which are included the ornamental devices on the bank notes. A review of this book appeared in the *Globe* of the 24th November last, and from it we may glean some information as to the manner in which the plates for the stamps are prepared; as although the American Bank-Note Company are not the printers of the United States postage stamps, yet the method used is no doubt the same. The following is the account given of the manner in which the design is made:

The process of engraving employed by the company is known as the American transfer process, and was invented by a Mr. Perkins, in 1807. The manner of proceeding is this. The original drawing is daguerreotyped on a plate of the required size, the outlines are then scratched in, the chemicals are wiped off, and by means of red chalk the design is traced on a sheet of tracing paper, prepared with wax, and from the paper is again transferred to a steel plate, hardened in a fire made of ivory charcoal. From this plate an impression is taken on a roller of soft metal, from which the engravings are printed.

One peculiar advantage of the transfer process is, that by it it is possible to reproduce pictures on a small scale with perfect fidelity.

* * * The advantages and disadvantages of this system have been much canvassed by professionals both in England and on the Continent, and it has been repeatedly asserted that by its means it is impossible to obtain an impression more than 3 inches in size.

The process employed for the bank notes is, no doubt, the same as that for the stamps, with the sole difference, that instead of the design on the original steel plate being transferred to a *roller* of soft metal, it is, as stated by our American contemporary, mechanically multiplied on a [soft] steel

plate. The process applied to stamps must be even more successful than when applied to bank notes, when it is considered that its peculiar excellency (or fault) lies in its suitability for very small designs. We can understand now how it was the picture representing the Declaration of Independence was so accurately copied on the 24 c., and how the beautifully-drawn scene of the landing of Columbus was incorporated in the 15 cent stamp.

NEWLY-ISSUED OR INEDITED STAMPS.

OF coming guests to fill our albums' pages there are not a few to welcome this month, and with them are some recent arrivals which we shall be able to introduce at full length. Taking these latter the first, we will make choice of the series for

ANTIOQUIA with which to commence. It is now some months since the Secretary of the Philatelic Society gave notice of the existence of stamps for this state, which it may not be out of place to remind our readers is one of the United States of Colombia, and in the interval our knowledge as to the circumstances surrounding the emission of this series has remained at a standstill. The suggestion at





first made that they were the result of some revolutionary frolic on the part of Antioquia, has neither been confirmed nor contradicted, but we do not ourselves believe that such has been the cause. To judge from the design, it would seem that the engraver of the series for the republic has been employed to prepare this special series for Antioquia. The national arms appear in their entirety on all the values, but with some symbol which, in so far as it has any definite shape, may be said to resemble a bird's nest, pendant from the base of the shield. Furthermore, the name of the republic appears conjointly with the name of the state, and (if this be worth noting) above it. Altogether, the appearances are in favour of the stamps having been made by order of the central adminis-





tration, but the why and wherefore of this emission we are as far from as ever. Such wheels within wheels of postal organization are mystifying to every one unacquainted with the division of power between the separate and the united states of the Colombian republic; but we hope, as the point is really very interesting, and the stamps seem to be the indication of a unique system of government, that some one with correspondents in the country will endeavour to obtain the necessary explanations. And among the minor points for elucidation comes the question,—of what word is the letter S., which precedes the words DE ANTIOQUIA, the initial?

Our illustrations render any lengthened reference to the devices unnecessary. It will be seen that there is a general resemblance between them, and that the leading features are, moreover, very similar to those of the latest issued of the Colombians. It is, however, worth remarking that the name of the country is written in three different ways, E^S. U^S.; E.U.; and E.E.—U.U. DE COLOMBIA, and that there are an equal number of differences in the expression of the value;—CEN., C., and CENT. It remains now only to observe that the colours are:



$2\frac{1}{2}$ cent blue.
5 „ green.
10 „ lilac.
20 „ brown.
1 peso carmine.

BELGIUM.—Our acquaintance with the new series will, it appears, only ripen gradually

into intimacy. The entire series will not appear at one and the same time, but value after value will be issued, as the stock of the old type is exhausted; or it may be, to judge by the commencement made, that they will come out in pairs; thus the 1 and 10 c. (both





green) have made their *début* together; in like manner the 2 and 20 c. (both blue) will make their appearance at the same time, if indeed they have not already been issued.

As to the general design of the "head" division, our illustration of the 10 c. will give a good idea, and the engraving annexed of the 1 c. takes its place in these pages in permanent record of the device employed for the five lower values.

Our Brussels contemporary, who has some right to speak with authority on the matter, condemns the portrait of the king as but little like him, as being nothing, in fact, but the head of an old man. We for our part have not had the opportunity of seeing the Belgian monarch, but judging from the photographs we have seen, and the effigy on the money, we should have thought the representation a tolerably faithful, if not even a flattering one. In fact, we rather admired the tact of the artist in dealing with a face which, in spite of its general air of manliness, has one feature rather longer than a critic of physiognomy might approve; this objectionable feature is not so prominent, and yet the resemblance, as a whole, is well preserved.

The design of the frame is, to our thinking, very neat, and there is something pleasing about its general appearance. M. Moens can see nothing good in it, and hints that the engraver, M. Hendrickx, must have entrusted his pupils with its "get up;" but then we all know that a prophet is not without honour, save in his own country.

In addition to the new series, there comes a stamp which will have to be included in the list of embryos, a stamp born to "blush" unseen, if it blushes at all—the 6 centimes of the now suppressed type. Its general resemblance to the 1, 2, and 5 centimes is very evident, though it is favourably distinguished from them by the clearness with which the figures of value stand out; but what on earth is the meaning of the hieroglyphical inscription which appears in the oval surrounding the lion. Did the engraver refresh his wearied imagination by the study of the Cashmere stamps? It would seem so, and though we judge at present only from the engraving, we give our verdict in favour of the inscription being in Pahari.



It appears that we owe the non-emission of this and its companion stamp, the 8 centimes, to a change of ministers, coupled with an apparent desire on the part of those in authority to do nothing hastily. The work of preparation never, it appears, got beyond the printing of trial impressions (the colours of which are not stated by our Belgian friend.)

DUTCH INDIES.—The solitary stamp of Java has, after a circulation of some six years duration, retired from active service in favour of a series of four values, of which the type is here given. It will at once be seen that the engraver has taken for his model the device now employed in the home country, and has reproduced it with this single important difference, that the head of the king is turned to the *right*. For the benefit of our *very* youngest reader, we may state that the inscription in the upper margin, NED INDIE, is *not* the name of the engraver. The values of the new series are as follows:—



5 cents green.
10 „ bistre.
20 „ ultramarine.
50 „ bright carmine.

SPAIN AND COLONIES.—We announced a short time since, that new stamps for Spain

were expected to appear on the 1st of January of this year, and though it now appears there is some doubt as to whether they will be issued at the same time as this present number, yet there is no longer any doubt that they are in preparation. Hitherto, the supply of the annual emissions has been completed each year in the course of the preceding August, and it was from this cause that we received at the commencement of last year a new set of stamps bearing the effigy of the dethroned Queen. This time, however, no decision had been taken, even as to the type to be employed, until November, and as every thing connected with the projected issue has been the subject of long debates, it may not see the light for another month or two.

The type adopted presents no very remarkable charateristics. The representation of any of the prominent men of the revolution would no doubt have caused jealousy, a safe refuge was therefore taken in an allegorical, and as one of our contemporaries has it, an "antediluvian" effigy. To judge from the engraving alone, and this is all we have at present to go upon, the symbolic head is not very effective. The government engravers have, it would seem, become so accustomed to portray the face of their late Queen (with variations), that even in this effigy, which is intended to symbolise Spain, some reminiscences of their former work may be traced in its full sensuous outlines; the neck, moreover, is thick and straight, and its abrupt ending is suggestive of decapitation. As to the fortifications which crown the head, they are indeed significant of a country where the army is uppermost, and might is right. If her star should ultimately gain the ascendant over physical force, so much the better.



The mother country and the colonies are to share this device between them, but whilst the colonies will have two sets of stamps—one for letters, the other for telegrams—Spain itself will have but one, which will be used in common for letters, telegrams, and journals. The Cuban postage stamps, from one of which our engraving is copied, bear the inscription CORREOS, and the value is followed by the date of emission (1870), but in the home stamps the word COMUNICACIONES will occupy the label above the head, and the enunciation of the value will fill the lower label, leaving no room for the date.

The value of the Cuban stamps will be the same as they have always been since the adoption of the decimal currency, viz.:—5, 10, 20, and 40 centimos. The Spanish set will, however, include some new and very original values:—

1, 2, 4, 10, 25, 50, 100, 200, and 400 millesimas d'escudo.
1 escudo 600 mill,
2 escudos,
12, 19 cuartos,

in all thirteen denominations, of which the lowest equals about the fortieth part of a penny, the next the twentieth, and so on. The lowest value, we should imagine, must be intended to prepay any written correspondence which may occur between "next-door" neighbours, if indeed it franks its own weight through the post-office. The two "cuarto" stamps are, we presume, for the use of those who have not yet got over their dislike to the decimal system. What the colours are, or are to be, we are not yet informed, but we can well understand that the necessity of finding distinctive shades for thirteen stamps has been a source of some difficulty, and cannot be surprised that it did give rise to considerable discussion.

The annexed cut represents what was at first used as a seal, and is now a stamp. The hand-stamp inscribed CORREOS DE SENADA having been broken, this type has been adopted as its (temporary) successor, and is now printed in blue.



The *Correos de Congreso* stamp (arms in *oval*) has had its colour changed from black to brown, varying in intensity from a very deep shade to bistre.

RUSSIAN LOCALS.—Our correspondent at St. Petersburg, who furnished us with the earliest information as to these stamps, and

with a specimen of the first known, the Borowitz, has been making inquiries with a view to ascertain the purposes for which they are employed, and is now able to give a very satisfactory explanation. He says: "Russia being such a large country, and but thinly populated, there are many villages which lie at a distance of 30 and even 50 miles from the nearest post-town; it is, therefore, very difficult for the inhabitants of these villages to receive or post their letters, and in consequence it has been found convenient, by the local authorities, to issue postage stamps for the prepayment of the transport of letters to and from the post-town by special carriers. I believe if this arrangement pays, and is found useful, the administration will issue similar stamps for all the districts of the different counties, or governments, as they are called. If I am not mistaken, the same use is made of the Wenden stamps, as I saw one the other day on a letter from a village near Wenden, along with a 10 kop. Russian adhesive."

These local emissions may then be termed supplemental or sub-postage stamps, covering as they do the carriage over tracts of country which are at best but irregularly served by the central administration. They will form a most interesting addition to our albums, and bearing—as most of them no doubt will—the arms of their district, they will largely increase our stock of heraldic information.

After this preface we will introduce to our readers' notice two new emissions. First, the Soummy or Soummaia stamp, specimens of which were shown before the Philatelic

1.



2.



Society a couple of months back, and respecting which we need only repeat that it is printed a red-brown. Secondly, a stamp issued for use in the district of USRUSSKAJO, and the existence of which has been made known by M. Moens. This is printed a dark blue on white paper. The line which will be noticed beneath the figure 3, is placed there to indicate that it is a numeral, and not the similarly-formed *letter* in the Russian alphabet.

Whilst writing under this heading, we may take the opportunity to give the following information, which was furnished to us some time since by our esteemed correspondent, Mr. Max Joseph: "The name of the town whence comes the Russian local described at p. 121 (vol. vii.), is *not Schunelburg*, but rather SCHLUESSELBURG, a fortress on the Ladoga sea, a few miles from St. Petersburgh. The literal English translation of this German name is *Keyborough*, the adoption of a key as its armorial device is thus explained."

NEW GRANADA.—Annexed is the representation of the new 20 centavos stamp, which, like its predecessors of the same value, is printed in blue. The Granadine authorities, it would seem, have this time departed from their usual plan of issuing an entire series at once, and are now bringing out value after value, as the stock of the preceding type becomes exhausted.



VICTORIA.—M. Moens has received specimens of the penny green, printed on newspaper wrappers watermarked with letters. On one of them he finds two N's, and thence argues that there may be an inscription crossing several of the bands, and consisting in its entirety of the words ONE PENNY.

SWITZERLAND.—The 30 centime envelope is now issued with the stamps impressed on the left side.

GERMAN CONFEDERATION.—The new confederation bids fair to be prolific in stamps; to the end that everything may be done systematically, and pursuant to a law passed on the 5th June last, a series of official stamps is to be issued, or we should, perhaps, say two series; as, though there will be but one type, there will be two sets of values, respectively for those states counting

in groschen, and those counting in *kreuzer*. The device is not stated, the values will be ¼, ⅓, ½, 1, and 2 groschen, 1, 2, 3, and 7 kreuzer; and we may assume that all those of one currency will be printed in one colour. These stamps will be reserved solely for the prepayment of letters on service, and official correspondence, and their employment will be obligatory.

ITALY.—We referred last month to the probability of a new series of stamps appearing, accompanied by a series of unpaid letter, or *chiffre-taxe*, stamps. The latter are to make their appearance at once, and will number in all ten; the following are the values: 1, 2, 5, 10, 30, 40, 50, 60 centimes, 1 lira, and 2 lire. The colours are as yet unknown, and we are without particulars as to the design; the numeral of value will, however, we may reasonably suppose, be the most salient feature.

CANADA.—Our Belgian contemporary notices two provisional stamps of this colony—the halfpenny rose, surcharged with the value 8D. STG., and again the same value surcharged simply with the figure 1. As to the former, M. Moens suggests it may have been intended to replace the tenpence, but cannot understand the meaning of the second.

Before accepting these varieties, we should like to know whether the specimens referred to are obliterated or not, and at the same time commend the present report to the attention of our Canadian friends.

UNITED STATES.—One of our readers, who pays us the compliment of carefully reading and noting our monthly descriptions of new stamps, points out that we have never given the *colour* of the current 10 c. We have now the pleasure to remedy this inadvertent omission, by stating that the 10 c. is printed *orange*.

Another of our readers has sent us a specimen of the current 2 c. black envelope, printed from a new die. The design of the previous type is followed in all its details, but the dimensions of the stamp on the new one are changed. The new stamp looks considerably broader than the old one, though actual measurement demonstrates that the difference in width is not more than the twelfth of an inch; the length differs, if at all, only by a minute fraction. The principal alteration shows itself in the flattening out, so to speak, of the inscribed bands which form the top and bottom of the stamp; the inscription has also been recut, and the position and size of the letters show, on comparison, a number of little differences; finally, the pointed ovals containing the numerals are wider than in the old The specimen before us is printed on very pale buff.

FRANCE.—Several specimens of the present series, laurel-crowned head of the Emperor, printed on the ordinary paper, and gummed ready for issue, but *imperforate*, have been seen lately. These stamps are identical with those in use by the public, except in the omission of perforation. The values we have seen are the 2 c., 4 c., 5 c., 10 c., 20 c., 40 c., and 80 c. A machine which perforates *en ligne*, the invention of a French provincial postmaster, has been used in some cases to perforate the above stamps, and also to perforate some of the current series of Bavaria.

This *dentelure à la roulette* is called in Paris, *perçage du Grand Hotel*. The machine which effects it is simple and inexpensive, but has never been employed in the official stamp manufactories. The stamps thus perforated are merely, therefore, private and unofficial. Surely this modern instance may help to a clue in explaining some of the more ancient examples of roulette work.

EGYPT.—One of our correspondents calls our attention to the fact, that when the one piastre stamps of the first series ran short, the 2 p. were transversely divided, and the halves sold and used as one piastre stamps. Until we had referred to the back numbers, we were under the impression that this peculiarity had been already noticed; certainly the fact is well established, and we have ourselves seen several of these postmarked halves, though we should not recommend our readers to accept any not coming from a thoroughly authentic source, as nothing would be easier than to fabricate them *ad libitum*.

MEXICO.—Issues of 1861, head of Hidalgo. A very singular error has been discovered in the stamps of this issue. Lately one or two unused sets of these stamps have been sent

to Europe without any inscription of date, or name of town. They were forwarded by a source in which we have every confidence, through the hands of Mr. F. Trifet, of Boston, In these sets the 1 real green was wanting, but its place was supplied by UN REAL printed *black on lilac*, the stamp which is so well known in its common value of two reales. This curious error being discovered, the paper, gum, and all details were carefully and minutely examined, and the conclusion arrived at is, that, no doubt by some blunder, the die of the one real was used for that of the two reales. Steps were at once taken to see how far the error extended, and to procure if possible other copies; but it appears only five copies got into circulation, all through the same channel, and that no further specimens are to be had; this error, therefore, will be one of the rarest among all collections.

Sept. 1866, head of Maximilian, engraved series. We have seen this series without any inscription of date, or name of town.

1868-9 series, head of Hidalgo. This set has also come over without any black inscriptions; both it and the preceding are extremely rare, and from the source from which the few copies sent over came, we do not anticipate that collectors will ever be able to procure them, except by chance on the break up of a collection or the like. Meantime, we notify the fact of the existence of these rarities.

It is reported that a series of the current stamps exists without the black inscription surcharged on the side.

CAPE OF GOOD HOPE.—We have seen a number of triangular one penny reds of the colony, in shades varying from rose to deep red, bearing K. C. BANK, in black letters. Most of these specimens are not obliterated by any postmark; some few are, however, by a circular black stamp, with the year 1865, while one or more are penstroked with the date, also 1865. The enigmatical letters are intended for "Kaffraria Central Bank."

GREAT BRITAIN. — The existence of the current sixpence unperforated is certified by M. Mahé.

We may here call the attention of continental collectors to the statement made in the course of our review of M. Moens' *Telegraph Stamp Album*, that no special telegraph stamps will be emitted, the postal series being made to do duty instead.

NATAL.—Another of our correspondents sends us notice of the appearance of a provisional Natal—the current shilling green, with the word POSTAGE surcharged in black ink on the upper part. This, we think, is a real provisional, destined to have a short existence only, if the government decree quoted in our number for November means anything.

NEVIS.—In the series on *blue paper*, besides the 1d. and 4d., the 6d. and 1s. do unquestionably exist, though the paper of the latter is not so blue as that of the former pair; its tint however is perceptible and plain.

The 6d., of 1867, *pique* 14½, does not yet make its appearance, though Levrault chronicled it in June, 1867.

NEW SOUTH WALES.—A correspondent has forwarded us a copy of a twopence blue view of Sydney on *vergé*, with the letters P. S. clearly watermarked in the *pate* of the paper, in double lined Roman capitals. From other stamps of this series we have seen, we conjecture these letters were the finals of the word "stamps."

NICARAGUA.—Our American contemporary, *Mason's Magazine*, states that a *one* centavo stamp, of the same design as the other values, and coloured *bistre*, has been emitted. We await confirmation of this intelligence.

ST. VINCENT.—The fourpenny stamp alluded to in our last number has made its appearance; the colour turns out to be a deep orange-yellow.

ANGOLA. — The reported series for this Portuguese colony is stated to be now in circulation. We hope to give full details respecting type, &c., next month.

THE PHILATELIC SOCIETY.

A meeting of the committee was held on Saturday, the 4th of December, at Great George Street, the President in the chair.

After the election of members, and the transaction of the usual business, a letter was read from Mr. Speranza, stating that, in consequence of his having to leave for Malta, he was compelled to resign his seat upon the

committee. Mr. Hughes Hughes was nominated by Mr. Furse to fill the vacated position, and upon the seconding of the secretary, his election was carried unanimously. The gentleman in question having since declined to act, another member must be proposed at the next meeting.

The committee then confirmed a vote passed at the previous meeting concerning the Boston forgers.

It was to the following effect: "The secretary having handed in copies of *The Stamp-Collector's Record*, and *Timbrophilist*, both printed in Boston (U.S.), and forwarded to members of the society by the publishers, it is resolved that in view of the scurrilous nature of the articles contained in these papers, the secretary be requested to return unopened any letters which may be received from the parties issuing the said journals." The committee then adjourned.

An ordinary meeting of the society was held upon the same day. In consequence of the most unpleasant weather then prevalent, very few members were present, therefore but little was done. An obliterated shilling of the present issue of Western Australia was shown by the secretary, printed in bistre, the colour of the penny, evidently the result of an error in arranging the blocks. The meeting stood adjourned until New-Year's day.

POSTAL CHIT-CHAT.

A POST-MORTEM EXAMINATION—opening a dead letter.

RECKLESS—our penny postage stamps: they stick at nothing.

WHAT genuine stamp declares itself to be false?—The *un-real* St. Domingo.

A SCOTCH GENTLEMAN puts the postage stamp the wrong way upon his letters, and calls it, with a tender feeling—turning a penny.

The Echo says, it has reason to believe that the proposal to issue a halfpenny stamp, which is at present the subject of correspondence between the Post-Office and the Treasury, is meeting with much opposition in both departments.

THE LAMENT OF A POSTAGE STAMP.

I am a little postage stamp,
And not unknown to fame—
Through every clime, both dry and damp,
I bear my country's name:
And any one who looks can see
My gracious Sovereign smiles *on* me.

And yet withal I'm badly used;
No matter *what* I do,
It seems that I must be abused,
And you would think so too,
Should I but tell of many a scene
Of violence through which I've been.

When I was born I was a twin,
And I had brothers many;
But I've been torn from all my kin,
Of *all* remain not any;
And he who took me from my friends,
He "licked" me well to make amends.

He stuck me on an envelope,
Flung me down some dark place,
And then for me a wretch did grope,
Who struck me in the face;
So hard a blow his hand did give,
I shall be black while I shall live.

Then was I thrust into a bag,
'Mong letters large and small,
And knocked about, nor let to lag—
I'm just alive—that's all;
But stamp collecting's now the rage,
And I may rest on some fair album's page.

Postman's Knock.

CORRESPONDENCE.

HERALDIC TERMS.

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

DEAR SIR,—With your kind permission, I will add a few words to what has already been said, by the writer of the article on the Arms of Spain, and by "Herald," concerning the terms "*bezant*" and "*torteaux*." I think, with all due deference to their opinions, that they are both somewhat in error on the subject. A "*bezant*" is a *coin*, and therefore must be of metal, and not of colour. They derive their name, I believe, from Byzantium (Constantinople), and Kent gives their value as being £3 7 5 sterling. *Bezant*, therefore, is the generic name for the *metal* roundlets *only*, while that of the coloured ones is *torteaux*. Accordingly, we find the terms, "*bezant* d'or," "*bezant* d'argent," "*torteaux* de gules," "*torteaux* d'azure," "*torteaux* de sable," &c.

Birmingham. E. B. E.

THE TWOPENCE "THRONE" VICTORIA.

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

SIR,—In your last monthly review of your contemporaries, you made some remarks upon the composition of the sheet of the 2d. "Throne" Victoria, which appear to me to have been written rather hastily, and without considering, not only how very little we know positively about these stamps, but how important every scrap of information is towards the attainment of a better knowledge of them. You may rest assured that if the ascertaining with certainty the number of these stamps in a sheet, and their relative position, were merely the putting together of a child's puzzle, you would not find such earnest philatelists as Dr. Magnus and Mr. Pemberton wasting their time in the investigation.

It must be borne in mind that in these stamps we are not dealing with stamps printed from dies, but with stamps printed from an engraving; and it is more than probable that there are as many varieties of the type as there are stamps in the sheet. You ask 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?" To this I reply that he has made one great step. By ascertaining of how many

stamps the sheet is composed, he has found among how many he has to look for varieties of type. The author of the article in *The Stamp-Collector's Magazine* for October, 1865, believed that the number of the stamps on the sheet was 120; M. Moens imagined a sheet of 600; Dr. Magnus reduced it to 48, leaving two blanks, and these two blanks Mr. Pemberton has succeeded in filling up by the addition of the two stamps, and a re-arrangement of the Doctor's classification, thus completing a sheet which it is hoped will prove that it consists of 50 stamps.

When I turn to the numerous articles that have been written upon the stamps of Victoria, it seems almost absurd to see the paucity of positive information that is to be gleaned respecting these 2d. "Throne" stamps. The earliest date given to their issue is 17 years ago, while the better *opinion* is that they were issued in 1857, and continued in use for 3 years. I think I am right in saying that the date of issue is a matter only of opinion, as also is the object of the issue, whether it was for general use, or for special use. Again, philatelists do not agree as to how they were printed. Mount Brown talks of "die-prints," and "wood-blocks," but if he had examined the best impressions, those of a brown colour, he would have seen that they bear undoubted marks of being taken from an engraving in *taille-douce*, but whether this first engraving was on metal, or on a lithographic stone with a diamond, is a question upon which the great authorities appear to differ. I believe Mr. Pemberton inclines to the metal, while Dr. Magnus thinks it to have been stone. But besides this issue, there are other stamps of a violet colour, and another series of lilac. With regard to this latter series, there can be no doubt but that it was printed from a lithographic transfer. But with respect to the violet-coloured series, is there any philatelist who can say positively whether it was printed directly from the engraved plate or stone, and the defects in the back ground, &c., are to be attributable to the deterioration of the plate, as in the Mauritius, Peru, &c., stamps, or whether it was printed from a lithographic transfer more skillfully made than in the lilac series?

Can no one give us any authentic official information on these and kindred points belonging to these stamps? In its absence, those engaged in the researches are obliged to begin at the beginning, and work step by step, thankful for every glimmer of light; and because by an accident a *portion* of their investigations, which are in the ablest of hands, has been made public, it is rather hard that they should be laughed at, and likened to a pack of children putting puzzles together for their amusement. This latter remark appears to me to be the unkindest cut of all; let me therefore suggest, Mr. Editor, in the event of your having any readers who wish to indulge in the species of amusement which you propose, the far less expensive puzzle of a sheet of English pennies, twopennies, &c., &c., which may be rendered still more interesting by the admission on the sheet of those only which bear the same minute figures at the side. Each stamp being pasted on a separate little block of wood, "the postage-stamp puzzle" might prove a successful outlet for old stamps.

I am, yours, &c.,

A PARISIAN COLLECTOR.

[We can hardly regret having commented as we did on the "making-up" of the sheet of Victoria twopenny, since it has called forth the above, in many respects, valuable letter; but even admitting that it is worth knowing that there are 50 varieties, and not 600, does our correspondent advocate the collection of these 50 varieties? When such a very large number exists, differing by infinitesimal details or gradations of shades from each other, is it not a reason for accepting simply a few of the most widely differing varieties, rather than for collating and collecting them all? The question as to the mode of engraving is well worth attention, but a knowledge of the number of stamps on the sheet leads nowhere.—ED.]

M. MOENS' REPLY TO MR. PEMBERTON.

"WILL HE IMMORTALISE HIMSELF?"

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

DEAR SIR,—Permit me to address to you a few lines in reply to the letter from Mr. Pemberton which you published in your last number. I rely upon your impartiality in inserting them in your next.

Mr. Pemberton reproaches me, in terms by no means remarkable for their courtesy,

1.—With having copied his plan of the arrangement of the 2d. Victoria queen on throne.

2.—With having published the same without his authority.

3.—With having declared myself to be the author of it. Besides this, he *asserts* himself to be the *only* person who has fathomed the mystery. (Such is the extent of his modesty!)

Mr. W., who appears to act in concert with Mr. Pemberton, or who desires to get into the good graces of his young friend, whose confidence he believes he has broken, comes to the rescue, and declares with the same *aplomb*, that Mr. Pemberton alone had succeeded in discovering what I had published. In other words, Messrs. W. and Pemberton say,—All without distinction who study stamps are dullards,—Mr. Pemberton alone is great; but for him the mystery which enveloped the 2d. Victoria would have become for ever impenetrable. (Let us thank the gods for having made Mr. Pemberton a timbrophilist, and pray them to preserve him!)

Now, does any one wish to know how we came to publish the article in question? Here is the recital in all its simplicity; and were the matter of any further interest, I could bring trustworthy evidence in proof of what I advance.

Mr. W., as he has stated, had communicated to Mr. Pl. a plan similar to my own. Mr. Pl., whose occupations prevent him from giving a constant attention to the study of stamps, had long before requested me to investigate this subject. Mr. W.'s communication was then welcome to Mr. Pl., and interested him very much. He drew my notice again to the matter, and informed me of what he had received. Would there be any indiscretion in giving a glance over the plan?—I inquired of him. None whatever, he replied. But I exclaimed to myself, on seeing it, this is the table compiled by Dr. Magnus, and verified by Mr. Pemberton (whose writing I recognised); and then the mischievous idea crossed my mind, to play a trick on Mr. Pemberton, in remembrance of a circumstance which it is not worth mentioning here, in publishing, before him, a plan identical with his—a work which otherwise, I boldly confess, I might have allowed to stand over, notwithstanding Mr. Pl.'s request to undertake it.

On my return home, I looked up all my specimens of the 2d. Victoria; went to a friend of mine, an experienced collector, and explained to him my idea, which he immediately approved, knowing the motive by which I was actuated. Being unable at the moment to occupy myself with the matter, my friend was good enough to take my place, but he observed to me that he was without the principal grounds on which to work with certainty—the double stamps (*i.e.*, pairs of stamps, the individuals of each pair being still united to each other by the side, or by the top and bottom). I returned them to Mr. Pl., who lent me his pairs, Mr. W. did the same; and it was by means of these stamps, and of the table compiled by Dr. Magnus, that my friend prepared his own; it cost him only a quarter-of-an-hour's study to complete it.

Now, if any one will read over what has been published,

he will see that we have not taken the credit of the work to ourselves; far otherwise; I have made it to be understood that all the honour is due to Dr. Magnus. Mr. Pemberton is, then, very much in the wrong in declaring himself to be the *only* capable person, particularly when it is considered that the road was traced out for him. Before thus informing the public of facts and doings which cannot interest it much, and before using strong language, Mr. Pemberton would have done better to come to me, and I could have edified him then, as I do now, upon his discovery.

As to the respect which he has for Dr. Magnus—respect which has stopped him from publishing his article sooner—I cannot comprehend it. Since when has it become a want of the respect which is due to any one, to show him his errors? In that there is something new to me. And why must Mr. Pemberton have the approbation of the Philatelic Society?—why?—because Mr. Pemberton, accustomed at its meetings to be applauded before, whilst, and after he speaks, would have missed an occasion if he had not something in his hand to offer to the admiration of the said society.

We ask ourselves now in alarm—we who have tarnished his glory, robbed him of his laurels, caused him to forego a triumphal entry at the society's meeting, and prevented him at the same time from giving himself a modest air—will he nevertheless immortalise himself? We devoutly hope he may.

Here let me arrest this puerile discussion, interesting to no one unless it be Mr. Pemberton; and him I inform that should he take a fancy to let fly at me any more of his arrows—otherwise termed big words—I shall take no notice of them. I am willing indeed to send him every month proofs of *Le Timbre-Poste*, and to await his permission to publish, but I decline all polemics; I have something better to do than to engage in them.

I am, dear Sir, yours obediently,

Brussels. J. B. MOENS.

ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS.

J. C., Manchester.—Accept our thanks for the copy of the 10 c. Belgian, as also for calling or rather *re*calling our attention to the curious Egyptian provisional 1 piastre, which we notice in our monthly chronicle. If the 1 p. stamp now being sold differ as to paper from the original specimens, they are probably reprints.

A. Y.—We decidedly should *not* include bill stamps in a collection of *postage* stamps. Had we a *penchant* for the former, we should put them in a separate book.—The "Ocean Postage" design you referred to formed part of a device which covered the back of an envelope, that was brought out some years ago by an association formed to urge the adoption of the ocean penny postage scheme, and was simply a kind of advertisement thereof. Its "collectable" value depends on individual taste, but to us it seems it can hardly be termed a postal curiosity.

J. H. R.—We are obliged by your notice of the provisional Natal, as also for calling our attention to our oversight in not giving the colour of the 10 c. United States. The gummed labels, with eagle in relief, and inscription STADT POST LUBECK, of which you speak, are or were used, we believe, as seals to the packets of envelopes supplied from the central to the local post-offices; those inscribed POST UND TELEGRAPHEN LUBECK were, no doubt, used for a similar purpose. These handsome labels were prepared at Berlin, where of late years most of the envelopes for the German states were made and stamped. Serving, as they did, simply as seals, they can hardly be considered "collectable," and their absence from catalogues is not surprising.

C. W., Sheffield.—We notice the U. S. envelope you were good enough to send, in our article on "New Stamps." With regard to the 2 sgr. Mecklenburg-Strelitz envelope, if you are under the impression that it is issued to the public with the minutely-inscribed grey tablet printed over it, but *without* one of the Confederation adhesives covering the original device, you are mistaken. On referring to the envelope again you will observe an indented rectangular mark left by the adhesive stamp, which has been removed; and further, you will notice that there is only a small section of the circular post-mark, the remainder having covered the now absent adhesive; the section of the postmark terminates just where the mark left by the label commences.

DAY DREAM.—1. The countries using the *groschen* series of the North German Confederation are Prussia, Saxony, Hanover, Brunswick, Oldenburg, the Mecklenburgs, Schleswig-Holstein, Bremen, Bergedorf, Lubeck, Hamburg, the Offices of Thurn and Taxis. Those using the *kreuzer* series are Electoral-Hesse, Nassau, Saxe-Coburg, Saxe-Meiningen, Hohenzollern, Schwartzburg, and Frankfort. 2. Soon after the accession of Prince Charles to the Roumanian throne, a series of these values, bearing his portrait, were emitted (2 bani orange-yellow, 4 bani blue, 18 bani rose, all in black, on coloured paper). In 1867 the same values were reissued in colour on white paper, and last year a second edition on white paper, but in much deeper colours, appeared, together with five new values—5, 10, 15, 25, and 50 bani. Of these, the first three are printed, respectively, orange-yellow, blue, and red; the 25 b., blue and yellow; and the 50 b, blue and red. 3. A series of cuartos stamps for Spain was issued at the beginning of 1867; in July of the same year, 5, 10, 25, and 50 millesimas stamps came out; the decimal system having come into operation in 1868, there appeared the 100 and 200 mill.; for last year's emission, we refer you to the list given with the present number.

W. P., Stuttgart.—Only the 1 and 2 paras of the 1866 Servians were issued unperforated.—The 3 c. Roman has been issued perforated.—The Suez Canal stamps were, it is believed, never in use; they were prepared for circulation, but the authorities changed their minds, and would not permit the series to be issued.—The address of the publishers of the *Magazine für Briefmarken Sammler* is 25, Konigstrasse, Leipzig, Saxony.—The first and second volumes of *The Stamp-Collector's Magazine* are out of print; there has never been any question about reprinting the second volume, it is not needed; to cover the cost of reprinting the first, a guaranteed sale of 500 copies is required by our publishers.—Of the 1853-7 Danish series, the 4, 8, and 16 sk. were issued perforated (*i.e.*, *percé en ligne*).—The "perfect stranger," described p. 171, vol. vi., remains a perfect stranger still.—The Basle stamp has been reprinted, but the reprint is distinguishable by the ground being printed *sea-green*, and the frame *orange*.—The Bavarian privileged express is unquestionably (as you forcibly put it) "a humbug."—The authenticity of the Honduras stamps can hardly be considered as fully established until we get trustworthy assurance of their being in circulation.—We have heard nothing of Spiro Brothers, of Hamburg, for a long time, and imagine they must have retired from what we should imagine to have been a very profitable business.—The Hungarian are journal, and not postage stamps.—There is both a perforated and an unperforated series for Madeira and the Azores.

THE RE-IMPRESSION OF NEW GRANADA.

We append a translation from the December number of *Le Timbrophile* of the following article, which virtually forms the continuation of the former ones on the same subject, and which is in itself its own explanation.

In our reply last month on the Luçon reprints we discussed principally the opinion expressed in *Le Timbre-Poste*, contenting ourselves with noticing one argument special to *The Stamp-Collector's Magazine*. To-day we propose to ourselves to reply to this latter journal as to the New Granadine reprints. Reply is not exactly the term to use, for we are entirely in accord with it; rather, we take advantage of its observations to return to the question. One circumstance mentioned by *The Stamp-Collector's Magazine* gives us the opportunity we seek. Mr. Philbrick has been good enough to forward us some stamps of the fifth emission, at the same time drawing our attention to certain particularities not indicated in our article—particularities the greater part of which had not escaped our observation, but which were somewhat foreign to our subject. We agree with *The Stamp-Collector's Magazine* in so far as concerns the other emissions; let us occupy ourselves, then, with that of 1863.

The letter of Mr. Philbrick is of a most interesting character. It recognises, first, that the 50 centavos, green on white paper, is a *falsification*, and that the known specimens have been produced by the aid of *eau de javelle*. The copy which he has had in his possession for several years, and which he at one time *believed to be on white paper*, bears, in fact, as an obliteration, the name of a town written with pen and ink. An attempt had evidently been made to cause this mark to *disappear*, but the doctoring has left *indubitable* traces. It was, beyond question, a stamp on bluish paper, for it offered all those characteristics drawn from the legend which are indicated in our first article. The 50 c. vermilion on white paper, which Mr. Philbrick possesses, presents every one of the distinguishing points which we have found in the copy in our own possession, and which testify that one and the same plate served for the 50 c. green on bluish paper, and for its variety, the 50 c. vermilion on white. But Mr. Philbrick's letter brings to our knowledge a new variety of the 50 c. green on bluish paper. An unused specimen of this stamp, which he has had for four years, presents itself without a point after the word NACIONALES, or rather, with a point barely visible. It is not, however, there that the differences entirely rest; we may signalise the following:—

1.—The 5 is higher, and not so large, but the head of the figure is more marked.
2.—The 0 is smaller, and without the dash of colour striking off from the upper part.
3.—The C is of the same size as the other letters, and does not overstep the imaginary line by which they are limited.
4.—The N would seem to be thicker, and farther from the T.
5.—Between the figure 5 and the E of the legend, E.U. DE COLOMBIA, may be perceived the trace of a star, or of some similar design.

It would be easy to push the comparison farther, but the preceding characteristics are the most striking.

This stamp appeared to us to be excellent. It has the bluish-green shade of the one previously known, and the paper is identical. It must, then, be concluded that for the 50 cents there are two types, as there are for the other values of the series.

At least two varieties of the figure 5 may be distinguished for the stamp of that value. In the first type, the body of the 5 is thicker and rounder; in the second, the body is smaller, and the lower part, terminating in a point, spreads out almost horizontally instead of recurving. The interval between the body and the head is greater in the small figure. It is in connection with the first that we find the fragment of a star on the right, and certain outlines on the left. To each variety a disposition of the word corresponds, which brings to mind the two types of the 50 c.; letters about equal in the first type; letters C E overlapping in the second; and in conclusion, the C larger in the first type.

A third type approaches the second in

the form of the 5, without, however, being identical, for the head is smaller, and the termination of the body is regular, and not thrown forward. Further, the word CENT slants from left to right, and from bottom to top. Of the two lines which form the lower part of the octagonal frame, and are situated above and below the inscription 5 CENT, the upper one is absent or hardly to be discerned; the lower is almost three times thicker at its right than at its left extremity, the thickness regularly increasing from the left to the right.

For the 10 c., the difference between the figures is principally observable in the height, but in those copies where this is notably greatest there will be found after the 0 a point, which is wanting in the other type. Just as for the 5, the first variety, the one without the point shows the upper line of the lower portion of the frame scarcely visible; but the lower has not the same disposition as in one of the types of the 5. These two varieties are found on the two varieties of paper, white and bluish—proof that the same stone served for the impression of the two papers.

For the 20 c., the difference is perhaps less apparent; the 2, however, does not offer a conformation always identical, and the 0 varies in width. But specimens are found with the remnant of a star, as in Mr. Philbrick's stamp, and others with the trace of a point after the word NACIONALES, or at some little distance; and these differences might serve to establish several types.

From this springs a new proof of the genuineness of Mr. Philbrick's stamp, but on comparing it with the reprints which have been identified, no resemblance can be traced in the legend, 50 CENT, because the figures for these latter have been re-made after effacing the 2 from the plate of the 20 centavos.

Up to this point we are perfectly in accord with Mr. Philbrick, but here the agreement ceases. He remarks to us that the paper of the stamp of this emission, examined *par transparence*, seems as if it were finely *granulated*;* a circumstance due to the application of the damp pulp on the grains of the canvas which serves for the fabrication of the paper. The paper of the reprints is of a closer texture, and shows no trace of these *granulations*. These are in fact characteristics which are found respectively in a large number of the old stamps *and* in the reprints, but one does not always meet with the *granulated* paper in the old stamps. Many of the 5, and notably of the 20, scarcely (if at all) show these little dots in the paper, and yet their authenticity is no more doubted by others than by ourselves. The existence of a *granulated* paper may be a characteristic confirmatory of genuineness when it is found on a stamp, but its absence does not give sufficient ground for rejecting those in which it is not present, and we continue to consider the want of transparency in the paper and of the bluish gloss (*œil azuré*) is the best characteristic for the stamps on white paper.

Does it follow that one ought to put faith in the characteristic indicated by Mr. Philbrick? We think not, and, basing ourselves on its presence, we say that the two copies of the 20 c. green, on white or half-white paper, which he has sent are not reprints, because the paper of the one which has a greyish tint is finely granulated. The other stamp presents rather feeble traces of the dotting, but still they are unquestionably more clearly visible than in the paper of any of the reprints. Supporting ourselves, then, on the characteristic given by Mr. Philbrick, we persist in considering these two stamps excellent. We will not guarantee that they have served as stamps, but they have certainly been printed from the very stone which served for the 20 c. red, and on the official paper in use at that same period. Neither of them, moreover, offers the characteristics of the paper of the reprints. They must be at least stamps prepared and not used, for we have never heard that any one had met with a properly obliterated copy. We hope these proofs will satisfy our very esteemed correspondent, and also the editor of *The Stamp-Collector's Magazine*.—(Signed) Dr. MAGNUS.

[Mr. Philbrick remarks on the foregoing, that the letter in which he called the attention of Dr. Magnus to the stamps sent was rather of a private nature, and therefore not so exactly expressed as if intended for

* The expression is not very exact, but we allow it to stand, because the indication it gives of the condition of the paper is such as every one will easily grasp.

publication, but that it is matter of congratulation to elicit such a response from the doctor, who, with his usual desire for the spread of information, has written the above article.

The phrase, *granulated paper*, though not perhaps scientifically correct, exactly conveys the idea of the paper employed, which shows traces of the fine wire network on which the pulp is placed; the expression is convenient, and may be adopted without risk of confusion.

In Mr. Philbrick's view, the difference between Dr. Magnus and himself is more apparent than real: the presence of the granulation was deemed by Mr. Philbrick as an unqualified sign of the genuine nature of the stamp, whilst its absence Dr. Magnus considers as not a decisive proof to the contrary.

We are very glad to be able thus to place before our readers the result of this correspondence, which establishes a new type, and assists to elucidate what is by no slow steps becoming the great question of the moment—the history and detection of re-impressions.—Ed.]

LIST OF NEWLY-ISSUED OR IN-EDITED STAMPS, NOTICED IN *THE STAMP-COLLECTOR'S MAGAZINE* FOR 1869.

(*Concluded from page* 4.)

Newfoundland.

Device of 1857-62. Col. imp.; rect.
Eightpence lake.

Portrait of Prince of Wales in Highland costume, in oval, value on scroll crossing the top, numeral in lower corners. Inscription NEWFOUNDLAND. Col. imp.; rect. perf.
One cent mauve.

Design of 1866. Col imp.; rect. perf.
Five cents black.

Nicaragua.

Design of 1862. Col. imp.; obl. rect.
10 cents vermilion.
25 „ blue.

Peru.

Design of 1862. Col. imp.; sq. perf.
1 dinero green.

Philippine Islands.

Design of 1864, with surcharged inscription HABILITADO POR LA NACION in three lines.
12½ cents blue, imprint black.

Portugal.

Design of 1866. Col. imp.; rect. perf.
80 reis orange-red.

Prince Edward Island.

Head of Queen to left in rectangular frame, ornaments at sides, scrolls above and below. Inscription PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND POSTAGE. Blk. imp.; rect. perf.
Fourpence black.

Queensland.

Design of 1861. Col. imp.; rect. perf. Watermark, Q and crown.
One penny orange.
Twopence blue.

Roman States.

Design of 1866. Blk. imp.; rect. perf.
20 centesimi solferino.

Roumania.

Profile of Prince Charles to left between two curved bands, value in margins. Inscription POSTA ROMANA. Col. imp.; rect.
5 (*cinci*) bani orange.
10 (*dece*) „ dark blue.
15 (*cincis predece*) bani red.
25 (*douedeci si cinci*) „ blue (centre) and orange (frame).
50 (*cinci deci*) „ red (centre) and blue (frame).

Design of 1866. Col. imp.; rect.
2 bani orange.
4 „ dark blue.
18 „ red.

Russia.

Design of 1864 on paper watermarked with an undulating pattern extending over several stamps. Col. imp.; rect. perf.
1 kop. yellow.
5 „ lilac.

ENVELOPES.

Arms on plain circular disk, surrounded by Russian inscription. Col. imp.; circ.
5 kopeks mauve.

Arms in white relief on solid oval. Russian inscription in surrounding border, numeral of value in circle below. Col. imp.; oval.
10 kop. brown.
20 „ blue.
30 „ rose.

Local or District Stamps.

BOGORODSK.

St. George and the Dragon in upper half of oval on ground of vertical lines, sun-dial in lower half on ground of horizontal dotted lines, Russian inscription in surrounding oval frame, value in angles; double external frame of undulating lines.

5 kop. blue on white.

BOROWITZ.

Arms in centre of inscribed circular frame, inscribed sections of circles springing from the central frame on the two sides, and above and below; circular disks with figure of value in each angle. Col. imp.; rect.

5 kop. red-brown (centre) and black (ground).

RIASANSKI.

Russian inscription in three lines, in centre of a transverse lozenge-shaped frame, with inscriptions in margin. Blk. imp., diam.

2 kop. dull white.

SCHLUESSELBERG.

Inscribed scroll wound over a key in inscribed oval, numeral of value in angles. Blk. imp., rect.

5 kop. dark green.

SOUMMY, OR SOUMSKAIA.

Inscribed ribbon, encircling a courier-bag; ground of crossed horizontal waved lines. Col. imp.; rect.

3 kop. red.

St. Domingo.

Design of 1866. Blk. imp on thin paper; narrow rect.

Medio real dull green.

UN „ rose.

The same. Blk. imp. on thick paper.

UN real light blue, deep blue.

St. Vincent.

Design of 1866. Col. imp.; rect. perf.

One shilling dull blue, brown.

Serbia.

Profile of Prince Milano to left in solid circular disk, and numeral of value at corners. Col. imp.; rect. perf.

1 para light and deep yellow.
10 „ brown.
15 „ orange.
20 „ blue.
25 „ carmine.
35 „ pale green.
40 „ mauve.
50 „ dark green.

South African Republic.

Arms, with motto beneath on scroll, supported by flags, and surmounted by eagle, in solid rectangular frame, value on each side, and numeral in upper corners. Inscription POST-ZEGEL Z. AFR. REPUBLIEK. Col. imp.; rect. rouletted.

1 (een) penny brown, red.
6 (zes) pence blue, light and deep.
1 (een) shilling green.

South Australia.

Profile of Queen, diademed, in lined circle, scrolled labels and flower-work above and below. Inscription SOUTH AUSTRALIA. Col. imp.; rect. perf. Wmk., crown and S. A.

Twopence dull orange-red.

Spain.

Profile of Queen to left in lined oval, with inscribed border, shell ornaments at corners. Inscription, CORREOS DE ESPANA. Col. imp.; rect. perf.

50 millesimas deep lilac.

PROVISIONAL GOVERNMENT.

Type of 1867. Col. imp.; rect. perf.

25 millesimas blue.
19 cuartos brown.

Same design as that of the 12 cuartos of 1867. Col. imp.; rect. perf.

100 millesimas brown.

Design similar to that of the 19 c. of 1867. Col. imp.; rect. perf.

200 millesimas green.

Design of 1867, with surcharged inscription in black ink, HABILITADO POR LA NACION, in black.

12 c. orange.

Design of 1867, with surcharged inscription in black obliquely placed, HABILITADO POR LA JUNTA REVOLUCIONARIA.

20 c. d'esco. lilac.

Trinidad.

Profile of Queen to left in ornate circular frame, spandrels ornamented. Inscription TRINIDAD. Col. imp.; large rect. perf.

Five shillings lake-brown.

TOO-LATE STAMPS.

Current values with word TOO-LATE printed diagonally across the face.

Black imprint, all the values.

Red imprint, all the values, except the 5s.

The same with imprint twice repeated, forming a St. Andrew's cross. Red imprint.

Turkey.

Design of 1865. Col. imp.; rect. perf.

10 paras lilac.
20 „ green.
1 piastre yellow.
2 „ vermilion.
5 „ blue.
25 „ red.

United States.

Profile of Franklin to left in solid beaded circle, with inscriptions in border, U. S. POSTAGE. Col. imp.; small square perf.

One cent light brown.

Courier on horseback, with inscription above, and value below, in embellished frame. Inscription, UNITED STATES POSTAGE. Col. imp.; square perf.

Two cents deep brown.

Locomotive in embellished frame; same inscription above, and value below. Col. imp.; square perf.

Three cents blue.

Portrait of Washington to right in circular solid disk, with check-pattern in spandrels, and U. S. in upper corners, in square inscribed frame. Same inscription. Col. imp.; square perf.

Six cents blue.

Inscribed shield, surmounted by eagle, with stars in arch above, scroll bearing value below, and same inscription between. Col. imp; square perf.

Ten cents orange.

Steam-ship in oval, enclosed in embellished frame, with same inscription in upper part. Col. imp.; square perf.

Twelve cents green.

Representation of the Landing of Columbus in America, in embellished frame. Inscription, U. S. POSTAGE. Col. imp., square perf.

Fifteen cents blue and brown.

Representation of the *Signing of the Declaration of Independence*, 1776, in embellished frame; same inscription as the preceding. Col. imp.; square perf.

Twenty-four cents purple and green.

Same design as the ten cents, but shield supported by flags, and printed in two colours; inscribed UNITED STATES POSTAGE. Col. imp.; square perf.

Thirty cents blue and rose.

Portrait of Lincoln to right in oval, with arched label above, and scrolls below, numerals in upper, and U. S. in lower angles, in florid frame. Inscription, U. S. POSTAGE. Col. imp.; rect. perf.

Ninety cents black and red.

Victoria.

Design of 1863. Col. imp.; rect. perf.

Threepence orange.

Wurtemburg.

Design of 1868. Col. imp.; rect. perf.

14 kreuzer yellow.

THE ENVELOPES OF THE UNITED STATES.

BY EDWARD L. PEMBERTON.

THIRD PAPER.

Since the publication of my last paper, I have found such a mass of additional matter, that I am perplexed how to add it all to my previous articles, and yet keep the lists in a connected manner. In point of fact, they want re-arranging in order to render them easy of comprehension, but as this is now impossible, I must make the additions as precise as practicable, and preserve my present system of arrangement, as far as I can, consistently with perfect accuracy. In the *resumé* at the conclusion of these

papers, I shall be forced to make many alterations in numbering, in order to preserve the sequence of the issues with the varieties of the envelopes; this I shall much regret, but, necessity having no choice, shall be forced to do this, and hope its completeness and accuracy may condone the faults of its necessitated alterations.

Having now engraved all the known varieties of size ever used for private correspondence, it will be advisable (having in consideration the additions we have to make to the early issues) to make ourselves thoroughly acquainted with their several variations, in doing which we shall gradually get to know the issues upon which they are found, and render ourselves competent to decide more accurately in those cases which are at present obscure.

The engraving (on the first sheet in December) marked *F var. of D*, should be reversed, *D var. of F*, and the small envelope H is engraved in the current shape, I find, and not in the obsolete one, as stated. The list which follows is so thoroughly explanatory, that it will fully set right the few trifling discrepancies which occurred in my last paper, but which fresh specimens, and some information from Mr. F. Trifet (of Boston), have enabled me to correct.

Taking them in the order of their sizes, in connection with the sketches already given, the following are their dimensions, and the dates at which they were probably current:

$5\frac{1}{2}$ by $3\frac{1}{4}$ inches, A, plain, obsolete (Aug., 1853, beginning of 1864).

$5\frac{1}{2}$ by $3\frac{1}{4}$ inches, B, patent, obsolete (Aug., 1853, beginning of 1864).

$5\frac{1}{2}$ by $3\frac{1}{4}$ inches, F, plain, current (since beginning of 1864).

$5\frac{1}{2}$ by $3\frac{1}{4}$ inches, G, patent, current (since beginning of 1864).

$5\frac{3}{8}$ by $3\frac{1}{8}$ inches, D, patent, obsolete (Sept., 1860, beginning of 1864).

$4\frac{3}{4}$ by $2\frac{7}{8}$ inches, H, plain, current (since beginning of 1864).

$4\frac{5}{8}$ by $2\frac{5}{8}$ inches, E, patent, obsolete (Sept., 1860, July, 1861).

$6\frac{1}{4}$ by $3\frac{1}{2}$ inches, I, plain, current (since July, 1861).

$8\frac{5}{8}$ by $4\frac{7}{8}$ inches, C, plain, obsolete (Aug., 1853, Dec., 1864).

The last is an Official size, but, occurring in the oldest issues, claims a place here. The size, $5\frac{1}{2}$ by $3\frac{1}{4}$ inches, being the commonest, and far more generally used than all the others combined, it was deemed advisable, for many reasons, to distinguish the plain and patent forms, both obsolete and current, by distinctive initials. The others having had little comparative currency, the forms most usually found have been engraved, the rarer ones being left (for simplicity's sake) to be distinguished by the addition of the distinguishing term to the initial letter; for instance, below is a list of the commoner forms, with the distinctions added, which must be given to describe the rarer ones:—

D is patent, rarer form is *plain* (Sept., 1860, beginning 1863).

H is current (always plain), rarer form is *obsolete* (Dec., 1864).

E is patent, rarer form is *plain* (Sept., 1860, July, 1861).

We will now run through the principal variations in the make of the sizes given above. In the $5\frac{1}{2}$ by $3\frac{1}{4}$ inches series, there is very little perceptible difference between the *plain* A and F, beyond the top and bottom flaps of F being slightly pointed, whilst in A they are decidedly rounded. In the patent shapes, this slight point in one, and decided round in the other, is still traceable, though only in the upper flap; in B the lower flap is deeply notched, and the side flaps are hollowed out all along their tops; in G the lower flap is only slightly notched, and the side flaps are not hollowed, except just where they touch (see engraving in July number for A and B, and in December for F and G). A is found up to and upon the 2 c. postage of July, 1863, whilst F appears for the first time on the 3 c. of 1861, and was issued, probably, early in 1864. The patent shape B we have never found after the 1861 issue, whilst the patent G we find mostly on, and always after, the same series.

The nearest approach to this first size is D; it is an eighth-of-an-inch less each way. I have only identified it as a patent envelope, and the engraving in December will show that it has the rounded upper, and deeply-notched lower flap of B, with the higher side flaps of G. In the July number of *The*

American Stamp Mercury, Mr. Trifet mentions a 3 c. of 1860, on this size *plain* envelope; it is, perhaps, confined to this value (like E, further on), or would have been met with; the patent D, however, occurs also with the 3 c. of 1861; why should not the plain one exist to bear it company? This size appears peculiar to the 3 cents value.

The next smallest size is $4\frac{3}{4}$ by $2\frac{7}{8}$ inches, and is that termed H last month; the obsolete form is a small edition of A, the top flap being clearly rounded, and without the sinuous edge of the current one engraved in the December number; it always seems to have been white, and never otherwise than plain. To Mr. Trifet we are again indebted for information and specimens of a 3 c. 1853 red, and orange-red, upon this shape (H obsolete); it further occurs on the 3 c. of 1860 and 1861; with the 3 c. rose of 1864 the current shape (as engraved) came into use. This size, too, appears peculiar to the 3 cents value.

The nextsize is the smallest ever chronicled as issued by the United States, it is E, $4\frac{5}{8}$ by $2\frac{5}{8}$ inches, and appears peculiar to the 3 c. of 1860. Mr. Trifet quotes a plain envelope which I have never seen, whilst I have the patent shape (as engraved last month) which he does not appear to know.

The next size is that marked I in the December sketches. Since writing then, I have found a 3 c. of 1861 upon this variety. The size is large, $6\frac{1}{4}$ by $3\frac{1}{2}$ inches, and it was afterwards current with the 2 and 3 c. of 1864, to which values it was confined.

The only remaining size found with the old lower values, is the Official C, size $8\frac{5}{8}$ by $4\frac{7}{8}$ inches. It was confined to the 6 cents red of 1853, 1860, and 6 cents rose of 1861, both in white and buff, and was always plain. The other Officials are of a totally different construction, and none before 1866 (except the 6 c. of 1864) being for lower values than 12 cents, there can be no end, but confusing the collector, gained by examining them here. Anyone who has followed these descriptions carefully, and compared his own specimens, whether few or many, with them and the engravings, will have the whole history of the varieties "at his fingers' ends," and will comprehend the value of the following tabular list of the varieties known of the obsolete issues. It will be seen that by analogy there ought to exist a 3 c. 1860 on the patent shape B, also a 4 c. on the same, as both exist in the earliest plain shape A. Again, the 4 c. is found on the current patent shape G, therefore it *should* exist on the companion shape, F *plain*, but the table had better be given at once, and the remarks and inferences left to follow it. The table itself will, I believe, explain the dates I have given in the first part of this present paper.

ISSUE.		Obsolete Shapes.		Current Shapes.	
		Plain.	Patent.	Plain.	Patent.
1853.	3 c. red	A.	B.		
		H.	none.		
	6 c. green	A.			
	6 c. red	C.	none.		
	10 c. green	A.			
1857.	1 c. blue	A.	B.	F.	none.
1860.	3 c. red	A.			
		D.	D.		
		E.	E.		
		H.	none.		
	4 c. compound	A.			G.
	6 c. red	C.	none.		
	10 c. green	A.			
1861.	3 c. rose	A.	B.	F.	
			D.		
		H.	none.	I.	none.
	6 c. rose	C.	none.		
	10 c. green	A.	B.	F.	G.
1863.	2 c., POSTAGE ...	A.			
1864.	2 c., POST	none.	none.	F.	none.
	3 c. rose	,,	,,	F.	G.
		,,	,,	H.	none.
		,,	,,	I.	none.
	6 c. mauve ...	,,	,,	F.	

A careful analysis of this table enables us to clearly establish that these envelopes may be resolved into two periods:—

1st.—From August, 1853, up to a period before the issue of December, 1864, and after the issue of the 2 c. *Postage* of July, 1863.

2nd.—From the last period mentioned, which I have called *the beginning of* 1864 in my list of sizes and dates.

Evidently up to July, 1863, the shapes of the first period were current, because we see the 2 c. then issued at that date was on the old A; and as the shapes of the 2nd period were not permanently used till the series of December, 1864 (with which they are invariably concurrent), and as specimens of 3 c. of 1861 are found on shape F, and 4 c. on shape G, it stands to reason, seeing that the 2 c. postage of July, 1863, is on an obsolete shape, and that the 3 and 4 c. were both obsolete before December, 1864, that the new shapes may be pretty correctly fixed at about the *beginning of* 1864.

From this table, in which is comprised every specimen we can produce, the following results can be worked out:—

1st Period, 1853-64.	*2nd Period*, from 1864.
A (plain).	F (plain).
B (patent).	G (patent).
H (obsolete).	H (current).
C (official).	C (in a new form).
	I, extra size, plain.

Special shapes, not continued long. { D, plain and patent. E, plain and patent.

According to my table, the absence of any patent shape, except to the 3 c. values, is proved up to the year 1861. In the issue usually distinguished by that date, the 10 c. is to be found on the old patent B, and also on the recent patent G. From the short currency which the first must have had, specimens are rare, and examples upon shape G are so uncommon, that I can only conclude their period of currency was very short too. No patent has been found to the 2 c. of first or second emission; it is, however, not unlikely that some were issued, for in the new patent shape G, probably made early in 1864, we have the 3, 4, and 10 c., though the higher values have long been disused and are rare. I think the subject of size and make has now been thoroughly exhausted, so the new varieties I have found or heard of had better be added here. Where I am indebted to Mr. Trifet's paper for information, I have added the initial T.

Issue of 1853.

8 *a*.—3 c. light red on white, *a*. Shape A.
9 *a*.—3 c. vemilion-red on white, *c*. Shape B, with the three patent lines blue.
15. —Red on soft yellow paper.
16 *a*.—3 c. red on white. H, obsolete.
b.—3 c. orange-red on white. Ditto—*T*.
17 *a*.—6 c. pale blue-green on white, *d*. Shape A.
33 *a*.—10 c. Die I. Light yellow-green on thin yellow-buff, *d*. Shape A.
37 *a*.—10 c. Die II. Light dull green on buff, *b*. D.

Issue of 1857.

39 *a*.—1 c. thinnish crisp buff. Shape A.

Issue of 1860.

42 *a*.—3 c. red on white, *e*. Shape A.
43 *a*.—3 c. red on dark buff. „ A.
44. —Is on white, *d*, not *a*.

4 c. compound are re-arranged thus:—

46 —4 c. thin yellow-buff, dark blue.
46 *a*.—4 c. thin yellow-buff, paler blue.
47 —4 c. „ paler „ dark blue.
a.—4 c. „ „ „ paler blue.
b.—4 c. thick „ „ dark blue.
c.—4. c. „ „ „ paler blue.
53 *a*.—3 c. red on white. E plain.—*T*.
b.—3 c. red on white D „ *T*.
c.—3 c. red on white. E „ *T*.
54 —6 c. red on white. C.
54 *a*.—6 c. red on buff. C.

Issue of 1861.

60 *a*.—3 c. rose on buff. I.
60 *b*.—3 c. rose on buff. B.
c.—3 c. rose on white. B. ?
61 *a*.—10 c. light dull green on thin white. A.
65 *a*.—10 c. light dull green on buff. A. ? (lighter than 65).
68. —10 c. yellow-green on yellow-buff. B.
a.—10 c. yellow-green on white. B.

It will be noticed that sundry of these are queried; they must undoubtedly exist, but have not yet been found, so are given with this reservation.

THE PHILATELIC SOCIETY.

A meeting of the committee was held on Saturday, the 18th of December, at Palace Chambers, Abingdon Street, Westminster.

The secretary read a communication he had received from Mr. John Davies, the stamp printer of New Zealand, in reply to one he had written respecting the perforations of the stamps of the colony. It was as follows:—

17th September, 1869.

Postage stamps were first issued in the perforated form by this government in 1863, but while the machine was on its way to this country, the postmaster of Dunedin obtained permission to get all the stamps required for this province perforated by a stationer in Dunedin. They were perforated for a few months by a machine similar to the one now in this office, namely, with round holes.

Vendors of stamps who happened to be bookbinders did, for a short time, perforate what few they required for sale. I have seen such stamps perforated by the "stabbing process" [roulette].

(Signed) JOHN DAVIES.

The fifth ordinary meeting took place on Saturday, January 8th, at Great George Street, under the presidency of Dr. Viner.

Mr. Atlee's paper on the *Stamps of British North America* was read, and a vote of thanks passed to him for it.

Mr. Furse laid before the members a three-penny postage stamp of Ceylon, which had been used as a fiscal, showing that the postals were not used for that purpose only.

Mr. Pemberton exhibited numerous Californian locals, among which were the following (the numbers refer to those given in the September issue of this magazine) :—

17 *a*.—LA PORTE EXPRESS CO., black, on 6 c. of 1864, buff paper.

27 *a*.—LAMPING & CO., black on 12 c., first issue, upon lemon.

27 *b*.—Same on 6 c. rose of 1864; buff.

52 *a*.—PACIFIC UNION EXPRESS CO., rose on 12 c. present issue, lemon paper.

63 *a*.—WELLS FARGO & CO., OVER OUR CALIFORNIA AND COAST ROUTES, black on 3 c. of 1853, buff.

63 *b*.—Same design, THROUGH OUR ATLANTIC, &c., rose on 10 c. of 1853, buff.

76 *a*.—Same design, red on 10 c. of 1861, buff.

76 *b*.—Same, only upon white paper.

110 *a*.—PAID OVER OUR MEXICAN COAST, &c., black on 3 c. of 1864, obliterated MAZATLAN, and bearing a 12 c. Mexican adhesive.

PONY EXPRESS, on the 3 c. of 1861; side by side with the medallion, has been printed in rose a 25 cents ½ oz., from the die of the adhesive.

ENGLISH & WELLS, MOORE'S FLAT AND EUREKA EXPRESS, CONNECTING AT NEVADA CITY AND EMIGRANT'S GAP, oblong, black, on 3 c. of 1864.

DOHERTY & MARTIN, after which is a representation of a half moon, followed by BAY PESCADERO EXPRESS, oval, blue, on 3 c. of 1861.

KENNEDY, LONG, & CO., BAGGAGE AND TRANSFER CO., blue on 3 c. of 1864.

Mr. Furse then read a list of the offices using the South Australian stamps with surcharged lettering, and the initials adopted by each.

The thanks of the meeting were voted to Messrs. Pemberton and Furse for their communications, and the sitting stood adjourned until the 5th of February.

A meeting of the committee was held at Palace Chambers on the 22nd ult. The chair was occupied by the vice-president, who exhibited a Guadalajara 1 real stamp on lemon-yellow wove paper, postmarked. He stated that there is reason to believe that, in addition to the known St. Louis stamps of 5 c. and 10 c., a third value of 20 c. also existed, though no specimens have yet been seen in Europe.

Dr. Viner showed examples of the South African Republic adhesives in different shades to those previously known—the penny being of a much browner hue; the sixpenny a very pale blue; and the shilling a very deep green. All were gummed, but imperforate. After some discussion, the meeting inclined to the belief that they were proofs, and not stamps that had escaped the perforation.

The learned doctor also exhibited a 2 reales Mexico of the eagle type, with name of town, PUEBLA, and dated "1,20,1884"—the second 8 being no doubt an error for 6.

The Secretary placed before the meeting a stamp used in the territory of the Nizam of the Deccan, value ¾ anna. Design, two crosses formed of curved lines, with domed tops, or pines, side by side, similar to the patterns on Cashmere shawls; over which are inscribed Persian characters; the pines being surmounted by a groundwork of netted lines, and filled in with scrolls bearing leaves of flowers. It is perforated, and printed in greenish black on white paper.

A SOLEMN JEST.—Where should a postman be buried? In a post-crypt.—*Punch*.

NEWLY-ISSUED OR INEDITED STAMPS.

Our readers could hardly expect, after our last month's lengthy budget, that there would be many novelties to chronicle on the present occasion; and, in fact, we have next to nothing to notice which is absolutely new.

North German Confederation.—The promised set of official stamps has appeared, and, like most stamps of that class, is of very unpretending design. The shape is oblong, and the entire space is covered with the repetitions of a stone-coloured minute inscription —nordd postbezirk. Over this is printed, in black, an octagonal frame, inscribed in the upper part, nord-deutsche-post; and in the middle of the lower sides, groschen; the remaining portions being filled in with an ornamental device; the space which it encloses contains in the centre a large numeral of value, flanked on the left by the word dienst, and on the right by the word sache. The values are $\frac{1}{4}$, $\frac{1}{3}$, $\frac{1}{2}$, 1, 2 sgr., all in the same colours (light stone and black), the only differences observable among them are, that the fractional values are expressed in single-lined figures, whilst the entire numbers are represented by thick and comparatively ornamented figures. All are perforated, and printed on white unmottled paper.

One of our correspondents sends us a specimen of the 5 sgr., on the new mottled paper, and *perforated*. This is the first copy we have seen showing either of these variations.

Mexico.—Readers of *The Times* will have noticed with interest the following paragraph in its American Correspondence of the 4th ult.

> Letters from Mexico, *viâ* Havannah, state that a counterfeiting and forging establishment has just been discovered in that city, after years of effectual working, in the creation of all classes of national obligations, *stamps*, bonds, &c., "which prove so perfect that no one can tell the genuine from the false." The discovery, it is said, was accidental, and not from any official astuteness on the part of the police. The parties were taken in the act of work and emission, and proved to be Germans, the names of their pretended firm being Colise, Beceril, and Hemer.

A few days after we had ourselves read this intelligence, a correspondent sent us a couple of 12 c. stamps of the current issue, calling our attention to the difference, in paper, between them. This difference is very evident, but it is not the only one, for on a closer examination we found certain variations in the design itself; and it occurred to us, that not improbably one of the two specimens before us had had a fraudulent origin. We are perhaps mistaken, but the mention of the matter here may lead to a further examination into it by others. Of the two stamps before us, one, which is beyond question genuine, and agrees in all points with the other values, is perforated; the other, so far as we can judge, is not. The genuine is on a thick paper, the doubtful one on thin porous paper. The printing of the latter has throughout a remarkable coarseness. In the portrait, the nose is shaded by a thick solid black line, as is also the left cheek; and the lock of hair on the left side of the forehead is rendered obscure. In the margin, the figure 2 of the 12 is thin and unshapely, whilst in the genuine it is broad and very well made; the n in cent has its two upright lines thick, and the slanting line very thin; and lastly, the thin line, which runs under the value, breaks off in the doubtful copy a little to the left of the c in cent, leaving a blank below the figure 12. Such are the variations disclosed by a somewhat hasty examination, and which we give without pretending that they are conclusive.

France.—*Le Timbrophile* says that the 5 franc stamp is printed in two colours, the value, 5 f., being in violet-blue, the rest of the stamp in mauve. We have examined a sheet of these stamps, but could not perceive much sign of a double working, though, by looking *very* closely into the printing, it may be possible to persuade one's self that the denomination, 5 f., is in a somewhat different shade. The stamp loses much of its beauty from the rather ineffective colour in which it is printed; a rich magenta would show up its details, but the pale mauve gives it a comparatively poor appearance.

Azores.—The 25 reis stamp has recently come over with the imprint in a different and much smaller type; instead of extending across and even beyond the oval, it now hardly more than covers the face, the letters

being shorter, narrower, and closer together. If this variation should be found to run throughout the entire series, it may be taken as an indication that no new type will be issued, but that from time to time the stock of Portuguese stamps will be drawn on.

South African Republic.—The promised threepenny has appeared. It is of exactly similar design to the primary trio, and is printed in a beautiful mauve. Whether they are proofs, or the authorised emission, we are unable to state; they are imperforate, and on rather thicker paper than the other values.

South Australia. — The correspondent from whom we received the Mexican stamps, also sends us a specimen of the current provisional 10d. South Australian, and draws our notice to the fact that the surcharged value is now printed in black, in lieu of indigo or blue, as formerly. This is certainly a distinction with a difference.

Natal.—Still the same contributor sends us a Natal threepenny blue, current issue, with "10d." printed rather indistinctly across the face. Can any of our readers help us to explain the meaning of this surcharged inscription? We can hardly imagine it to indicate a provisional value, it is struck so carelessly *down*, instead of across the stamp.

Spain.—We have received one value of the new series—the 200 *mil d'esco.*, printed a kind of brown-lilac; we have no information of the issue of other values.

Antioquia.—*Le Timbrophile* notices the existence of a 5 centavos stamp of a different design to that of the present series.

THE POSTAL ARRANGEMENTS BETWEEN ENGLAND AND FRANCE.

We copy the following very instructive and practical letter from *The Times*, in the certainty that from the facts it represents, and anomalies it lays bare, it will be read with interest:—

3, Ingram-court, Fenchurch-street, E.C.,
December 4, 1869.

Sir,—It has been stated—and although not officially, yet with some degree of authority—that the English post-office has concluded a provisional arrangement with the French office to alter the whole system of weights in use between the two countries, and to establish in England one-third ounce as the rate of the single letter, instead of extending the single rate to the half-ounce. It is added that the arrangement is not to be considered complete until approved by the French legislative assembly, but there seems to be no such reservation as to approval by the English House of Commons. We venture to hope that the proposed arrangement will be reconsidered. The half-ounce is now the weight of a single letter from England to every country in Europe (indeed, throughout the world), excepting France and one other country, which is of necessity served through France, viz., Spain. Even to Belgium and Switzerland, whose system of weights is precisely the same as that of France, the weight of the single letter is the half-ounce. As regards Belgium, the same is the case with letters sent through France, and hence arises the extraordinary state of things, that the same letter which may be sent *via* Calais to Belgium for 4d., would if sent to Calais itself be charged 8d. To Belgium direct, *via* Ostend, the rate is 3d. the half-ounce. The same is also the rate to Switzerland and Holland, and will, it is expected, soon be the rate to Germany. The half-ounce and 15 grammes, which are nearly equivalent, have long been in use for letters between the two countries, but as the double, not the single, rate.

The English post-office has been anxious to extend the single rate to the half-ounce, which would much simplify matters by enabling both countries to dispense with the weights now in use of one-quarter and three-quarter ounce, and $7\frac{1}{2}$ and $22\frac{1}{2}$ grammes, respectively, without adopting in either country any additional weights, and it would be a great boon to merchants on each side the water: but to this simple and reasonable proposition the French post-office objects, wishing England to adopt one-third ounce as the single rate. This complete change would necessitate the furnishing new weights of one-third and two-thirds of an ounce to every town and village post-office throughout the United Kingdom; also, that all merchants

corresponding with France should provide such extra weights for their own offices, merely for letters to France.

The reason assigned by the French authorities for urging the adoption of the one-third ounce weight is, that, being taken as equivalent to 10 grammes, it would accord with the French internal rate. It is represented as a concession to the decimal system. Now, we have a great admiration for the decimal system, but we cannot carry that admiration so far as to wish, in order to promote its adoption, that English merchants trading to France should be definitely taxed a higher postage than those trading to Belgium, Holland, and Switzerland. We use the word "definitely" advisedly, for if the French post-office should once abandon the weight of 15 grammes now in use, it is more than problematical if it would ever be resumed.

It is to be observed that the enthusiasm of the French post-office for the figure 10 is confined to weight, even as regards their internal arrangements; for a single letter from one part of France to another is charged not 10 but 20 centimes, which, compared with the English internal rate, is in the proportion of about 3d. per half-ounce. It is to be feared that this high rate has been the great obstacle to cheap postage between the two countries. The postal authorities on the other side of the channel are, we are told, afraid that if the postage of letters from France to England were reduced to 30 centimes for 15 grammes, the internal rate must ultimately be reduced to 10 centimes for 10 grammes. If the French post-office distinctly declines to continue the use of the 15 grammes weight, and to make it the single instead of the double rate, deciding to stop short at 10 grammes, may it not be possible, instead of enforcing this weight here, to adopt the following compromise? As almost all letters are now prepaid (owing to the penalty of double postage if sent unpaid), let the English post-office tax the merchants here 3d. per half-ounce for prepaid letters to France, and the French authorities tax the merchants there 30 centimes for prepaid letters to England, each country also taxing the unpaid letters it receives according to its own system. In this way there need be no postal accounts between the two countries. We submit this proposition for consideration, if the French post-office finally adheres to 10 grammes; but we should much prefer that our French friends should have the advantage of the full reduction of the rate of postage. We are, etc.

R. Symonds & Son.

CORRESPONDENCE.

THE PERFORATION OF THE FRENCH STAMPS.

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

Dear Sir,—In your remarks on new stamps in your number for January, there is an observation regarding certain French stamps, which appears to me to be likely to lead to some confusion, and to be most probably construed in a manner different to that which is intended. The substance of the remark is, that several specimens of the present series, laurel-crowned head of the Emperor, have been seen lately imperforated; that you have seen the 2 c., 4 c., 5 c. (which, by the way, is *not* laurel-crowned yet), 10 c., 20 c., 40 c., and 80 c. You then go on to say that a machine, the invention of a French postmaster, has been used, in some cases, to perforate the above stamps, and that "*this dentelure à la roulette* is called in Paris, *perçage du Grand Hôtel*."

Now I think that anyone reading the above passage would come to the conclusion, that several values of the *laureated* series have been rouletted, and that this is called the *perçage du Grand Hôtel*, the invention of an enterprising provincial postmaster.

There are four kinds of *perçage* of French stamps known to collectors up to the present time. The first, which is called the *perçage du Grand Hôtel*, was used by the company before the issue of the machine-perforated stamps by the government, essentially as a matter of convenience. The second is the *perçage du Chemin de fer d'Orleans*, used by the Orleans railway company, and easily distinguishable from that of the *Grand Hôtel* by the clearness of the cut of the rouletting instrument. The third kind is that used by the *Messageries Impériales*, but it is uncertain whether all the values exist in this kind of *perçage*. The fourth kind is an essay made by the government, or by some of the officials. The specimens of this latter are rare; those which I have examined are in the collection of a well-known amateur in the east of France, and were obtained for him by a friend at a country post-office in the south of France. All these, however, are *perçages* of the series in use immediately before the issue of machine-perforated stamps. If any exist of the laureated issue, they must have been fabricated for amusement.

Yours truly,
A PARISIAN COLLECTOR.

[We are not quite sure if we rightly apprehend our correspondent's meaning, or he ours.

The older series of stamps of the empire was experimentally *dentelé à la roulette*, and a few sheets issued to the public; but there was some claim by the inventor of the machine, who alleged that the Post-office authorities had infringed his right, which led to the further use of the machine being stopped, and very shortly afterwards the present mode of perforation was adopted.

These rouletted specimens are extremely rare. Messrs. Susse *frères* had to oblige their customers, and used a perforating machine which made the large holes that distinguish this perforation larger we believe than any adopted elsewhere. This was a private perforation adopted for convenience.

Some specimens *percé en point* have been discovered by M. Mahé, and are evidently also the result of private enterprise. Our remarks, however, were not intended to apply to any of the above. Sundry sheets of the present series, laureated heads, have come from the authorities un-

perforated, and to these, within the past few weeks, have been applied the rouletting machine, and, we understand, the perforating machine. Of course, this is matter of pure private fancy, and is only done for amusement, and not *au serieux*.

As these stamps thus imperforate, rouletted, and *dentelés* large dentelure, pass through the post, and are obliterated, as any others, we deemed it right first to chronicle the fact, and next to append our note, so as to prevent any misconception arising in time to come as to the true nature of these perforations.—Ed.]

THE ST. LOUIS STAMPS.

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

Sir,—In the last number of *Le Timbrophile*, M. Marcou (Albis) returns to the charge, and persists in his denial of the authenticity of the St. Louis stamps, and as he appeals to me by name, courtesy requires I should reply to his letter, which I trust you will permit me to do through your columns.

M. Marcou opens by remarking that the Editor of your magazine, Mr. Pemberton, and myself, have all agreed in supporting these stamps; and certainly, so far as having the entire weight of authority ranked against him constitutes a grievance, M. Marcou is entitled to make the most of it. In writing my letter, I did so without any previous concert or communication with any person, and solely because I conceived M. Marcou had fallen into a great error, against the effect of which I was desirous of guarding my brother collectors.

M. Marcou proceeds to state it is very mortifying to those who have paid 100 francs, or some such exorbitant price for a stamp, to find it not worth a halfpenny, and he insinuates that this accounts for the effort I make to support these stamps.

Expanded and stated at length, this means, "You, Mr. Philbrick, have paid a fancy price for your *protégés*, and either because you are ashamed to confess yourself cheated, or too prejudiced to see that you were so, now volunteer their defence." I always think such an argument betrays conscious weakness; answer your opponent's arguments if you can, but if you cannot, then all you can do is to question his motives for advancing them.

Such a line of argument always appears better avoided; before, however, resorting to it, M. Marcou should have ascertained the facts, and seen if it applied to me.

As it so happens, it is entirely devoid of any foundation whatever. The two specimens of 10 cents in my possession were obtained in the collections of Mr. Stainforth and M. de Saulcy, and I paid no separate price for them, but I know Mr. Stainforth paid 5s. 6d. for his copy, the price at which it was marked in the collection out of which he purchased it. My 5 cents, which Mr. Mount Brown sold me in June, 1864, and which was the first specimen of this value seen in England, was priced to me at 6s. Once or twice copies have been offered me, I think from Messrs. Young & Co., of Liverpool, but I never heard of more than 12s. 6d. being asked.

Whether the Editor has any specimens I know not, but Mr. Pemberton has had one or two, and I believe he never paid more than the figure I mention.

This insinuation of M. Marcou is, therefore, entirely gratuitous and unfounded.

He says his answer shall be short, and first of all demands that the supporters of these stamps shall be at unity among themselves. I know of no discrepancy to reconcile, except that which I mentioned in my letter, viz.: the statement of Kershaw, who says he engraved them in 1848. Subject to this, everyone I know is in complete accord, and all treat the date as 1845.

M. Marcou then says, when I wrote to the Editor, I stated I had not seen the "famous letter" of December, 1845, that my letter evidently adopted 1848 as the date, and not 1845, and that I try to argue that 1848 should be 1845, against the date on the letter.

Now, here are two great mistakes, due, I must think, to a hurried perusal of my letter, or to imperfect acquaintance with the English language.

Anyone who reads my letter will see that I deal with the strength of the attack, namely, that Kershaw says he engraved the plates in 1848, and suggest that *he* (Kershaw) in his letter to you may possibly have written 1845, and the last figure be mistaken for 8.

The "famous letter" of December, 1845, is M. Berger-Levrault's, with the 10 c. post-marked on it. The date on that is as plainly 1845 as can be, in three or four places; and one can hardly think that if he understood my letter, M. Marcou would have confounded a supposition as to Kershaw's letter, that his date of engraving should be read 45, and not 48, as referring to a letter, the date of which is beyond question, and which entirely supports my view. Further, in 1868 I had seen the letter of 1845 before it passed into M. Berger-Levrault's collection, and the fact was noticed in your columns at the time (see vol. vi., p. 141)

1.—As to my letter *evidently* favouring 1848 as the true date, all I can say is, my letter does not do so; no one who reads it can so construe it, and I am at a loss to see what foundation M. Marcou has for asserting that which is so directly contrary to all the contents of my letter.

2.—M. Marcou next refers to Mr. Durbin's letter in your magazine of 1st September, 1868 (p. 142), who states these issues for particular cities were *in aid* of an insufficient supply of government stamps, at the time of their first issue, and asks, "How is this consistent with the idea of the St. Louis stamps *preceding* any government issue?" Really such arguing shows the shifts to which my honourable opponent feels he is driven. *Does Mr. Durbin refer to the St. Louis stamps* as issued in aid of a deficient supply of the government issue? If so, then I claim his testimony in favour of the St. Louis stamps being a genuine issue. *Or if his remark does not apply to the St. Louis stamps*, then obviously there is no discrepancy, and his authority is not to be used against me.

3.—M. Marcou, admitting the rarity of these stamps, says, "How comes it, that of 500 printed, almost all specimens sold, or offered for sale, are new (unused), and come from Mr. Durbin?"

In the first place, is this true? I have seen seven copies, and I think Mr. Pemberton has seen eleven, in all, of these stamps. Of those, all but one were obliterated, and the one could not be certainly said to be unused; my opinion is it had been very slightly marked, but the copy was defective, and I cannot vouch positively. Who offers these *unused?* No English dealers that I ever knew or heard of; and who ever saw, and where is there, a *perfect unused copy?*

Lastly, M. Marcou says, "How comes it that many persons, dealers *or* others [mark the *or*], offer these stamps for sale, and that constantly all the while saying they are most rare? Besides, they have made Mr. Philbrick, M. Berger-Levrault, and *others*, pay enough for their copies to repay the original cost of engraving the dies." As M. Marcou made this statement of what I paid in a public print, and as his statement is erroneous, I must ask him as a gentleman to withdraw it. I have stated the facts in an earlier portion of this letter. What M. Berger-Levrault may have paid for his copy, I do not know, but I never knew above three or four copies sold in England, and half-a-sovereign a piece is the average price paid. Truly a great contribution towards engraving four separate dies on metal. But who has these stamps to sell?—"dealers *or* others?" Does not M. Marcou know for

certain, or has he made a guess, as he did about the prices I paid?

No English dealer, that I am aware, has any copy to sell. Let M. Marcou state the names, addresses, and prices demanded, and also see that the persons who offer *have the stamps in their possession*. Frequently it happens that stamps are offered and quoted at prices, and cannot be produced when required, and also that several persons, at the same time, offer the *same* copy of a rare stamp.

As a *resumé*, M. Marcou says: "These stamps were engraved in 1862, or 1863 *at latest*, at the time of the forgery of so many Confederate States stamps, *e. g.*, Memphis, Nashville, and Baton Rouge," which he says gave the idea.

If so, how strange that the forgers waited till *June*, 1864, before a single copy of the 5 cents was known in Europe! In May, 1864, Mount Brown published the last edition of his catalogue. He then chronicled the 10 cents only, and was not aware of the 5 cents till after his catalogue was issued.

How strange they should engrave two *separate* metal dies for *each* value, when half the trouble and expense would suffice! and if they were to proceed with the caution M. Marcou attributes to them, the second dies would be superfluous. Again, is there a like history in the annals of stamp forgery?

But his last great argument is kept to the end. M. Marcou has a witness to call. Who is he? The Boston dealer, Charles Lyford, who, he says, states in the organ of Lyford, Chute, and Allan Taylor—the Boston Trinity of forgers—that these stamps are false, and were fabricated by Mr. Durbin.

Truly a respectable witness, whom I would not believe on his oath. And what is there to support him? That he *confesses a fraud in himself*. No, not even that, though sham confessions of fraud are not new since the immortal P. T. Barnum wrote his book, but *Lyford* charges the fraud on another person, viz., Mr. Durbin. Where is the proof, except that Lyford is himself, according to M. Marcou's own statement, a swindler and cheat? So that the late Mr. Lesley, Kershaw, and Mr. Durbin, are all to be convicted of fraud and conspiracy, on the bare assertion of such a man as Lyford, a professed dealer in, and fabricator of, deceptions and impostures.

M. Marcou says I state no new facts. Let him answer the old ones, and as he puts queries to me by name, let him categorically reply to the following:—

1.—Why were *two* dies engraved for each value?

2. Why was the existence of the 5 cents kept back till June, 1864, in Europe?

3.—How many specimens of each value has he seen, distinguishing used and unused?

4.—How many specimens does he positively know to be in existence on this side the Atlantic?

To no one than myself could greater pleasure be afforded than the exposure of a swindler, but zeal must not outrun discretion, and one must be sure of the facts before attempting to convict the impostor.

Fully appreciating the motives which prompt M. Marcou to desire to detect a falsity palmed off on the ignorant, I cannot but think he has missed his mark in the present case. Apologising for the length of this letter,

I am, Sir, yours obediently,

Temple, London. FRED. A. PHILBRICK.

[To this conclusive and final testimony in favour of the St. Louis stamps, we have but little to add. We may, however, say that we have ourselves only seen the one single copy attached to a letter which we described, and which is now in the possession of M. Berger-Levrault. This copy was handed to us by our publishers, Messrs. Alfred Smith & Co., who had received it from a Mr. Grafton, at New York. From inquiries we have made, we are in a position to state that it is the only copy *they* have ever had offered them during the eight or nine years they have been in business, and that they returned it to the sender, as the price he asked for it—two guineas—was too high to allow a chance of disposing of it.

Mr. Durbin, with whom Messrs. Alfred Smith & Co. have long been in correspondence, and whose integrity has never been called into question by any but rogues whose slanders are an honour to those at whom they are hurled, has never made any kind of offer of the copies to possessors. That he should take an interest in stamps emanating from his own (native) city is not surprising, and his desire to elucidate their history ought not to expose him to the unworthy insinuations to which M. Marcou gives utterance.

That gentleman, in his last article, argues that the case for the stamps rests entirely on suppositions; but of what does his attack consist but of surmises, pure and simple, founded, for the most part, on an apparently superficial knowledge of the United States? We think we have amply refuted his conjectural arguments, and produced a chain of evidence in favour of the stamps, which *could* be so strong, that the only thing more conclusive would be an *official* declaration of their genuineness. One last word in reply to M. Marcou's observation, that anyone knowing the States would pooh-pooh the idea of St. Louis issuing stamps before New York—how did it happen, if New York be as much to the American republic as Paris is to France, that Philadelphia was the first town in which local stamps were used?—Ed.]

MR. PEMBERTON ON FOREIGNERS.

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

Dear Sir,—Under this heading I want you to grant me space to touch upon two well-known types of the *Philatelic Foreigner*, as found in *Le Timbre-Poste* and *Le Timbrophile*. I will divide my letter into two parts, and, without ado, take the first, which is,

The originality of M. Moens' discoveries, as exemplified in the December Timbre-Poste.

In replying last month to my letter under this heading, M. Moens is good enough to promise not to answer me any further on the subject, so I gladly accept so fine an opportunity of stating home truths, fear of contradiction being quite removed. M. Moens' usual policy to all who do not write for his magazine, is one of repression and ridicule, and in replying to the charges of plagiarism of my unpublished notes (which I again repeat), he sustains his reputation. Had he confined himself to a simple explanation, he would have made out a much better case, instead of descending to ill-mannered and ill-natured remarks, than which he had far better have said nothing.

The end and aim of all he says is, that the reconstruction of the plate is anyone's rather than mine, and in asserting and re-asserting this, he naturally gets a little bewildered as to whom the philatelic world should feel to be indebted. He first quotes himself, then a particular friend, and lastly, "all the honour is due to Dr. Magnus." What nonsense! As to his own claim, this is how he supports it: he states Mr. W. communicated to Mr. Pl. a plan *similar* to one of his (M. Moens') own, but upon seeing it, and recognising my handwriting, he exclaimed that it was Dr. Magnus' plan. In order to forestall me, M. Moens then employs a particular friend to reconstruct the plate for him. What then had become of M. Moens'

own plan, which was similar to mine, or of Dr. Magnus' plan, which mine resembled ?

What a multiplicity of identity we have here! how confusing! but how creditable to M. Moens' inventive powers, is such an explanation! Yet what are the actual facts of his previous investigations of these stamps? I think his last published editorial gave a matter of 600 stamps to the plate; as the new diagram gives only 50, and as this more correct formation has been lying fallow (if we are to accept his first statement at all) in his brains for so long, we are tempted to wonder what other vast embryos he may have in the same locality, waiting for "mischievous ideas" to fructify.

Now for the evidence which he advances to prove me the only person who had no business to have had any of the honour (such as it is) of making this diagram. He starts by characteristically mis-stating that I claimed the whole diagram as my own. Such is not the fact, for in my December letter I said I had re-made the plate upon Dr. Magnus' old model, and again, that mine differed from his in seven points, so that at the outset his proofs (so called) turn king's evidence against his wishes and intentions, which certainly are to make me appear guilty of gross mis-statements, and grosser folly, otherwise, perhaps, I should have taken no notice of his letter, which positively monopolizes that puerility of discussion of which it complains.

Now as to his proofs (so called) that he was not indebted to me, after seeing my plan. He admits that he borrowed from Mr. W. all the pairs he had; as Mr. W. had all mine at the time, of course M. Moens then had all my materials at hand with which to easily reconstruct the diagram, and the two or three points which were doubtful he quietly cribs from my notes (this I say advisedly); so if he did not actually make a duplicate copy, a transfer, or a certified transcript, he copied from my original specimens, which might take *him* the contemptuously quoted quarter-of-an-hour to jot down (yet even then is it not odd that another person had to be set to do this quarter-of-an-hour's work?), and two of my notes, which he could acquire in half a minute, put everything straight; but getting the specimens and the notes together was a work of time, and if M. Moens thinks himself justified in publishing from them, as the results of his own, or the great unknown's investigations, I consider myself equally justified in exposing the plagiarism, and in defending myself from his unmannerly attacks. For months I had been at the work, and I was naturally irritated to see everything published without warning or acknowledgement, as the sole work of the Editor of *Le Timbre-Poste* (this I say advisedly, too, and I ask any one to read the first part of M. Moens' self-satisfied article in question, and it will be seen that he has not "made it to be understood that *all* the honour is due to Dr. Magnus"); certain it is, that he is too narrow minded to render a word of thanks or praise to a work by which he profits, when it comes from anyone not connected with *Le Timbre-Post*, which naturally brings me to the second part of my letter, which I head:

The general incredulity of Foreigners, and of M. Moens and M. Albis in particular.

The first named was never guilty of accepting anything published in England, upon however good authority (unless he himself had been the original chronicler), without many uncalled-for remarks and much scepticism. The Sarawak is a very good instance in point. Well known in England to be genuine, post-marked specimens arrived in London (direct on letters) last September, to my certain knowledge; and although ample proofs have been shown M. Moens, he so fully believes others to be tinctured by those principles which incited him to concoct a Moresnet "sell," and by those "mischievous ideas" which float so freely through his own and his friend's brain, that he cannot believe in the integrity of anyone but—I was about to say—himself, only on reviewing the facts, it is an unwise thing to assume so much. M. Moens did not happen to be the first to discover that Rajah Brooke's island possessed postage stamps, for which very simple reason the Sarawak stamps have been run down by the would-be knowing Belgian.

This is a good opportunity for introducing an undescribed stamp, which I have possessed since 1866, and which is still in use; and as M. Moens has not yet succeeded in describing a specimen, I have great pleasure in dedicating the following account to him. It is an oblong stamp of moderate size, bearing characters similar in general appearance to those upon the lower half of the Cashmere stamps; they are in white upon a solid black ground, within a double linear frame. The stamp is used by the Nawab of Koorshedjah, for the prepayment of letters through his own dominions; beyond his territory the Indian stamps are used, as in the case of the Cashmeres. They are hand-stamped in black upon ordinary envelopes, and the specimen I received in 1866 had Indian stamps by its side. There is no more doubt of its genuineness than of that of the Sarawak stamps; but to M. Moens this will not sound convincing, I fear.

Respecting the incredulity of M. Albis, I have only to repeat my previous remarks. He did not happen to discover the St. Louis, and he most assuredly has no specimens, or he would not write the nonsense he does (in *Le Timbrophile*), in the face of the well-established facts published in your magazine. If there were no certified evidence, if no traced copies had been isolated here and there for six or eight years, if no letters (the age and authenticity of which were UNIMPEACHABLE) existed with these stamps still affixed, then M. Albis might in time have hoped to distinguish himself by exposing a swindle; but as long as his sceptical nature lasts, so long we shall have periodical nonsense from him on the subject of St. Louis. In England we all believe in them, and the evidence we have published has been sifted thoroughly long before being given to the world. In leaving the matter I have only to say, that I have obtained a third die of the 5 c., and a third and fourth of the 10 c, and that I have reason to believe that a 20 c. value exists.

With this preamble I have the pleasure of dedicating to M. Albis (with my best wishes for his future investigations) the following results of a trifling investigation I undertook into the 5 c. Bolivia of the eagle series. Perhaps our foreign friends will believe, for the future, that we are able to follow out an investigation if we care to undertake it, and to discover what even M. Albis, with his exceptional sources of information about the eagle Bolivian, has not learnt, and that all that it was possible for him to learn, from the specimens and materials at his command, he has, at all events, *not published*.

In December a large quantity of 5 c. green, and 50 c. yellow, and a very few 100 c. blue, were received in Paris by M. E. Nunès, in sheets. He sent me a sheet of each of the first, and a pair of 100 c. I found discrepancies in the 5 c. which I could not fathom, though I found the high values genuine beyond doubt. I found M. Nunès' sheet was unlike the old sheet received early in the year, and did not contain specimens of any of the dies I found on my own single green or lilac stamps. Hitherto M. Albis' theory of two plates for the 5 c. value has been accepted, all the green being given as from one (the first), all the lilacs from another (the second) plate; but here I

had green 5 c. in a sheet of seventy-two separately engraved types, not one of which types I could identify from among a lot of old genuine specimens from the two plates of this value. At this juncture I collected all the specimens I could of the 5 c., to the number of about two hundred, including an old sheet of seventy-two types in green. I identified four used specimens from four different types upon M. Nunès' sheet. This settled the genuineness of that sheet, but complicated matters respecting M. Albis' two plates, one green, one lilac, because this gave two green sheets, whilst, as none of the lilacs were to be found upon either of them, they were either from a third sheet, or else forged. But to cut a long matter short; after much examination, I at last got a clue, and found that of the green stamps four plates undoubtedly existed, and that the lilacs were from one of these plates. The first three plates have the borders, letters, and numerals alike; the first two plates, further, have the pinion feathers of the wings alike, so their only difference is in the shading of the body, and of the globe; but the second plate has had some of the letters A in CONTRATOS crossed, which in the first plate are uncrossed. The third plate, that of M. Nunès, has the eagle and globe much different, and the pinion feathers of the wings, although unquestionably the same in number as in their corresponding dies on the old sheet, are, from wear I suppose, mere outlines, and the body of the eagle is very little shaded. The fourth plate is altogether different, and was printed from in two shades of green—intense dark green, and rich deep green; in slate, in red-violet, and in lilac (by which I mean a rosy tint, like the flower of that name, and not a violet tint).

Next month I will enter more fully into this subject, for few modern stamps of undoubted genuineness have created such differences of opinion. The translations from M. Albis' paper to *Le Timbrophile* in your December number is in substance, I believe, thoroughly accurate, and the genuineness of M. Mahè's importation of 10 brown, 50 blue, 50 yellow, and 100 blue, beyond a doubt. I mention this here, simply because I have been so often asked about them, and because the balance of public opinion at one time was decidedly against them. The correctness of M. Albis as to only two separately made plates is indisputable; but what I claim to have worked out, I will state distinctly, for fear of M. Moens forestalling me. Of M. Albis' first plate there are three distinct varieties, transfers or what not, differing in the eagles and globes, but alike in other particulars, allowing for wear and tear in the third edition. Of M. Albis' second plate I have three specimens in green before me, which possess every characteristic of engraving of the slate, the red-lilac, and the lilac, also before me, from which I claim to prove that some sheets were struck from the second plate in green, and not only in lilac, as stated (under the name of violet) by M. Albis.

Yours faithfully,

Birmingham. EDWARD L. PEMBERTON.

ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS.

P. J. A., Aberdeen.—Dr. Magnus has written three "monographs,"—on Watermarks, Denticulations, and Reprints respectively,—of these, however, only the first has, we believe, been printed in a separate form, and this may be had for a shilling from Mons. P. Mahé, 9, Rue de Clichy, Paris.

W. G., Barnet.—The distinction of broad and narrow white lines on the English 2d. stamps has not, we believe, been noticed; will you be good enough to send us for examination some copies exemplifying it?—Time affects our 1d. stamps in different ways, sometimes turning them lighter, and sometimes darker.—Your 6d. New South Wales, watermarked 12, is not of any special value.

C. STROOBANT, Derby, is good enough to inform us that what we took for a hieroglyphical inscription on the 6 c. Belgian essay, is really the chain of the order of Leopold. We should have told our readers so ourselves, had not our criticism been accompanied by the engraving of the stamp itself. If, however, the representation of the chain be exact, then the jewels or ornaments with which it is adorned, must be of a most peculiar shape.

P. H. C., University College, Oxford.—The Norwegian stamps you send are all from the same die, and the apparent difference in the ornament above the shield is only the result of defective printing, or of the die being worn.—The 2d. bluish-green Victorian is no doubt a changeling.—The United States 2 c. envelope is the variety we referred to last month, but of a much deeper tint.—We do not see why you should be puzzled about the Van Diemen's Land 1d. unperforated.

G. W. B., M.—We refer to your Mexican in our article on new stamps.—Your two French stamps show the Susse perforation; the cancelling letters, D.S. 3, are most probably *Departement de la Seine*, No. 3, the number being that of one of the post-offices in the department. We are surprised to see this cancellation on stamps thus perforated, as we have hitherto believed it to be of recent adoption.—The watermark on the Western Australian is the swan, but it is barely visible. In quoting you the value, we did so from memory, and are surprised to find it is now so much reduced.—The Jamaica stamps were never issued unperforated, but your "specimen" copies are none the less valuable.—We must still adhere to our opinion that the Haitian 25 c. stamps are impostors. It is just by mixing them in with genuine stamps that their fabricators try to palm them off; those who created the Paraguay and Ecuador falsities, are quite capable of concocting the Haitian also.—Your Brazilian 50 reis *is* one of the blue-papered series.—We notice the South Australian and Natal novelties elsewhere.—The letters H. A. on the South Australian 1/ *may* stand for "Home Affairs."—Your No. ix. is a spurious stamp, No. xvi. and xx. genuine originals.—We defer our reply respecting vi., vii., viii., and x.

R. B. E., Birmingham, is of opinion that a branch philatelic society might be established in his town, and suggests that with the assistance of Messrs. Pemberton and Atlee it might be easily commenced. The good of such a society would consist in the opportunity afforded for collectors meeting together, and interchanging ideas and information. Papers might be read, as at the principal society, each member contributing his study on the stamps of such countries as he might choose. Even though many striking discoveries might not be made, the general level of knowledge would be greatly raised, as the preparation of such papers would require careful study of the principal catalogues, and of the stamps themselves.—Before bringing the matter ourselves before the central society, we should like to receive a few more names from Birmingham and other places.—The Austrian 1 kr. black, unused (newspaper stamp), is worth about 2/6.—The Wells Fargo "Paid over Mexican and Californian Coast routes, 25 c.," on United States 3 c. envelopes, should fetch, say 1/ to 2/.—Newfoundland 5d. red-brown, unused, 1/6.—The 10 and 15 c. *large* figure Argentine Republican were not, it is believed, ever actually used, but are supposed to have been prepared for circulation, and by some accident kept back.

THE EMBOSSED SYDNEY STAMP.

We are happy to be able to present our readers with an engraving of this very rare and interesting stamp—a privilege for which we are indebted to Sir Daniel Cooper, who allowed a copy to be made of his specimen.



We have no new details to offer concerning this stamp, but the present is a fitting opportunity for re-stating the known facts of its history.

The credit of its discovery is due jointly to Sir Daniel Cooper and Mr. Pemberton. Evidence of its existence occurs in the "Report of the Select Committee on the Postage Bill for New South Wales," which sat at Sydney in 1849, and this report having been lent by Sir D. Cooper to Mr. Pemberton, the latter was struck by the passages referring incidentally to the emission of this stamp, and further inquiry led to Sir D. Cooper's writing to friends of his at Sydney (where he had filled the office of Member of the Legislative Council); and obtaining first a used specimen, and afterwards six unused.

These unused copies were the sole fruit of a careful search, and the long period which has elapsed since they were in use, coupled with the fact that when called in they were used up for waste or memorandum paper, renders the discovery of any more copies highly improbable. Reprints, moreover, are impossible, as the old die has been chiselled out.

We have, then, in this stamp a *bona-fide* rarity, which we may safely prophesy few will ever have the good fortune to possess.

It was employed during its currency to frank letters posted and delivered within the town of Sydney. The die—which in fact was only the ordinary post-office seal of Sydney—was imperfectly struck, in white relief, on wrappers or envelopes formed from half-sheets of foolscap paper. The awkward shape of these envelopes caused many to fold the stamp out of sight, in consequence of which prepaid letters were frequently charged postage on delivery, and this added to the fact, that owing to the then narrow limits of the town, it was in most cases as easy for a domestic to deliver a letter by hand, as to take it to the chief (and only) post-office, rendered the stamp of so little real service, that but very few were used. The exact dates when it was issued and withdrawn are not obtainable, but we know that these covers were in circulation for some part of the year 1849, as the used copy is postmarked October 5, 1849, and it was in that year the postmaster of Sydney gave evidence respecting them before the postage committee.

PAPERS FOR BEGINNERS.

BY OVERY TAYLOR.

III.—*On the commencement of a Collection.*

Having provided himself with an album, the intending collector can now turn his mind seriously to the filling of it. Of course, he commences with the commonest and cheapest stamps. If he has already formed a little nucleus, he can at once begin sorting out and mounting the stamps of which it is composed. If not, his best plan would be, perhaps, to obtain one or two packets of stamps from some *respectable* dealer, giving the preference to the used specimens, because more can be obtained for the money, and because there are sure to be among them some old issues, of which the unobliterated copies are dear and, to a certain extent, difficult to obtain. The specimens even of the commoner varieties will serve to fill the allotted spaces *pro tem.*, and should any be injured through inexperience in handling them, it will be no great loss.

With his little hoard of stamps before him, the beginner—young or old—should first separate the broken and very heavily obliterated copies from those which are entire and in satisfactory condition, reserving only these latter for a place in his album. Fragments and mere blotched morsels of paper should be inexorably excluded, for they do not illustrate the design, and are an eyesore for ever on the page they occupy, spoiling

the series to which they belong, and giving a look of slovenliness and carelessness to the whole book. This is a truth to be borne in mind, especially by young collectors, who are frequently too prone to set a value on torn and undecipherable specimens, forgetful of the fact, that the pleasure derivable from a collection depends at least as much on its neatness as on the rarity of the stamps it contains.

After separating the clean from the unclean, the collector's next care must be to prepare his stamps for admission into the album, by removing their backs. The manner in which this should be effected is so ably and minutely described by an esteemed contributor in another part of the present number (I have been favoured with a sight of a proof of his article), that it would be needless repetition on my part to describe it at length. Suffice it to say, then, that the stamps (except embossed ones) should be laid face upwards in a dish of *cold boiled water*—pardon the oddity of the phrase, for the sake of its expressiveness.

It now only remains to mount them. And here, again, the article referred to, which, by the way, cannot be too attentively read, reduces my work to that of simple commentary. The writer thereof recommends a system of mounting on squares of card; but this, though beyond question the best for a collector to adopt when the time arrives for re-arranging his stamps after his own ideas, is perhaps a little too elaborate for beginners. Every specimen should, of course, be mounted by means of a narrow slip of gummed paper, running along the upper edge, of which one-third (say) in width adheres to the stamp, and the other two-thirds are folded down and applied to the surface on which the stamp is to rest. With a preliminary album, it does not matter if the stamp is attached to the page itself, as, if carefully mounted, it is at all times examinable, and removable without injury. Moreover, an ordinary bound book, however well it may be provided with guards, would bulge and soon be spoilt if rectangles of card were put on every page: and for a beginner a bound and prepared album is indispensable.

The arrangement of the envelopes—another point which it is necessary here to discuss—is, and always will be, a very difficult matter. Most collectors will meet with a greater number of cut than of uncut copies; and it would at first sight appear to be a question of refusing the cut, or mutilating the uncut, in order to keep to one of the two classes; yet either alternative is very unsatisfactory, and especially the second. I think, however, a compromise might be effected, by mounting the cut and uncut together on large sheets of card. To illustrate my mode of proceeding: let us suppose that I have cut copies of three of the values of the first series of Saxon envelopes, and uncut copies of the other two. I arrange the three cut copies at the top of the sheet: one in the middle, and one on each side,—but for appearance sake, a little lower down; and below these I place my two uncut copies, one beneath the other. The cut specimens I mount with gum, the other two I attach by narrow slips of paper, or ribbon—the exact method of fixing them is immaterial. By this mode of arranging them the cut copies are made to combine with the uncut in producing a pleasing effect; the entire series is kept together; and there is no necessity for having two sets of envelopes, one cut, in the album, the other uncut, on sheets. The sheets, which should be of tolerably stout cardboard, and of a good size, might be set off with a black or coloured margin, and a square might also be ruled round the envelopes, and the name of the country written at the top. The collection should be kept in a portfolio; and if the sheets be eyeletted at the top and bottom, and a ribbon passed loosely through them, they will be kept together, and be always available for reference.

Assuming that my readers—intending collectors—approve of this plan, it will be well for them to defer the execution of it until they have obtained a good number of envelopes, and a certain amount of experience, as they cannot attempt anything like a definite or satisfactory arrangement without a good store of *matériel*, and knowledge of the best way to dispose it. Meanwhile, the envelopes—cut and uncut together—should be kept in some convenient receptacle, come-at-able, and safe from incursions of dust.

HINTS FOR MOUNTING STAMPS AND ENVELOPES.

We purpose offering a few remarks on this wide subject—the result of practical experience—in the hope they may assist collectors who are either commencing or rearranging their collections. We cannot pretend to any great discovery, but trust that the utility of some of our hints will be their best recommendation.

Stamps themselves come into the collector's possession either used or unused. In the latter case, if the specimens have never been mounted, there is no trouble; but in the former, and where stamps have once been gummed down, there is frequently great difficulty in preserving the original gum on the back. That every collector ought to strive for this is evident; because, first, the gum often proves the issue, or shows a reprint, as in the case of the Hanoverian stamps, issued with a pink gum, and reprinted with quite white gum; or it constitutes a material feature in itself, as in the earlier Austrian issues; or it sensibly affects the appearance of the stamp, as in the well-known English penny, where the combined chemical action of the gum and ink bring about the result of "*bluish paper*" of the catalogues, and in other similar examples. Always, therefore, *preserve the original gum intact* where possible. In many cases, however, this cannot be done, especially where the stamp had a tenacious gum, and has been mounted in a collection by being completely fastened down. In all cases where any paper or mount adheres to the stamp, it is desirable to remove it; in most instances this can be done by the simple agency of *cold* water—*rain* water which has been boiled is best; but never use water which is hot, or which has not been boiled—risk of injuring colours is the certain penalty. Many stamps will bear immersing bodily in the water; it is generally preferable to commence by moistening their faces, which can readily be done with a camel's hair pencil; then lay them face downwards, on plain *unused* blotting paper (beware of all prior touch of ink on the sheet, which has ruined many a fine copy); then moisten the back part of the stamp, where the card or paper adheres, and leave it, watching till the adherent substance freely removes; directly this happens, lift it off *upwards*, avoiding all rubbing or shifting, and the gum will, nine times out of ten, be left more or less. The stamp, with its back moist, must then be placed, face downwards, on perfectly dry blotting paper, in a moderately cool place, till dry, or nearly so, when it may be placed between two folds of writing paper, and put to press between the leaves of a heavy book, or whatever is handiest. Of course, none of these remarks at all apply to the case of an embossed stamp, or one in relief, which would be simply ruined by the wetting or pressure suggested.

Embossed specimens must always be kept *face upwards*, and no wet ever permitted to get upon the face, or into the relief. To M. Berger-Levrault we are indebted for the publication of the following, namely: In these cases thoroughly wet a piece of flannel or cloth, put the stamp on it, face upwards (*not it on the stamp*), and watch till the back will remove. A little practice will give expertness in judging the time needed to effect the operations above described, so as to minimise the injury to the stamp. Bear in mind, some damage almost inevitably ensues; and, unless *absolutely necessary*, never wet any part of a specimen. It need hardly be added, no embossed stamp must ever be subjected to pressure which can be avoided.

Having thus got the specimen free from all foreign matter, keep its margins intact. Too much cannot be urged against trimming a stamp at the edges. If an unperforated issue, the very largest margin possible is an object, and a mere ragged place is as nothing compared with the margins being very closely clipped; retain every hair's breadth of the edges you can. If perforated, by all means keep the margins broad, to show the complete and entire perforation.

It is always highly desirable to show the edge of the adjacent stamps; in an imperforate copy, if this can be done *all round*, it prevents any question as to whether the stamp was originally issued as perforated, and has since been trimmed down; while in

perforated specimens, to show the complete dentellation all round, it is obviously the most complete and scientific method. Besides, to be able to show the distances between adjacent stamps on the plate has more than once detected a forgery, or marked a re-impression.

It is easier than may at first sight be thought to get broad or perfect edges. If a pair of stamps side by side be taken, the object is usually gained; or a corner stamp, if selected with judgment, is nearly as good. In all cases of stamps in use, a central specimen can be taken, and enough cut off its neighbours to make it perfect, and leave them still available for postal purposes.

To mount the stamp: it is necessary to remember, first, that no system which does not permit the watermark, gumming, and paper being thoroughly examined, at all satisfies the requirements of any collector who aspires to more than the mere pleasure of seeing blank spaces in an album filled up with coloured paper; and even such a collector may be proud of a rarity among his specimens, or may at some time or other desire to dispose of them, when he will find the market value entirely dependent on the order, perfection, and condition of his stamps. So that on every ground all collectors should adopt such a system of mounting as attains the objects we have specified. It is of the simplest and easiest, moreover, and demands but ordinary care and little trouble.

Mount by a hinge of gauze paper (*papier pelure*), to one part of which the specimen is attached by its upper edge, and the other part is fastened down on the page of the album or mount presently mentioned; so that when fixed, the specimen flaps on its hinges like a door. The readiest way, according to our experience, is to cut the gauze paper into strips, barely $\frac{3}{4}$ of an inch wide, and then gum the strip entirely on one side; when dry, or nearly so, take the stamps, affix them side by side along one edge, so that each specimen laps on the paper, and has about $\frac{1}{8}$ to $\frac{1}{4}$ inch hold. Use a camel-hair pencil and a little water in the operation; try to secure perfect adhesion at the angles: a penknife, or paperknife handle, or a neat finger, will give the requisite pressure to cause firm and perfect contact. When the strip is dry, sever the stamps with scissors from each other, trimming off the side edges of the gummed paper very carefully. Thus each stamp will then have a bit of gummed gauze paper along its upper edge; neatly fold this down in a line parallel with, and near to, the top of the stamp; if too much gum has not been used, this is easily done; if a spot of thick gum has dropped on the place, remove it by a little water. The turned-back edges of the gummed paper are best cut slantwise inwards to the centre of the stamp. Then, with a camel-hair pencil and a little water, moisten the gummed surface of the gauze paper; press the stamp down firmly in its place, raise it up on its flap, and with a paper or penknife handle press the adherent parts of the gauze paper, so that it sticks closely up to the line of the fold, and leave the stamp upstanding a few minutes till all is perfectly dry. The stamp is thus hinged with gauze paper, and firmly fixed; examinable it will be in the most perfect manner.

We think it is the editor of *The Philatelist* who has often advised inquirers to use the waste edges of sheets of stamps for this purpose; scarcely anything worse adapted could be recommended: it is thick, it folds with difficulty, and is of more substance than the paper on which many stamps are printed. Always have the hinge of as slight, if not less substance; if a tear occurs, the stronger paper holds, and the weaker gives. Anyone can gum a sheet of gauze paper for himself. Common *white* gauze paper, sold at every stationer's shop, is best, and having had considerable experience, we never knew the least injury result to a stamp from its use. All papers in the manufacture of which chlorine has been used are destructive of the colour of stamps.

The best adhesive material we know of is clear gum-arabic, mixed with pure water; a little alcohol—about a tea-spoonful in a half-pint—will make the gum keep sweet a long while. All gum which smells musty or acid is worse than useless. Care should be taken not to allow any drop or exudation of the gum to touch the face of the stamp, or appear on the page or mount. We remember once being shown a collection with

great pride by the owner, who had thickly coated his specimens with a varnish of gum! This, it is needless to add, was in the primitive days of collecting. Paste is certain ruin to stamps; it must never be allowed to touch one, for reasons too obvious to require pointing out. Liquid india-rubber cement has been praised by some, but its odour is disagreeable, and it is so powerful, that the slightest stain irretrievably spoils a specimen. One of our collecting friends used Hollis's opal mucilage, procurable at patent medicine shops in shilling bottles; this preparation is neat, leaves no stain, but is not satisfactory or tenacious enough. On the whole, the best thing we know of is gum-arabic; it is simple, never hurtful, and easily and cheaply procurable. In mixing, reject all extraneous substances and discoloured particles.

If ever need arises to remount a stamp which has once been subjected to the process we describe, the slightest touch of moisture *behind* the applied gauze paper will render it easily removable, without detriment to the specimen. In no case, however, ought any such necessity to arise, for the unquestionably proper method is to mount the stamp, not on the page of the album, but on a small piece of white card or thick paper, cut a little larger than the specimen, so as to show a margin of the whole all round. About $\frac{3}{16}$ths of an inch is sufficient; but every collector can please his own individual taste as to this. One uniform size for stamps requiring a square mount, and another for those which take a mount of an oblong form, is easy to be found, and these being stock sizes answer for most stamps. Some, however, as the triangular stamps of the Cape of Good Hope, must have a mount specially cut for them, and this involves a little trouble, but once well done, it is done once for all, and the stamp is safely moored in a position where it is liable to danger of no kind.

Neatly placed on its mount, with the watermark, paper, and dentelure examinable at will, the piquage and watermark marked on the mount beneath the stamp as it lies, so as to be visible for reference by merely raising the lower edge, we do not know a better way of keeping or exhibiting a specimen. This is what our French friends call mounting *en cherté*, and is adopted by all the leading collectors, English and foreign.

To fix the mounts in the album, gum to the back of each a piece of tissue or gauze paper, cut rather smaller than the card, taking care to gum slightly, and on two edges only; then by touching on the centre of the mount thus backed with gum, the whole will, with the least pressure of the finger, adhere to the page in any position desired. To remove them, a push with the blade of a knife, underneath, effects the object in a moment, and thus, by sacrificing the backing only, the stamp, as mounted, can be altered, shifted, and changed, at will, as often as desired.

M. Herpin used to tongue the specimens so mounted with a slip of paper at the back, and insert it through two slits cut in the page of the album. This is much more troublesome, and not nearly so neat as the system we recommend.

We would caution all against gumming the mounts themselves without the interposition of the bit of tissue paper to the page, as they can then never be removed without damage either to the page or the mount; whereas, by the plan suggested, the page can be cleaned with a little water from all trace of where the mounts adhered. It should be added, that for essays or specimens printed on card, and with large margins, there is no need for any mount at all; merely apply to their backs a piece of tissue paper (as if to the mount), as before described, and the thing is done. Some collectors fasten a small strip of stoutish paper, rather less in length than the width of the stamp to be mounted, and about $\frac{1}{8}$th to $\frac{1}{4}$th of an inch wide, at the back of the upper part of the stamp, and then gum that strip slightly to the page. This is objectionable, for when one wants to see the back or watermark, the stamp must either be bent back and doubled, or removed from the page.

With respect to envelopes: those who take cut specimens should always endeavour to get a margin cut square all round, so as to show the inscription. The barbarous, antiquated plan of cutting closely round the edge of the die is, happily, quite exploded. Such a system utterly destroys the identity

of many very precious specimens, *e. g.*, Mecklenburg-Schwerin, large inscriptions.

Envelopes thus cut square may be mounted as we above recommend for stamps, but in most cases this is unnecessary trouble, as the paper and watermark present little remarkable; a piece of gauze or tissue paper affixed behind the specimen, without any card or other mount, suffices. Some, however, must be shown *en cherté*, as the United States envelopes, which have a watermark, and the reprints of which have a peculiar disposition in the lines of the *vergeure*.

No thoroughly recommendable plan for mounting entire envelopes has, according to our view, been yet discovered, and we think all collectors wise who keep their specimens in a box, or in some other convenient receptacle, separate. To begin with, an insurmountable objection is, that their weight destroys the page of any book or album, and in most systems of mounting, they are liable to be torn. We notice, only to condemn, the fashion once prevalent of gumming them down flat on the page, often overlapping each other, whereby many a choice copy has been irretrievably damaged. Many of M. de Saulcy's were thus massacred.

M. Herpin and the owner of the Ph. collection mounted theirs by affixing strips of thick paper to the page, by gumming them at each end, and drawing the flap of the envelope through the strip thus fastened down. By commencing at the top of the page, and placing each successive envelope over-lapping its predecessor more or less, as the size of the die requires, the former is held down securely, and the lowest of the set has a second band fitted neatly over it at the lower edge, to retain it firmly in its place. The flap of the second envelope is held by a band or strip, which at the same time answers to keep the first secure in its place, and thus the lowest band alone is visible, when the envelopes are all placed in position on the page. This plan is rather troublesome to carry out neatly, and is objectionable chiefly because in removing a specimen to examine it, the bands are very apt to be torn.

Dr. Magnus has abandoned this system, and has invented an ingenious one for himself, the main feature of which consists in hinging the envelopes, one or more in a row, according to the width of the page, to a strip of paper by their lower edge; this strip is folded in the centre, and the one part being gummed to the page, and the other to the envelope, all necessary examination of the latter can be had. Two or more can be mounted on one strip by cutting it so as to secure each by a little piece of the strip only, holding it at each corner of the envelope. Its weight keeps the envelope down flat, in proper position. It is thus hinged, and flaps freely on its lower edge as an axis. We fear this will prove also extremely troublesome.

Other Parisian amateurs have devised somewhat similar plans. We have seen one collection where the envelopes are not attached to the page at all, but retained flat thereon, being held by two parallel lines of ribbon stretched perpendicularly down the face of the page. We fear the envelopes thus attached would be apt to slip and get out of order when the book is turned over in ordinary use.

To all these systems the great, and to us at present insurmountable, difficulty is the weight of the envelopes. They are unmanageable for the page of any album we ever saw, and we can offer no better suggestion than for the present to keep them separately, unmounted, in some convenient box or other repository.

We will now proceed to the pages themselves on which the stamps, thus mounted, are to be placed. We have ourselves tried white paper, of thickness and substance enough to carry the weight of the stamps as mounted, and are bound to confess we prefer a tinted paper, as producing a better general effect, and throwing up the stamps as mounted in a more striking manner. M. Herpin adopted a fine closely-woven vellum-surfaced paper, of a light buff tint: the effect was excellent. A present Parisian amateur has recently chosen an English-made paper, of a light slate or neutral tint, of substance, but with an unpressed surface: the result of this will, we think, be good. Whatever tint be adopted, it should be subdued, so as not to make any violent contrast with the colours of the stamps. We understand Dr. Magnus

is in course of deciding what to use for his fine collection, and we believe he is predisposed in favour of tinted rather than absolutely white paper.

Whatever be chosen, of it the album must be made, and whether the leaves be fixed or moveable, they must be duly prepared, and cut to size. Such obvious reasons present themselves to any collector who has ever once arranged a collection in favour of a system whereby a leaf can be interpolated, removed, altered, or renewed, at pleasure, that we presume few will at this time argue in favour of a bound volume. If they select one, then in our continuation of this paper they will find some information which will, we trust, be useful to them. If, however, they decide on having moveable leaves, then several plans are open.

First, there is the well-known *système Marie*, adopted by M. Herpin, Dr. Magnus, Count Primoli, Mr. Pemberton, and the owner of the collection Ph. It is difficult to explain this system without a cloud of words, but its principle is this: The sheet of paper is cut to form two pages, is folded down the middle like a sheet of note paper, and is held in its place by two long metal wires or hooks (*crotchets*), which catch at the edge of the volume above and below, and are retained in a place contrived for them by the pressure of a small spring back. This spring back works easily with a touch of the finger, and one hook (or both) can be removed, and the sheet taken out temporarily or permanently. It is obvious also that it can be shifted to and inserted in any other part of the volume.

This system has now stood several years' trial, and on some grounds is still the best we know of; yet it has its objections, one of which is that by the weight of the leaves in the volume, they press on the lower set of hooks, and at the lower edge of the fold are apt to bulge and tear; another is, that the pages are ill adapted to bear any weight. Those of our readers who wish to try this system, will have to procure the volumes and crotchets in Paris; the English paper is best, and it can be readily cut at any stationers. We will, if desired, give the address of the Parisian patentee and manufacturer.

Another system consists in having each page separately cut to size, its inner edge protected by a fold of linen or other substitute affixed, through which two eyelet-holes are made. These pages can be strung upon wires or strings in any required order, and bound into volumes. A very little ingenuity will enable the maker of the latter to devise a moveable top, or fastening, which will permit the pages being lifted off or altered upon the strings; or some other means of access to the end of the wire or string, whereby alterations in the pages, or their disposition, can be effected; some modification of a screw index-file can probably be made to answer.

Some, again, as M. de Saulcy, and M. Berger-Levrault, dispense with volumes, and instead use sheets of card, which they keep, loose and unbound, in boxes, or a set of drawers constructed of the proper size; this plan seems somewhat cumbersome and inconvenient.

It strikes us as rather singular that, notwithstanding the liberal offers of our contemporary, and the many responses to it from different writers, so few suggestions of any utility were made; and it appeared that the writers, with one or two exceptions, hardly had sufficient experience themselves in the wants of a large collection, or the difficulties attendant upon its arrangement, before they came forward to enlighten others. Be this as it may, all who have given the subject any thought, must acknowledge the extremely troublesome and embarrassing nature of the questions continually arising; and while the controversy on the permanent album has not yet elicited any universal scheme for that much-desired object, it will have served its purpose if it spreads wider a knowledge of the fact, that in philatelic science, as in all others, there is no finality or completeness: it admits of continual researches, and to the patient inquirer, who is content to work, and use his best energies in his favourite pursuit, discoveries and new facts are perpetually presenting themselves, and the general store of knowledge is thereby increased.

NEWLY-ISSUED OR INEDITED STAMPS.

"Good wine needs no bush," and a full list of novelties needs but slight introduction, therefore let this suffice.

Italy.—Annexed is the engraving of the type adopted for the new series of unpaid letter stamps. It is printed in two colours. All the values up to and including the 60 c. have the framework of yellow, and the numeral deep carmine; the 1 lira and 2 lire have the frame blue, and the numeral brown. The following are the values already issued: 1, 2, 5, 30, 40, 50, 60 c., 1 lira and 2 lire. These are all printed on white paper, watermarked with a crown, and are perforated. The 10 c., for which probably the type already prepared will serve, is not yet out. General objection has been taken to the appearance of the word *centesimi* on the 1 c., and *lire* on the 1 lira stamp, and certainly the error is not grammatically defensible, but any one can see that it has been winked at in order to use but two dies for all the values, instead of four. Had the inscription been so disposed as to read *centesimi* 1, *lire* 1, there would not have been anything to find fault with.



Belgium.—On the 1st Jan., the 2 centimes and 20 centimes of the new series, both





printed blue, appeared, and with them the 8 centimes lilac. The 2 c. is identical in type with the 1 c., but the 8 c., as will be seen, differs somewhat in design. The 20 c. also presents considerable variations from the previously-issued 10 c. On the 1st of March the 5 and 30 c. amber are to appear, and the 40 c. carmine and 1 fr. violet on the 1st of April. No date is given for the emission of the 6 c., which has, however, been prepared.

The Revue Numismatique (of Brussels) says: "That as it is not right the sovereign's head should be *defaced*, the profile of the minister of public works is to be substituted for it on the new stamps. In this may be seen," it adds, "the adaptation of our parliamentary institutions—the minister covering with his constitutional mask, the inviolable countenance of the king." We presume this is intended to indicate that if the portrait is not that of the king it must be that of his minister. Whether this be the case, or there really is to be another series, the joke is a good one. To members of the opposition it would give a cheap opportunity of even obliterating the minister's head—in miniature. *The Belgian Star* (we quote from *Le Timbre-Poste*) announces that the stamps with portrait will very shortly be replaced by others, representing this time Leopold II. —the criticism is curt but good.

Whatever may be the fate of the much-abused type which is now being brought into circulation, there can be no doubt as to that of the design here represented. On the 29th of December the authorities—who having once got into a habit of ordering and counterordering emissions, do not seem to be able to get out of it—ordered that the supplies of these *chiffre-taxe stamps*, which were then all ready for distribution to the different offices, should be burnt, and burnt they were. The reason given was, that they would not be wanted, as it had been ultimately decided not to employ any unpaid letter stamps at all. There is one cause of satisfaction in connection with this conclusion, and that is, that in neither stamp the government nor the collecting fraternity have lost much.



Bavaria.—*Kissingen and Schweinfurt.*—Mr. Elb, a correspondent of M. Moens, has written to that gentleman, admitting that the Kissengen stamps are of no value whatever, and exculpating himself from any intentional participation in the fraud, by which, in fact, he had himself been imposed on. This state-

ment is due to Mr. Elb on the one hand, and is final as to the character of the stamps on the other.

New Granada.—The rather curious 2½ c. stamp issued in 1865, and withdrawn last year, is succeeded by what *Le Timbrophile* not inaptly describes as a "little monster." It deserves inclusion in the list which might now be made of vagaries of stamp engraving, and must be one among the very few absolute novelties that are to be found under the sun. Future catalogue-makers should describe this design as the arms of New Granada in a state of inebriety. This amusing little stamp is printed in black on deep violet paper, and is unperforated.



Antioquia.—It appears that the five stamps of which engravings are given, are not the only ones that have been issued for this state. There has been at least one preceding series, of which only two values are as yet known, the 2½ c. pale blue, and 5 c. dark green. M. Mahé, with some reason, suggests, that as the 1 peso differs so considerably in size from those of the other four current values, and agrees so completely with the above-mentioned 5 c., it has probably formed one of the values of the previous series, and the supply not being exhausted, has been continued in circulation conjointly with the newer and larger stamps.





France.—We notice, without, however, being able to confirm, a paragraph which has been "going the round of the papers," to the effect that on the 1st of April next (ominous date), a new series of stamps is to be issued, bearing the profiles of Napoleon III. *and his son.* According to one report, the latter will appear to the right of his father, and in front therefore, and a crown of laurels will encircle his head—indicating, we presume, a kind of reflected glory. We have seen similar reports as to the coinage, it having even been stated that on the coins the Empress is also to be represented. Perhaps, for completeness sake, the profiles of his majesty's cousins, not omitting Prince Pierre, will also be added.

Turkey.—The Sublime Porte has at length decided to issue envelope stamps. The type which it has chosen presents in itself no very extraordinary features, but it is impressed in a truly unique manner, one half appearing on the flap, the other on the envelope below, so that when the latter is opened, the design, so to speak, "comes in two." The stamp, which is in relief, is coloured yellow, but the surcharged characters are in black, and the paper itself is of a greyish tint. The hieroglyphics here represented are also in relief, and appear on the front of the envelope, to the right of the address. Its value is 1 piastre, but we believe a second value also exists—1½ piastre.





We learn from *Le Timbrophile* that the local post of Constantinople has been re-established by the government, but that the old local stamps will not be used.

Victoria.—This colony has just issued a twopenny envelope, probably the forerunner of a series. The annexed engraving will evidence its very great resemblance in type to that of the Cingalese, and in a lesser degree its similarity to our own penny. It is printed in pink on both white and blue paper, but we believe that white alone is the official colour. Our specimen on white bears the initial v. in relief on the flap, and a portion of an ornamental oval watermark, the design of which seems familiar to us. The blue paper copy is one of a supply struck for the Australian Alliance Assurance Company, whose medallion it bears on the flap, and it appears that, as in this country, any one sending a batch of envelopes to the post-office, can get them



stamped on payment of a small fee. If there be no restriction declared by the authorities as to the colour of the paper, we shall doubtless find this stamp struck on papers of a dozen unofficial shades.

One of our correspondents sends us a copy of the frank stamp of the Minister of Justice, which is now printed in red, instead of black, as formerly. It franks an official document to an Electoral Registrar, and printed opposite the address is the government printer's frank-stamp, a slightly ornamental circular device, bearing his name—JOHN PERRES—in the centre, and the statement of his position —GOVERNMENT PRINTER, in the surrounding circle. It is unusual for this stamp to appear together with that of one of the state officers, as either alone is sufficient to frank the letter. The printer's stamp always appears on, and covers the postage of the government gazette, and is obliterated in passing through the post-office in the same manner as any ordinary postage stamp.

SOUTH AUSTRALIA.—It would seem that the supply of paper watermarked with a crown and the letters S. A., has run short, as the 2d. orange now comes over on the old star watermarked paper.

GREAT BRITAIN.—A correspondent draws our attention to a hitherto unnoticed variety of the current twopence. It is distinguished from the others by the thinness of the white lines which cut off the upper and lower margins from the body of the stamp. On placing it beside a broad-lined specimen, the difference appears very marked, sufficiently so as to leave no doubt that the thinness of the lines results from an alteration of the plate, and not from any accident in the printing. We observe that this new variety is numbered "13" at the sides, whilst other copies that we have bear inferior numbers—"9," "12," &c., and as these figures probably indicate the number of the plate, it would seem that the change has been made on one of those more recently employed. Of the two lines the one beneath the word POSTAGE is the thinnest, and being but faintly cut on the plate, the white dots of the ground pattern interrupt it at two or three points. In all other respects the thin-lined variety is the exact counterpart of its fellows.

SPAIN.—Nine of the thirteen values forming the new series have been issued. The following are their denominations and colours :—

25 mils. d'esco.	mauve.
50 „ „	light blue.
100 „ „	pale red.
200 „ „	light brown.
400 „ „	sea-green.
1 escudo, 600 mil.	lilac.
2 escudos	dull blue.
12 cuartos	lake-rose.
19 „	yellow-green.

All are on white paper, and perforated.

Annexed is the type, which does not improve on acquaintance, especially when found, as it is, in connection with pale and ineffective tints. The four remaining values, 1, 2, 4, 10 mil., will probably appear very shortly.



Our Belgian contemporary notices a strange detail in the colonial type, viz., that the initials of the engraver, Eugenio Julia, appear between, and overlap, each letter of the word CORREOS.

CANADA.—It appears that the reduction in the size of the Dominion postage stamps, to which reference was made some months since, is really to be carried out, and as an earnest of the execution of the project, we receive the three cents red, cut down to the size of the half cent, and with the design made to resemble that of the latter. The numerals in the upper corners are absent; the inscription, CANADA POSTAGE, is in almost microscopic lettering, and in lieu of the full denomination—THREE CENTS—in the lower margin, the word CENTS alone appears, flanked by the figure on each side. The cause of the change is not to be sought in any desire to economise paper; it lies in the simple fact that the smaller size is found the more convenient. The design certainly is not improved by it, and we might call upon these little stamps to "hide their diminished heads," were it not that the head, and that alone, remains as large as ever. The stamps, though in a fair way to become small by degrees, as the Canadian idea of conve-

nience increases, are not likely to become "*beautifully* less." A new value, however, made up from the parings of the old ones—an 8 cents—is said to be in preparation, and will help to make up in quantity, for any deterioration in the quality.

Denmark.—It is stated that a new series, composed of the present denominations, with the addition of a 48 sk., will be issued in March, and also at the same time a series of official stamps.

Tasmania.—We learn from a correspondent, that the current fourpence is to be withdrawn from circulation, its place being taken by a copy of the Nova Scotian design—that lately used for the 1, 2, and 5 cent, we presume.

Portugal.—We have just received from Lisbon specimens of the long-expected 240 reis; colour, a bright mauve. The 100 reis is now issued of a very pale lilac.

Transvaal Republic.—The promised threepence has been issued. It is of the same design as the others, but unperforated; colour, violet.

OUR CONTEMPORARIES.

The insertion of our annual list of new emissions, and the pressure of other matter, has obliged us to omit our usual notice of contemporary journals from the past two numbers, and we now find ourselves considerably in arrear. Addressing ourselves, without further preface, to the work of disposing of the file of journals which has thus accumulated, let us commence with our old friend,

Le Timbre-Poste.—The December number is remarkable only for the editor's avowal of his continued disbelief in certain recently-received varieties of the first-issued Shanghai stamps. For this he has been taken roundly to task by *The Philatelist*, but for our own part, without absolutely endorsing M. Moens' opinions, we must say the balance of probabilities is rather against their authenticity, and we are inclined to look on them as, at most, a sort of official reprint. When, some years after the withdrawal of a series of stamps, which during its currency was *very well known* to, and commented on by, collectors, unused copies of one of the values in a new colour are discovered, the thing looks at least suspicious. Why, and where, have they been hidden during all the intervening time,—in what out-of-the-way drawer at the post-office were they concealed? The Shanghai stamps have never been scarce; there is one chief and only office where they are obtainable, and where, we believe, sets of the first series have been obtained since its supercession; and yet we are asked to believe that these new varieties have been lying there, untouched, for years! Certes, something more than the mere fact that they have been received from Shanghai, or from the Shanghai post-office itself, is necessary to prove their genuineness.

The January and February numbers of the Belgian journals are distinguished by able and interesting articles from the pen of Dr. Magnus. In the former, he gives the result of a careful analysis and comparison of the "post-office" Mauritius. From different sources he had succeeded in gathering in all six specimens, three of each value; and, as is the result of his examination, he concludes that the 1d. and 2d. "post-office" are not printed from any of the twelve varieties of which the sheet of the ordinary "post-paid" stamps is composed. Nor, again, are the two "post-office" stamps printed from one and the same die; each value was separately engraved, but there was but a single die made for each value, and consequently the three specimens of each agree between themselves in all points. These "post-office" stamps are much better engraved than the others; and on the edge of the neck of the portrait are the engraver's initials, which are absent from the "post-paid" series. The "post-office" varieties are not, then, Dr. Magnus argues, the result of a blunder of the engraver in the sense generally supposed: they are more probably *the original designs*. There are proofs of the "post-office" type in existence; and, taking into consideration the fact that they are signed with the engraver's initials, it would seem that they must have been *proofs* from a *trial engraving* (or die). The design accepted by the administration, and the replacement of the word OFFICE by PAID agreed upon, the engraver, ignorant of, or not having at his disposal the means of

multiplying it, set himself to recopy it, and with what success every one knows. That some copies should have passed the post is not surprising, as their great general resemblance to the "paid" stamps would have been quite sufficient to deceive the post-office clerks, or anyone else. This is a brief summary of the learned doctor's argument, which, based, as it is, on a scrupulous examination of probably the largest number of copies ever brought together, commends itself strongly to the attention of the philatelic world.

Dr. Magnus' second article consists of a description and comments on the 10 kop. *black* of Finland, recently discovered by M. Moens. Although it has been affirmed by the Finnish postmaster-general that on the 1st January, 1845, stamped envelopes of two values—10 kop. *black*, and 20 kop. red—were introduced, and although the postmaster of one of the Finnish towns had made the same assertion, still the majority of collectors, with the 10 kop. red, 20 kop. Russian green, before their eyes, believed that the postal officials had made a mistake. Recently, however, one of M. Moens' correspondents has communicated to him two copies of the 10 kop. printed in black, and these Dr. Magnus sets himself to examine. He finds that they are on a rough laid paper, and, as it would appear, are *hand-printed*; the impression is consequently very rough, and a verification of the details is rendered very difficult. Compared with *original* 10 kop. rouge, it was, however, soon evident that they were not from the same die as the latter, but on being compared with the *official reprint* of this value, an almost entire identity with it was discovered. The reprint has always been known to differ from the original, and the variation has been set down as the result of retouching the die. This, however, it is now argued, is not the case; but that, in fact, the first die of all was by accident found, and it was from this that the reprints were obtained. Dr. Magnus' hypothesis is, that the original die was impressed not on envelopes, but on *covers*, at that portion where the address was to be written,—"It cannot be admitted," he says, "that the stamp was applied to the flap of an envelope, the disposition of the *vergeures* is opposed to such a supposition; and further, the traces of an English capital M, which we find in the copies before us, indicate that the stamp was on the side destined for the address. The stamping must have been done at Helsingfors, the capital of the Grand Duchy, since the die was found there. This operation having, without doubt, proved defective, was afterwards performed at St. Petersburg, at the imperial printing-office, which, in 1845, commenced the impression of stamped envelopes for the local post of that city, and it will be observed that these latter are struck on the face of the envelope.

The existence of the once-doubted 10 kop. *black* being now amply proved, that of the 20 kop. *red* becomes probable, and Dr. Magnus has hopes that it may be forthcoming.

Le Timbrophile.—Of the two principal articles in the December number, that on the New Granadine stamp is reproduced, and that on the Saint Louis stamps is replied to in our last. The January number offers no subject for comment; its distinguishing feature is a long and interesting paper on French fiscal stamps. The February number is noticeable chiefly for the account given of the false *Susse* stamps, and for Dr. Magnus' article on the varieties of the 6 rappen Zurich. From the former, it appears that some young Parisian rogue has got hold of the machine wherewith Messrs. Susse Frères used to perforate the stamps which they sold to their customers, and is hard at work perforating, perforating, perforating, night and day. It is said he has received a commission for 400,000 Susse-perforated stamps for Italy! Collectors will, we hope, take note of this, and be cautious in their buying. The article on the Zurich stamps was prompted by its author's fear that the specimens which he had been studying, and which he had returned to M. Moens, might have fallen into the hands of some amateur, who, recognising the figures on them whereby he had distinguished the varieties, might forestall him, by publishing the results of his investigations. The details given by the learned doctor are of much interest, but as they would suffer from merely partial repro-

duction, we must defer alluding to them until we can do so *in extenso*.

The Continental Philatelic Magazine, after lying in abeyance for several months, reappears in a new shape, and as an illustrated paper, under the direction of Mr. Van Rinsum, aided by Messrs. Pemberton and Atlee. It is certainly improved by the change, and we have not observed any such grotesque orthographical mistakes, as rendered the first series so amusing, though there is no lack of continental English in the articles. The first number is characterised by a tirade against Lyford, the American swindler, which we think is in questionable taste, and can serve no good end. The second number contains an article entitled, "How to *assort* a good Collection," by a new writer—Mr. J. G. Symonds—who recommends the keeping of stamps in envelopes instead of albums; this plan deserves mention, but is not worth discussion. The editor treats of two spurious emissions—those of Kissingen and Leitmeritz. From a letter he publishes, it appears that there is a private express company at Kissingen, but, as we had conjectured, its only business is the forwarding of parcels.

The American Journal of Philately, and the *American Stamp Mercury*, are both devoid of noticeable, though not of interesting matter.

ERRORS OF ENGRAVING AND PRINTING.

BY W. DUDLEY ATLEE.

The discussion as to the Bergedorf error has caused us to ask ourselves the question—are varieties of this kind worthy of a place in our albums? Our answer must be given decidedly in the affirmative; for surely mistakes of the engraver take equal rank with those of the printer who uses paper watermarked with the figure of another value, such as is so often found in the Australians, which errors are accepted by most of the principal amateurs.

A few remarks on the most prominent mistakes may not be without interest; and although much of what we are going to write may be already known to philatelists, through its having been chronicled in various volumes of this magazine, yet as the paragraphs cannot be found without first wading through the indexes, and that being rather an irritating operation when one wants to find anything in a hurry, we are under the impression that to get them all together, so as to be easy of reference, will be more satisfactory to everybody; for, notwithstanding the aristocratic motto, "Time was made for slaves," it is not pleasant to waste half-an-hour in searching, for example, for an account of the type-set Italian contortions.

The stamps it is our task to enumerate may be divided into two heads, namely, those with errors caused by negligence of the engraver, and those printed by mistake in colours contrary to the usual emission. Errors of watermark it is not our intention to catalogue, for they are mostly found in the Australian, and for these, the excellent monographs published are all that can be needed. Those stamps with mistakes arising through the negligent setting-up of the type by the compositor, although not correctly speaking the fault of the engravers, must still be placed to their credit, and figure in the first class.

Before taking the countries in their alphabetical order, we must give our definition of a "collectable" variety, if we may use the expression. We consider, then, a variety of that kind, one which has arisen from oversight, or carelessness on the part of the engraver, and not from want of skill in making each stamp an accurate fac-simile of its neighbour; for although, of course, every stamp on a sheet of New Caledonia varies in some degree from its congener, yet as the artist (!) never professed (however much he may have intended) that they were perfectly like each other, we should not think it a matter of duty, as loyal students of the science, to collect the whole series, whatever our individual opinions might be upon the subject. It may be asked, what about the old issues of Victoria and New South Wales? We may reply, that what to retain and what to reject, from a sheet of twopenny Melbourne, for instance, is quite a matter of choice, and must be left to the taste, as well as the pocket, of the collector.

It does not follow that because many of our chief philatelists diligently procure and place in their albums all they can find of

each sheet, that it is imperative to do so for those who require a "complete" collection; for, to be guilty of an Hibernianism, a collection can be complete and still lack all the varieties of type, for the completeness consists in having every issue, and not in possessing vagaries of such issues. There are, however, what may be termed "leading" varieties in some of the Australian emissions, which we shall touch upon in their due order.

In the following list we shall amalgamate both our divisions, as we think they will be simplified by so doing. Our first variety is in the

ARGENTINE CONFEDERATION, the 5 cent of the emission with small figure being found with two dots, or rather, two dots and a speck, after value. The usual issue has only a single stop. In case some collectors may fancy that there are also errors in the 1862 set of the republic, it may not be out of place to mention that there are two distinct workings of this series, but they are simply varieties, and not errors. The plates of this issue seem to have been either much used or badly handled, for copies are current upon which the corners have almost disappeared, leaving only a trace of their former glory. These deteriorated labels are worthy of a place in our museum of varieties.

BELGIUM.—In the right-hand corner of the upper portion of each of the later-printed sheets of the one cent 1863 issue was a stamp, the plate of which had evidently been much battered about, and then touched up. The improvement (?) was badly performed, for the letters encroached in many places upon the border.

BERGEDORF.—We now come to the latest bone of contention—the $1\frac{1}{2}$ sch. stamp of this once free city, inscribed SCHILLINGE instead of SCHILLING. M. Moens wishes to prove that the error occurred through the shifting of the word upon the lithographic transfer, though (as pointed out by the editor in the December notice of "Our Contemporaries") we do not see how such a thing is possible. We incline to the belief that the word was entirely re-engraved, as we do not know of any system whereby anything once fixed upon stone can, so to speak, slide from its position. Although the question may be instructive, and worth studying, it does not affect in any way either the genuineness or falsity of the stamp. Only a few of the labels were put into circulation, they being almost immediately followed by those with the monetary denomination, *sans* the E.

BRITISH GUIANA.—We may chronicle, *en passant*, the second issue of this colony, inscribed PATIMUS, which, as every schoolboy knows, is an error for PETIMUS.

CAPE OF GOOD HOPE.—Two of the rarest errors in colour are found in the wood-block series, a die of the penny having been placed in the fourpenny frame, and *vice versâ*, thus giving us a penny in blue, and a fourpenny in rose, An error of impression is given by M. Moens in his catalogue, which we think is quite out of place in that exalted position: it is a fourpenny of the provisional emission, inscribed PENCK, instead of with the orthodox word. Having seen copies purporting to be specimens of this variety, we have, after a careful examination, come to the conclusion that the die getting slightly worn at the point indicated, the white lettering became thick, and gave to it *somewhat* the appearance of a K, but that is the most we can say for it. By stretching a point, it certainly might be included as a species of secondary variety.

DANUBIAN PRINCIPALITIES.—In looking over some 2 bani stamps of the last issue we discovered a few specimens in which the inscription was most unmistakeably FOSTA. The F is well formed, and certainly is *not* a mutilated P.

Although it is rather like leaving the main line of our subject, it is worth while to chronicle the fact, that in each sheet of the before-named value there are found two separately-engraved dies: in one the head being much nearer to the top of the beaded circle than in the other. These two types are divided about equally over two-thirds of the sheet, the remaining portion being filled in with copies of what we will term the second die, having a small circular flaw under the S in POSTA.

EGYPT.—We lately saw, in the collection of a London amateur, a unique error upon one of the first series of Egyptian stamps. These labels, as most philatelists are aware, were printed in two workings: first the

coloured groundwork, and then the black inscription. In the variety under notice, the lettering indicating the value of 10 piastres is surcharged upon a 5-piastre stamp. The specimen is upon paper bearing the usual pyramid for watermark, and is of the same roseate hue as the 5 piastres. It is, however, imperforate.

REVIEWS OF POSTAL PUBLICATIONS.

Oppen's Postage-Stamp Album and Catalogue of British and Foreign Postage Stamps. By Dr. Viner. Thirteenth Edition. London: W. Stevens.

This old favourite, in spite of many competitors, maintains its position in the public esteem, thanks, in no small degree, to the painstaking correction and revision which it receives at the hands of its present editor. Every page, it is evident, has been carefully studied, and the space portioned out to the best advantage, attention, however, being given to the peculiarities of shape of each country's emissions. Although in a thoroughly cheap work economy of space is a necessity, yet in the album under review, efficiency is in no case sacrificed. Needless to say, the new edition has been, as the phrase goes, "brought up to the present time," and, as the editor states in his preface, "the volume, as it stands, is fully adapted to contain, not only all the label and envelope impressions hitherto issued, but those of many a succeeding year." In a postscript to the preface, the following important information is given: "In case of further need, extra sheets can be obtained of the publisher at 6d. per dozen, or seventy-two supplementary pages incorporated under an album or catalogue cover, the latter being also supplied separately. *Collectors wishing to have their albums bound in any particular style, can obtain them in sheets*, direct from the publisher."

We should recommend the publisher to bring out a superior edition, with the pages ruled on one side only, and interleaved with ruled sheets throughout. We have little doubt that a sufficient number of copies would be sold to cover the extra expense. And again, another suggestion—why not enlarge the popular edition, making it a large 4to.? This would give room for at least six spaces per line, and of all sizes it is the most preferable; it is even superior to the oblong books, and like them it would admit, in most cases, of an entire series being placed on a single line.

In throwing out these hints, we have no intention to detract from the value of the album in its present style. Successive generations of collectors have patronised it, and been satisfied with it, and there can be no doubt that this new edition will meet with the same success as its predecessors. If external appearance can add to its popularity, then assuredly this thirteenth edition will be even more speedily exhausted than they, for a new and brightly ornamental design has been adopted for the cover, and this and the gilt edges, make it quite a drawing-room book.

CORRESPONDENCE.

THE INSCRIPTION ON THE RUSSIAN LOCAL POSTAGE STAMPS.

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

Dear Sir,—Messrs. Alfred Smith & Co. have kindly handed me the inquiry *in re* the Russian Locals, as follows:

"(1) Allow me to make a few remarks respecting the Russian local stamps, the inscriptions of which do not agree with those on the adhesives, or with each other; and this, I think, throws a doubt on their genuineness. For instance, the inscription on the Russian adhesive is почтовая марка, signifying "Postage Stamp;" on that for Borowitchy it is spelt повтовая мачка (2). Neither do the words земслом почты (3) on the Borowitchy, or земская почта (4) on the Schluesselburg, which signify "Rural Post," agree. Again, земской управы (5), "Rural Circuit," or сельской почты (6), "Village Post," do not agree with the previous ones."

(1) Taking these items separately: I myself think that a little reflection would dispose of the first, in considering that the Russ of St. Petersburg and Moscow, which is the cultivated language, differs from that of districts or towns only a few miles distant from these capitals, as much as the Wiltshire or Yorkshire dialects do from that of London, or that of Boulogne from Parisian French, and therefore I cannot see that a doubt as to the genuineness of these locals can be implied by a simple reading of legend, without other points also.

(2) My Borowitz stamp reads ПОЧТОВАЯ МАРКА, or exactly the same as the Russian 1, 3, 5, 10, 20, 30 kop. adhesives. The one drawn in *The Stamp-Collector's Magazine*, p. 105, is incorrectly figured on the differing points.

(3) This is also incorrectly drawn in the magazine. My stamp reads ЗЕМСКОЙ ПОЧТЫ; this is equivalent to the inscription (4). The e being cursive, and Е the printing form of the letter "Iest," or our letter E; the И being the "Iesche," or nearly our double I, or EE; and the Я AIA in English, the difference being merely dialectic; the Ы and А on 3 and 4 are also dialectic differences, Ы having a sound indefinite or indescribable in English. In respect to the other inscriptions, 5 and 6, as I have not seen the stamps bearing them, I cannot say if they are true copies, but should imagine they are not.

I think there can be no doubt as to the genuineness of these stamps, when I tell you that I received those I have direct from a governor of one of the Russian districts, though at present none are issued in his district.

Besides this, the list given on p. 172 of *The Stamp-Collector's Magazine*, of last year, was drawn up from a Russian newspaper statement.

I am, dear Sir, yours truly,
W. E. HAYNS.

In continuation of my former letter respecting the Russian locals, in answer to the inquiry forwarded through the Editor of *The Stamp-Collector's Magazine*, I have to say that I have received an answer to my inquiry which I told you I had sent to my Russian friends. They corroborate my letter so far as the first part of the inquiry, viz., that the difference of terminations of the words arises only from the "case" of that word: thus, КОЙ and КАЯ terminating ЗЕМСКОЙ, and ТА and ТЫ, terminating ПОЧТА or ПОЧТЫ, are only differences of case.

One word I could not make out in the list given, viz., сЕпdсКой; this should have been printed СЕЛЬСКОЙ, meaning nearly the same as ЗЕМСКОЙ, for СЕЛО, "village."

To resume,

ПОЧТОВАЯ	..	"Postal," or "Postage."
МАРКА	..	"Stamp."
ЗЕМСКОЙ, or ЗЕМСКАЯ, or ЗЕМСКОЙ	..	"Rural."
СЕЛЬСКОЙ	..	"Of the village."
УПРАВА, or УПРАВЫ	..	"Office."

I am, dear Sir, yours truly,
W. E. HAYNS,
Hon. Sec. Philatelic Society, London.

SELF-SLANDER.—In the last number of the *Continental Philatelic Magazine* there is a lengthy article on "Two European Swindles by the Editor." Really, Mr. Van Rinsum ought to put a *stop* to this.

ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS.

VICTOR G. DE Y.—We are obliged for your information *in re* the various stamps named in your letter.

W. E. C., Clifton.—We quote your information as to the Tasmanian fourpence in our article on novelties, and are obliged to you for it.

W. G.—Many thanks for copies of the English 2d., which are referred to in another part of the present number.—As a collector of shades, we should certainly accept both the Saxon, and both the French; the 80 c. is printed in the expensive tint.

G. W. B., M.—Continuing our reply to your last batch of queries. Your Zurich stamp is forged, but your Vaud and Winterthur are genuine.—Your French stamps with Susse dentelations are very possibly some of those recently and fraudulently fabricated (see the current article on "Our Contemporaries").

E. H., Derby.—Dr. Gray's Illustrated Catalogue is announced to be ready by the first of next month. We anticipate it will be the best English authority on postage stamps extant. It has been thoroughly revised and corrected by Mr. Overy Taylor, whose name in connection with this magazine, and philately generally, is so well known.

CECIL, Rochester.—On the old issues of Mexico the surcharged inscription at the side is in block characters, whilst on the provisional re-issues it is in gothic type.—There have been several stamps issued for St. Domingo, which we have not space to enumerate here; you will find them described in the current catalogues.—There never was a 2 rls.red, and the design to which you refer is nothing but an imposition.

C. W. R. L., Heathcote (Victoria).—We have to thank you for your kindness in forwarding us a copy of the new Victorian envelope, and for the particulars you give respecting the frank stamps, of which, you will see, we have made use.—The subscription to *The Stamp-Collector's Magazine* for Victoria is the same as for the United Kingdom—4/ per annum—for which sum it is sent post free.—We cannot understand how it is the stamp should have been missing from the recent numbers, as our publishers are very careful that every copy shall be provided with one.—The explanation of the fact that a stamp worth sixpence was given away, is simply that the said stamp is now obsolete, and that our publishers having bought a large number on very advantageous terms, were happy to give the subscribers to *The Stamp-Collector's Magazine* the benefit of the purchase.

J. W.—Mount Brown has long since withdrawn from the philatelic ranks, and his catalogue, which did good service in its day, is now out of print.—If you purpose "going in" for a full collection, comprising all the secondary varieties of shade, paper, &c., you had better obtain Berger-Levrault's catalogue, unless, indeed, you prefer waiting for the promised English translation; if, however, you intend to collect on a more limited scale, the forthcoming fifth edition of Dr. Gray's catalogue will doubtless prove to you a serviceable guide.—Mr. Pemberton has *not* recently issued any work on forgeries; the latest descriptions are comprised in a series of papers by Dr. Boley, which appeared in *The Stamp-Collector's Magazine* for 1869.—We can quite understand your bewilderment on recommencing the study of stamps after a four years' interval: such advances have meanwhile been made, light has been thrown on so many dark points, and collecting altogether is pursued in such a different spirit, that it will require some considerable amount of steady application on your part in order that you may become once more *au courant*.

OUR CONTEMPORARIES.

The Philatelist.—Last month we were unable, from want of space, to notice the recent numbers of the Brighton magazine, and now proceed to remedy the omission. The December number is very readable, and specially noticeable for the paper on "Our Colonial Stamps," and that on "Permanent Albums." In the former, mention is made of a variety which we do not remember ever having seen—a sixpence St. Helena *red* (unperforated), without the surcharged bar and provisional value. As the writer of the paper remarks, this cannot be properly called an *erreur d'impression*, as it must have come from a sheet purposely withdrawn before the operations of correction and perforation were performed. Mr. Atlee's paper on permanent albums is a very clear and sensible review of the various projects for the making of a really permanent book, followed by some excellent suggestions for the mounting of stamps and envelopes.

In the January number appears the commencement of an interesting paper on "The Envelopes of Germany," from the pen of the now well-known "Parisian Collector." The March number contains a further instalment of it, in which we notice that the date of the second edition of the first series of Prussian envelopes is given as 1856, on the authority of Dr. Magnus. In our sixth vol., however, p. 142, a statement is made, on the authority of the Prussian postmaster-general, to the effect that the date of the emission without threads is the 2nd November, 1852, and although this statement came to us through a tainted source, we see no reason for doubting it. *En passant*, we observe, in the January number, the editor gives some information respecting the forthcoming U.S. series, to which he is "indebted to the politeness of Mr. Allan Taylor, of Boston." As this person is the publisher of one of the papers condemned by the Philatelic Society, of which the editor of *The Philatelist* is a member, we can only presume that the latter does not approve of the society's censure on the Boston publisher, or else thinks that there is nothing derogatory in accepting favours from doubtful characters.

Turning to the February number, we notice the commencement of what promises to be a valuable paper on "The Stamps of British North America," contributed by our old friend, Mr. Atlee, which we specially recommend to the study of philatelists over the water, who may, perhaps, be able to make some emendations on the list.

The American Journal of Philately.—The most noticeable item in the February number is a paper on the Shanghai stamps, founded on information given by a gentleman residing there, from which we learn that the present municipal post-office was established in consequence of the irregularity with which the "British" post-office was carried on. The Shanghai office works for the benefit of the public, and not for its own profit, and hence, whenever the receipts have exceeded the expenditure, the rates have lowered. It is stated that the present "cent" issue, and its "candareen" predecessor, are used conjointly, and we observe ourselves that in the postal tariff, published on the 1st July, 1869, and quoted in the article before us, all the rates are given in "candareens."

We notice that L. H. B., writing in reference to G. Arnold's "Plaint of a Postage Stamp," is anxious that its author should not be confounded with "common philatelic scribblers:"—is L. H. B., who has himself written not unfrequently about stamps, a common or an uncommon scribbler of the class he names?

Le Timbrophile.—In the last number *The Stamp-Collector's Magazine* is again honoured with conspicuous notice, M. Albis returning to the charges respecting the St. Louis stamps in a lengthy article, and combating the opinions expressed by our contributors and ourselves. He must, however, excuse us if we decline to reopen the question after the thorough discussion it has received—a discussion which leaves us confirmed in our opinion of the genuineness of the St. Louis pair. As to the newly-discovered 20 c., we reserve our decision on it for the present.

In the portion devoted to fiscal stamps we find the following argument in favour of their collection:

> One sees no fundamental reason for excluding fiscal stamps from albums; on the contrary, it would seem that

a collection cannot be said to be formed on a rational basis except it includes postage stamps, telegraph stamps, fiscal stamps of every kind, and, in one word, all adhesive stamps, that is to say, paper-moneys, the application of which on a document represents the payment of an impost, or some analogous tax. Furthermore, it is a mistake to suppose that fiscal stamps are less interesting than the others. More varied in their application, they offer to the administrator, equally with the amateur, many subjects for study; less restricted in their shape and dimensions, they offer to the designer's art a wider field. It might be objected with truth that they are more difficult of collection, but does not this very characteristic form one attraction the more for collectors?

To this last question our readers will, we think, be disposed to return a negative answer. No one certainly cares much for things which can always be had for the simple asking, but then there is a limit on the other side. The number of revenue and other kindred stamps is very large: few who might attempt to collect them could ever obtain a reasonably complete collection; and as the search after them would weaken the ardour in accumulating postage stamps, the result to most would be the possession of two very incomplete collections instead of one tolerably well-furnished album. Besides this, as fiscal stamps are bigger, proportionally larger books would be required; and withal, most of the specimens would be penmarked—a method of obliteration very repugnant to most collectors.

American Stamp Mercury.—We are glad to find in the current number the first of a series of papers from Mr. Pemberton's pen, entitled "Old Friends with new Faces: a List of all Forged Stamps in the American Market, and how to detect them." We may find some fault with the grammar of the last portion of the title, but for the purpose we have nothing but the warmest praise, as American collectors are badly in want of enlightenment as to the forgeries which pass current among them. The first paper is simply introductory, and contains some very good advice on the subject of studying stamps. "There is no doubt," says the author, "of the general utility of word descriptions of the differences by which forged stamps may be distinguished from genuine. To the collector of small experience, it is the only means of detection; but as no one can become a judge of stamps (or any other earthly thing) who does not study them, those who *do* study them will find their capacity for detection increase, so much so that a glance at certain prominent humbugs, as Ecuador 12 rls., Bolivia 1 peso blue, &c., when seen for the first time, would be sufficient to engender suspicion." This system of self-help requires as much recommendation on this as on the other side of the water. Those who think that to make a collection they have simply to buy the stamps, and read the magazines, will find themselves very frequently taken in. They must have something of the *esprit philatelique* if they are ever to form a well-ordered collection, and one containing only genuine specimens.

Whilst noticing Mr. Pemberton's paper, we may, *en passant*, beg leave to demur to his assertion therein, that he was the first "to speak openly against them." Mr. Pemberton will pardon us if, upon a point of honour like this, we are disposed to question his statement, but, in fact, we referred to the Boston gang in our March number of last year, whilst his letter only appeared in our May number, and was then accompanied by a further exposure on our part.

Mason's Coin and Stamp-Collector's Magazine gives hardly a twelfth of its space, in the current number, to philatelic matter, and we should think it must soon become a question with the publishers whether to continue or suppress the word "stamp" in the title. Except a rumour of certain forthcoming emissions, which we quote elsewhere, there is really nothing in the magazine calling for notice.

Le Timbre-Poste. — The most prominent feature in the last number is an article by Dr. Magnus, proving the existence of no less than five varieties of the 5 reis Don Pedro, straight hair, distinguished from each other by various differences in the details of the design, and, among others, by the number of pearls forming the circle: these, when the condition of the specimen is good enough to permit of their being counted, are among the best evidence of the variety. For our readers' guidance, the following are the numbers for the five varieties, respectively—75, 81, 89, and two each 76.

OUR WEST INDIAN STAMPS.—II.

(*Continued from Vol. vii., Page* 100).

BY EDWARD L. PEMBERTON.

Barbados Reference List concluded.

(v. means *varying in shade.*)

? 1860. Perforation introduced.
§ Perf. 12½ very rough.
34.—Bright yellow-green.
§ Perf. 14, very rough.
a. Thin paper.
35.—Bright yellow-green.
36.—Light blue.v.
37.—Deep dull blue.v.
b. Thick paper, two sorts.
38.—Bright yellow-green.
39.—Bright blue.v.
40.—Deep dull blue.
41.—Very dark, almost indigo.
42.—Light blue.
§ Perf. 14 to 16, simple or compound.
Paper varying greatly.
43.—Dark green.
44.—Cold green, yellowish.
45.—Cold green, bluish.v.
46.—Soft washy green, intermediate with 45 and 47.
47.—Bright green } 1868,
48.—Yellow-green } soft shades.
49.—Dark dull blue } Usually thick paper,
50.—Chalky blue,v. light and dark } No. 50 with clearly-cut dents.
51.—Light clear blue.
52.—Cold blue (on thick paper, and matching 45 green.)
53.—Cold blue,v. light to dark (on thin paper, and matching 44 green.)
54.—Washy blue (matching 46 green.)
55.—Dark rich blue, 1869, fine impression.
56.—Lake-red (usually yellowish paper).
57.—Washy rose-red.v.
58.—Deep rose-red.
59.—Rust-red. 1865.
60.—Bright red.v. 1869.
1852. Value below; no watermark.
§ Imperforate.
61.—*Sixpence*, lake-red (deep).
62.—*One Shilling*, black.
63.— „ „ sepia black.
§ Perf. 14 to 16, simple or compound.
64.—*Sixpence*, lake-red.
65.— „ red, light and dark.
66.—*Sixpence*, dark vermilion. 1864.
67.— „ light orange-red.v. to —
68.— „ intense orange-red.
69.— „ rosy vermilion. 1869.
70.—*One Shilling*, brown-black.
71.— „ „ grey-black.
72.— „ „ dull smeary black.

General Concluding Remarks.

In an old number of *The Stamp-Collector's Magazine* mention is made of a slate-coloured Barbados without value. Can any one give us further information as to its character?

I have endeavoured to give a faithful list of the numerous varieties of this colony's stamps. The object of these "Reference Lists" is not to render it incumbent on collectors of the French school to seek for everything that I catalogue, but to supply the want so often felt by young collectors, who are at a loss to know whether any varieties they may notice form portions of series, whether single, and whether much variation in shade is to be expected. As I chronicle nothing which I cannot produce, these lists are thoroughly reliable; and I mention this to assuage the wrath of those who object to these varieties.

The Postmarks on the Barbados are of two sorts. First, an oval-shaped mark, containing a varying numeral in centre, two bars each side, with four at top and three below; sometimes this is reversed, being then three top and four below. This mark is always found on the imperforate stamps, on the green perf. 12½, on the green and on the blue perf. 14, and on the blue, Nos. 49, 50, and 51. The numerals do not seem to go higher than 14. The second mark is oval, a numeral surrounded by sixteen thick black bars, placed at equal distance apart. This occurs on the 1 shilling imperf., and on all perforated, excepting those mentioned above. It is the mark in use now.

For the future, I do not intend to overlook the claims of the English school to an accurate list of what they are entitled to collect, and I have much pleasure in dedicating the following lists (the first of the series) to them, and trust I may not be called to account for any omissions; if there is anything additional which any single col-

lector would fancy for his own part, he can turn to the reference list and find it, but he must not find fault with me for omitting any varieties from a list for collectors of the English school, their aim being to limit the number of their specimens, not to multiply them by going into details.

Lists of the Stamps of Antigua and Barbados, for the use of Collectors of the English School.

Antigua.

Design: Diademed head of Queen to left, name and value in full. Rect., col. imp.

One penny. 1.—1862, rose-violet.
2.—1863, rose.
3.—1868, orange-vermilion.

Sixpence. 4.—1862, dark green.
5.—1868, light green.

Barbados.

Design: Britannia seated, name, no value. Rect., col. imp.

Blue paper, 1852. Not perforated.
1.—Green[v.] ($\frac{1}{2}$d.).
2.—Blue[v.] (1d.).
3.—Red (4d.).

White paper, 1856 ? not perf.; and 1861, perf.
4.—Green[v.]
5.—Blue[v.]
6.—Rose, 1860 ?
7.—Rust-red, 1865.
8.—Bright red, 1869.

Design as last; value in full.
9.—6d., lake-red, 1856 ?
10.—6d., orange, 1866.
11.—6d., vermilion, 1869.
12.—1s., black, 1856 ?

Note to Antigua.—By the last mail the 1d. comes over of a more intense shade, if possible. The 6d. is now on thin paper, and is evidently in an unsettled state, as I have three fine shades—deep green and pale green, on very thin paper indeed, and smeary impressions; the third is perhaps to remain the new shade: it is a clear impression in dark green, not like No. 12 in shade, being somewhat of a sage-green tint, but the paper is peculiar in tone, and shows the colour well.

I see there was a slight error in the numbering of the 6d. Antiguans, so I append a correction, adding those new shades which are on such very thin paper.

11.—Rich dark green,[v.]
12.—Dark cold green
13.—Deep warm green
14.—Washy yellow-green
} Paper never very thin.

These two and the two next are smeary impressions.

15.—Deep green
16.—Pale green
17.—Dark green, clear imp.
} Very thin paper.

III.—Bahamas.

I.—Issued June 10, 1859. Crowned full face of Queen in central oval, on ground of crossed lines; smaller ovals each side below contain a pine-apple in one, and a shell in the other; BAHAMAS at top, and value below, in white letters; scroll over oval, bearing INTERINSULAR POSTAGE, in coloured letters; background, engine-turned network. *One penny.*

II.—Issued Dec. 16, 1861. Same head with more bust and a necklace, in a larger oval, on ground of crossed lines; BAHAMAS at top, and value below, in white letters on straight solid label; star in each corner; scroll label below oval, bearing POSTAGE in coloured letters; background, an engine-turned vertical pattern. *Fourpence, Sixpence.*

III.—Issued August, 1863. Crowned head of Queen to left in corded oval medallion of horizontal lines; smaller ovals on each side, as in the penny; BAHAMAS in arched label at top, value in straight label below, both in white letters; interstices filled by delicate scrollery, upper angles solid. *One shilling.*

1. *Of design.*

There are no deviations from the above descriptions. They are a beautiful series of designs; the shilling value is a model of an exquisite stamp; the delicacy of the scrollery, and graceful management of the cord around the oval, the ends of which finish so naturally over the label of value, and the two small ovals, the shapes of which are formed so easily by the surrounding scrollery, are not to be surpassed. Had these two lower ovals been omitted, the stamp would have gained in beauty of effect: those two masses of white arrest the eye too much,

and as the colour and all the surroundings are most delicate, the first effect is ineffective; but for real beauty the stamp will repay an examination. Happy the collector who has a proof impression, if such a thing exists.

2. *Of paper.* 3. *Of colour.*

I alter my order of examination here, giving the precedence to paper, as colours are traceable in all their variations to corresponding changes in the paper; in fact, in these stamps paper, colour, and perforation, are all dependent upon one another, and are fixed and unchangeable in their relations to one another through all their variations. Cases such as these are thought, by some students of the extended school of philately, to be sufficient proof, argument, justification (as you please), that there *is* something in the collection and classification of varieties of these three classes—paper, colour, and perforation—beyond a mere accumulation of specimens. The first-issued penny stamps were imperforate, upon two sorts of paper: a thinnish paper, of a greyish or slightly blue tint, printed in lake and lake-red; afterwards, on a stouter and rather toned paper, in paler lake and lake-red; the first perforated stamps exhibit the same variations in the paper, but to a less marked degree; the colour is lake, varying from light to dark. It was then suddenly changed to a bright blood-red, the great peculiarity of which appeared its solubility in water. Most of the copies seen are smeared all over, through confiding collectors having trusted them to cold water to remove their previous mounts. We next come to the set watermarked CC. over crown, of which the penny is in several splendid tints, principally carmine (brownish and rosy), and rosy lake. The 4d. stamp is first upon stiff white paper, in delicate rose, more or less deep, and in a flesh tint of rose, unwatermarked; in the CC. series it is deeper rose, and more lately a dull peculiar tint, very similar to that used for the present 8 c. perf. 10 British Guiana. The first 6d. is usually termed grey, it is really a violet-grey, but being subject to discolouration, appears more lilac than violet; the next shade is a cold violet, varying slightly in depth, or sometimes a little greyish, both on the same unwatermarked paper as the 4d.; next we have it in the CC. and crown series, which began at light violet, and is now an intensely deep shade. The 1s. is unlike any other value: it is upon thinnish *glacé* paper, watermarked CC. and crown, and in colour a delicate green.

THE FRANKING PRIVILEGE IN FRANCE.*

The franking privilege constitutes one of the most considerable charges on the postal service. It is known that the French office is bound to carry gratuitously all official correspondence. This principle dates from Louis XI.; a decree of the 19th June, 1464, thus expresses it: "And as to packages sent by the said *Seigneur* (king), or which may be addressed to him, the said master-couriers shall carry them in person, without any delay, from one to the other, and that without pretending to any payment." Very far from this franchise, entirely personal to the sovereign, is that which exists in our days.

At present, all the functionaries of the empire correspond by franked letters with their superiors, their subordinates, and a great number of their colleagues; the *Manuel des Franchises* is an enormous volume, and it contains a list of about 120,000 officials enjoying certain postal immunities. This figure would seem to be enough to fully satisfy the wants of the public administration, and yet the post-office is assailed by demands tending to obtain fresh privileges. There is not a learned society, a benevolent society, an agricultural committee, a meeting possessing a more or less useful character, which does not obtain the power to frank the innumerable publications which it sends out, and it is the subject of constant observation, that each new franchise engender an abuse. It is not simply the correspondence which circulates free of charge, but bundles of printed matter, account books, maps of great size wound on wooden rollers, books which come under the provisions of the colportage laws, and even the mayors' official scarves. Certain officials, even among the highest

* Abridged from *La Poste Anecdotique et Pittoresque, par Pierre Zaccone, Paris, Librairie Achille Faure*, 18, Rue Dauphine.

placed, have put forth the pretention to send their personal invitations free, and the postal administration is deprived of all power of examining objects sent thus under cover of a frank, and which often contain things which have no right to pass; the greater portion are sent in closed envelopes, and the inviolability of the secrets of letters permits of no control. If a postal agent ventures a few timid observations respecting the frauds in which he daily assists, he exposes himself to the slights and insults of functionaries more powerful than he, the public interest is invoked to cover entirely personal abuses, the agents are discouraged, and the evil goes on and increases day by day.

We do not in the least exaggerate in saying that the amount of correspondence of this kind has augmented 76 per cent during the last five years.

Earnestly impressed with this situation, the administration, in 1862, ordered an inquiry, having for intent to ascertain the extent of the correspondence which paid no postage, and here are its results:—

	Number of Packages.	Weight.	Postage lost.
Letters,	46,590,936	2,966,060 kilos.	*f.* 38.996,654
Printed matter,	25,461,991	2,166,821 „	2,372,808
	72,052,927	5,132,881 „	*f.* 41,369,462

To day we may fairly estimate that the objects circulating free under the franking privilege amount to more than 100 millions, weigh 7 million kilos, and represent 56 millions of francs (£2,240,000) postage.

Upon this mass of objects transported gratis, what is the proportion of abuse, that is to say, communications circulating free without having any right to immunity, or books and prints which might have been sent by the railways or other public conveyances?—it is impossible to determine with precision; but by the testimony of the most experienced agents, one may estimate the matter improperly sent as one half of the total quantity, and this without the least exaggeration. It must furthermore be borne in mind that this mass of objects carried free is a permanent cause of trouble and embarrassment in the transport of letters, the carriage of which forms the first and most important service of the postal administration.

This servitude of the adminstration is the more vexatious in view of the fact that the foreign post-offices are all freeing themselves. The franking privilege has ceased to exist in England and in Spain; in the first-named country since 1840, in the second since 1851. In Prussia, Belgium, and Italy, it is on about the same level as in France, but its use is protected by severe and rigorous regulations, applied in order to prevent its abuse.

Since the inquiry of 1862, the government has referred the question of the revision of the franchise laws to the financial section of the *Conseil d'Etat*, and the postal administration has submitted the project of a complete reform, copied from the English and French reforms; that is to say, that it proposes to abolish entirely the franking privilege, and to open a fictitious account for each ministerial department, to be submitted annually to the *Corps Legislatif*, but the project called forth so much opposition from different officials interested in the question, that the project had to be—if not abandoned, at least laid aside for the present.

THE PALL MALL GAZETTE ON THE HALFPENNY POSTAGE QUESTION.

The deputation which waited on the Postmaster-General on Saturday, to press for a reduction of the rate of inland postage on newspapers and other printed matter, probably obtained as much satisfaction as they expected. It has been understood for some time that the post-office authorities had all but decided upon a halfpenny postage, when financial difficulties suddenly compelled the postponement of the project. It is to be hoped that before Lord Hartington makes his promised statement to-morrow,* these difficulties may be found, on reconsideration, to be by no means so formidable as has been supposed. There are many occasions when we are determined in our course by relative rather than by absolute considerations. We are influenced more by the proportion which a circumstance, if susceptible of being expressed numerically, bears to our habits and

* The promised statement has not yet been made.—Ed.

experience than by its positive force. When it cost 10d. or 1s. for the postage of a single letter to Scotland, 2d. for the performance of a like service within the metropolitan boundary was cheerfully paid. So with newspapers. When a daily journal could not be purchased for less than 6d. or 8d. the expenditure of an additional penny or so, which franked it to any part of the United Kingdom, was accepted as a boon. If we look at the post-office statistics recently published we find that letters, newspapers, books, and patterns, supplied in 1868 the greater part of the revenue of the post office. The inland business of 1868 may be briefly tabulated. Postage on—

1. 752,000,000 inland letters	£3,438,000
2. 55,000,000 inland newspapers and book-packets	409,000
3. 3,000,000 inland patterns	41,000
Total . . .	£3,888,000

The letters which bore a single penny stamp yielded no less than £2,983,000—call it three millions sterling, as easy to remember. The one penny per letter brought in 87 per cent. of these, the first source of revenue. We all take more or less trouble that our letters shall be conveyed for the one penny; we weigh them, we clip them, or write upon a very thin paper; anything to avoid *doubling* the postage. The advantages accorded to the transmission of newspapers and printed matter by the post office have been in no proportion to the benefits which Sir Rowland Hill's scheme has bestowed upon ordinary correspondence. The penny stamp on newspapers, &c., produced £158,000, only 39 per cent., or much under *half* the ratio which it supplies when used for letters. Nor is the reason far to seek. Though a penny is a small coin for delivering at the door of any house in the kingdom a packet which touches upon a quarter of a pound, yet the proportion which it at the present day holds to the first cost of a daily paper is enormous, ranging from 50 to 100 per cent. This is no hardship upon towns furnished with railways; but it is detrimental to that half of the people who do not reside in towns, and who in this matter deserve some sympathy even from a Chancellor of the Exchequer.

PAPERS FOR BEGINNERS.

BY OVERY TAYLOR.

III.—*On the commencement of a Collection.*

Continuing the consideration of this point, and having now discussed the manner in which adhesives and envelopes should be mounted, perhaps it may not be out of place to offer some suggestions as to the obtaining of stamps. As I have already observed, those who have none in hand would do best to get a few packets of used specimens from some respectable dealer to commence with, and too much stress cannot be laid on the necessity for choosing one of known integrity, as otherwise the beginner will be thoroughly victimised, and will start with a collection of worthless forgeries. It would be invidious to mention names, but I may at any rate be permitted to warn those to whom these remarks are addressed against having anything to do with certain Scotch firms, and, generally speaking, to distrust the class of *small* advertisers in the boys' magazines.

A commencement once made, a good deal may be done by way of exchange, and also by judiciously laying friends under contribution; and beginners should have the worldly wisdom to accept gratefully the (apparently) most insignificant donations, since the giver is thereby propitiated, and disposed to contribute further as opportunity offers, and it may not unfrequently happen that the seemingly valueless stamp turns out to be a scarce variety. At best, however, it will not do to rely much upon friends, or the profits of exchanges; there must be a certain though gradual outlay, if the formation of a reasonably complete collection is the beginner's aim. Then comes the question, how to get the fullest return for money spent. The wisest plan to secure this is to obtain the catalogues of the four or five principal dealers; compare them together, and buy from each one those stamps which he sells cheaper than do the others. Give old issues the preference, to a certain extent, over new, but try to secure the low values of new emissions within a few months after their appearance, as no small proportion of newly-issued stamps are withdrawn after a short currency, and from the very fact that they were in use

during only a brief period, they become rare very soon after their withdrawal, and especially used specimens. Sometimes it may happen that one pays relatively a rather high price, but ample compensation for this is afforded in the satisfaction which is derived from having bought many others at a price far below that at which they are afterwards sold.

Collectors whose resources are limited, and of course amongst these must be classed the young collectors, will do well to buy the cheapest stamps first, progressively exhausting the list of those at a penny, twopence, and so on. By doing this they will soon make a good show, become acquainted with a large number of designs and series, and will see better what remains wanting. The ultimate limit of price must be decided by each one according to the amount of disposable spare cash, but to all except those who can really command "plenty of money," there must always remain a certain number of costly stamps practically unattainable, and for this the collector must make up his mind. One advantage, by the way, in the after adoption of a blank album is, that each collector will be able to arrange his possessions so as to leave room only for such absent varieties as he knows it to be within his power to obtain when the opportunity offers. Perhaps against this it may be urged that everyone hopes by some lucky chance to be able to secure the very rarest varieties; true, but should that chance occur, who would grudge the trouble of making such little re-arrangement as would give the welcome guest its proper place.

These preliminaries having received due attention, it is now the writer's duty to commence that detailed review of each country's emissions which was projected as the prime object of these papers, and before doing so he solicits from such more experienced philatelists as may do him the honour to follow him, their lenient consideration for any sins of omission or commission which they may discover in the course of the following descriptions, and likewise begs to assure them that he shall be grateful to receive their corrections.

NEWLY-ISSUED OR INEDITED STAMPS.

Koorshedjah. — A novelty from an Indian principality is such a rare, and we may say almost unprecedented, occurrence, that it requires only to be mentioned to become famous. This particular—shall we say *bright* particular?—impression has lain untouched for two years in the celebrated Ph. collection, and was first described a couple of months back by our Brighton contemporary; since which the owner has kindly permitted it to be engraved, and we have now the pleasure of presenting the type to our readers. We are not sorry that we have delayed referring to this stamp until in a position to give an illustration of it, as no written description alone could give any clear idea of the design. It appears that it has been (and probably still is) in use in the territories of the Nawab of Koorshedjah, and its value is conjectured to be 1 anna—a conjecture, no doubt, founded on the comet-like dash in the centre, resembling that which is found on the 1 anna Cashmere. It is printed in black, by hand, from a wood-block, and impressed on the letter at the post-office. Impressions are known on pale green, yellowish white, and lilac laid paper. The journal in which the design was first noticed states positively that the design consists simply of the Nawab's signature, on a ground of running lines, but is this an ascertained fact?



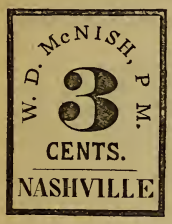
Russia. — The 5 kopec envelope for St. Petersburg, issued only six months since, has already been withdrawn in favour of the annexed type, which differs but little from it in design. We should be curious to know the reason for this abrupt suppression; probably the die has received some injury, which has placed it *hors de service*. The colours of the new comer are pale and bright carmine, and it has been struck on envelopes of four different sizes



The Deccan. — From our contemporary,

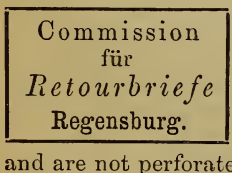
The Philatelist, we quote the following description of a stamp prepared by Messrs. De La Rue & Co., for the Nizam or Soubah of the Deccan: "Rectangular oblong, $1\frac{3}{20}$ inch by 8-tenths. Indian characters over a running pattern of florets, the outer space being a ground of engine-turned design. Printed in blackish green, and perforated; value, $\frac{3}{4}$ of an anna." We have not yet seen one of these stamps, and cannot say whether they are yet in use or not.

Confederate States.—Rather late in the day, a new Confederate local turns up, of which we here give the type. Like the Koorshedjah, it is in the Ph. collection. It carries its own "intent and purpose" so clearly written on its face, that we need only add, to complete the description, that it is impressed in red on white paper. It was in the collection of Mr. F. Trifet, of Boston, U. S., from whom it came to its present possessor.



Bavaria.—A pair of returned-letter stamps have been discovered by M. Moens—one, resembling the well-known type, for Spires; the other, conspicuous for its simplicity, for Regensburg (or Ratisbon). The genuineness of this latter is tacitly guaranteed by its introducer, and really, although he is satirical on those who are doubtful about accepting it, some guarantee is needed. These new arrivals, the date of whose emission is unknown, are both printed black on white, and are not perforated.





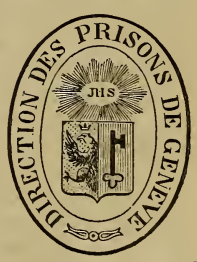
Sarawak. — Our Brighton contemporary states that it has received official intimation that the solitary stamp in use will shortly be withdrawn from circulation. Be this as it may, we observe that the Sarawak stamps are coming over more freely than at first. English letters are sent viâ Singapore, and bear a Sarawak stamp, together with one or more of the Straits Settlements values. Does this indicate that the local stamp prepays the postage from Sarawak to Singapore, or merely that all letters passing through the Sarawak post-office, whatever their destination, must be provided with the 3-cent stamp, and that the postage to Singapore is paid in money when the letters are handed to the post-office?

Norway. — *Bergen.* — The local post has made a change in the design of its solitary stamp—a change which may be pronounced an improvement on the preceding type, though if it be only by such very gradual steps that the town post-office aims at arriving at perfection, or even beauty of device, we may wait long enough for a stamp possessing any greater merit than that of clearness of inscription. The colour of the new 2 skilling is bright vermilion, on white paper.



Great Britain. — Recently a plan has been adopted, which is said to have been commended by the authorities, for checking the theft of postage stamps. It consists in perforating the stamps with the initials of the owner, and a person advertises in the *Times* a machine for effecting the operation. This is better than the old method of printing the name on the back, as the appearance of the face is altered, and detection is thus facilitated.

Switzerland.—The Genevese authorities seem to be all pretty well provided with official frank stamps, even the director of prisons having a special one for himself, of which annexed is the type. The impression is in blue, and is struck on the left upper corner of an envelope. The arms, it will be seen, are those of the canton, and in no other stamp does the *key* appear so appropriately as on this one.



Natal.—We have just seen a postmarked copy of the current sixpence printed in rose, of the same shade as the 4d. Bahamas, and

not bearing the surcharged inscription. Is this a postal or not? A short time since one of our contemporaries chronicled an orange penny, but *Le Timbre-Poste* says that the penny stamp printed in this colour is used as a fiscal; and assuming this to be correct, may not the rose sixpence be used for the same purpose, and its employment for postage a mere accident. Certainly it seems unlikely that the authorities, after issuing the current type surcharged with the word POSTAGE for temporary use, pending the arrival of the new design, should have this type reprinted for postal use without the extra inscription. Most probably, at the time the authorities ordered that only stamps bearing the word POSTAGE across the face should be used for letters, they had the existing type (which had previously been used indifferently for postal and fiscal purposes) reprinted in different colours, to serve as fiscal stamps, and thus prevent the confusion which would have otherwise arisen.*

Somewhat to our surprise, we found, on looking over our own Natal stamps, we had a sixpence lilac stamped 10D. across the face, and almost in the same position as in the threepence sent to us by a correspondent. Our copy has been in our possession at least a couple of years, is very clean, and otherwise unobliterated.

South African Republic.—There was recently noticed in *The Philatelist* an emission of envelopes for this country, which, if we are rightly informed, consisted of only 30 copies—surely the smallest number of which a genuine issue has ever been composed. The design—if one can dignify it with the name—is handstamped to the right of the envelope, and is nothing more than a simple ring, with the word POTCHEFSTROOM, and the initials Z.A.R., running round its inner edge, enclosing G. P. K. and the date, 1869. The impression is in black. A new and slightly different type was to be issued at the beginning of the present year, smaller, and printed either in black or blue. "We have specimens of two," says our contemporary, "bearing, severally, POTCHEFSTROOM and RUSTENBURG, with ZUID (*Afrika*) within the circle, Z. A. R. being substituted for the initials employed over the date in the earlier emissions." Their use is said to be to prepay the postage from the Cape to the Transvaal territory, and *vice versâ*, but we do not see why a Transvaal stamp should be required to pay postage *to* the republic.

Canada.—One of our readers observing from a reply we made to a correspondent in the last October number, that we were in doubt as to whether the 12d. was ever actually used, has been good enough to write the Deputy Postmaster-general on the subject, and has obtained from him the following reply:—

Ottawa, 28th October, 1869.

Dear Sir,—In reply to your note of the 26th inst., let me say that the twelvepenny postage stamps were issued to the public in 1851, but did not find favour, and so few were sold—only a few hundred altogether in three or four years—that they ceased to be issued in 1855.

I am, dear Sir, yours very faithfully,
W. A. SMYTH.

W. P. Balch, Esq., M.A.,
Bishop's College, Lennoxville.

This is satisfactorily conclusive as to the emission of the stamp in question; but if even only a few hundreds were used, we are surprised that no used copies turn up. Were they used otherwise than for postage? Mr. Philbrick informs us that no unused copy of the stamp was ever seen by him, nor does he know of its existence. Plenty of proofs on India paper, &c., exist, but the paper of the stamp was laid and thin, of a hard texture.

The one-cent value has been issued of the small type—colour, orange.

South Australia.—A correspondent sends us a curious variety of the tenpence. The sheet of which his stamp formed one must have been put wrong end first into the press, and in consequence the word TENPENCE appears above the head, and upside down, thus effacing the words SOUTH AUSTRALIA. This stamp takes rank with the Italian errors.

Belgium. — The vacillating authorities have, it appears, re-resolved on issuing a *chiffre-taxe* stamp, and a M. Doms is said to be preparing a design vastly superior to that whose existence was prematurely cut short. The appearance of the further instalment of the new series, promised for the 1st ult., has been postponed.

* *Le Timbrophile*, we find, confirms our view, and states that the shilling stamp has also appeared printed in violet.—Ed.

United States.—We quote from *Mason's Magazine* the statement, that "a new three-cent stamp for this government has been issued. It has the profile of Washington in the centre, in an oval, and is the prettiest and best stamp the United States government has ever issued."

Holland.—It is reported that two unpaid-letter stamps are to be issued, bearing for design a large figure in the centre, indicating the value. The impression is to be in black on coloured paper, and the denominations will be 5 cent blue, 10 cent orange.

Honduras.—Another correspondent sends us a pink 2 reales, which he received on a letter direct from Amapala. After this, the most sceptical can hardly maintain their objections to the genuineness of the Honduras stamps.

Turkey.—Two more envelopes have been issued—

3 piastres orange.
6 ,, violet.

The rumoured $1\frac{1}{2}$ piastre brown is also in existence.

Nicaragua.—The normal hue of the 25 c. is said to be *bright green*. In this case the sun and air, combined, must have had a wonderful effect on the colour of all those that have been sent over to this country.

Peru.—It is said that a new series of stamps for this country is now being prepared by the National Bank-Note Company.

Dutch Indies.—We are informed that the 10 c. of the new type will not be issued until the exhaustion of the stock of the old type.

Ceylon.—We have just received specimens of the shilling printed a rich deep mauve, on the CC. and crown-watermarked paper.

Cuba.—The following are the colours of three of the new stamps—5 c. blue, 10 c. green, 20 c. brown.

Egypt.—The 10 paras is now printed in a very bright mauve, contrasting strongly with its previous hue.

Facilitating Business.—At the post-offices in some of the principal towns in Italy, rooms have been opened where materials for writing, including a sheet of note paper and envelope, are supplied for the uniform charge of one penny, to the very great convenience of foreigners and other persons receiving at the post-office letters to which an immediate answer is required.—*The Times.*

CONCERNING REPRINTS.

(*Continued from Vol. vii., Page* 120.)

Natal.—The first series for this colony has been both reprinted and forged. For these we may repeat the very simple test which applies to other great rarities; an unused copy is for the great majority of collectors either a reprint or a counterfeit. Unused originals of all, except perhaps the three-pence, are of extreme rarity, and of the nine-pence or shilling the collector who has an authentic fragment may esteem himself fortunate. To give such positive distinguishing points between the reprints and forgeries respectively and the originals as would enable collectors to decide for themselves as to the value of the specimens which they possess, or which may be offered to them, is nearly impossible. The counterfeits are so far exact that comparison with originals or reprints is required to decide their character. If, however, a collector possess two stamps of the same value, both unused and closely resembling each other in colour, the more finely-engraved of the two, on which the details show more plainly, and the one which also has the *smaller crown*, is the counterfeit, the other the reprint; but how, it may be objected, if both are identical in every respect—then reference must be made to some competent authority. As originals of the 9d. and 1s. are practically unattainable, we for our own part consider acceptance of authentic reprints the best course to adopt. We may add that beside the fine counterfeit referred to there is in existence a coarser one, mentioned in our fourth volume (p. 13), in which the device is *indented*, so that it appears *sunk*, instead of in *relief*. This there is no danger of confounding with the reprints.

Ile de la Reunion.—The pair of stamps in use in this island, from 1852 to 1860, are of at least equal, if not greater rarity (if that be possible), than the 9d. of Natal. They were little used when in circulation, prepayment not being obligatory, and when they were withdrawn from circulation the shortsighted officials



burnt all the stamps that were left, and thus did themselves out of a small fortune, and deprived philatelists of the pleasure of possessing originals. They kept the plates, it is true, and these have been printed from, but the reprints cannot have brought them in very much, as they have never been sold at a high price, and having been introduced openly to collectors under the auspices of so honourable a dealer as M. Moens, no attempt has been made to pass them off as originals. For the guidance of our readers we reproduce our engravings of these stamps; specimens which do not conform to them in design are spurious; specimens which do conform to them are reprints. These latter differ only from the originals in being on a dull ordinary paper, the originals being on paper slightly glazed.



No other African stamps having been reprinted, we pass to Oceania.

Lucon.—Our readers have no doubt perused with interest the paper relating to the (probable) reprinting of two of the Luçon stamps—the 5 c. "correos interior" "four-type" and its "one-type" successor, and the discussion being still in progress it is hardly necessary for us to recapitulate the arguments used to prove the fact of reimpression. The little we ourselves have to add will be found below; our chief business is with the first series—with inscription CORREOS 1854 Y 55. As to the stamps of this series, the freedom with which, for the last three or four years, they have been offered for sale, would seem at first sight to point to a reprint, but other circumstances tend to nullify this supposition, and incline us to believe that these copies really formed part of the surplus stock. In the first place, the colours are in accord with those of the originals, as is also the paper; the gum alone looks somewhat suspiciously new and unwrinkled. In the second place, had a reprint taken place we do not see why it should not have embraced all the stamps of the first two types; yet in fact, while the 10 c. lake-red, 1 rl. slate-blue, 2 rls. olive-green (head in oval), and the 5 c. orange (head in circle), have become comparatively common, the 5 cuartos orange and vermilion, the 10 c. rose, and the 1 rl. bright blue (head in oval), and the 5 c. bright vermilion and 10 c. lilac (head in circle), continue to be as scarce as ever. Had there been a reprint, the first object of the reprinters would have been to make a harvest by the sale of those varieties which have always been the most difficult to get. In point of fact, only the values which were most in request when the series was in circulation—as the comparative commonness of postmarked copies proves—are offered unused, and of these a surplus stock might well remain.

Here we may add, as our contribution towards the discussion of the contested 5 c. "correos interior," that the supposition that they also are derived from a surplus supply is rendered doubtful by the mere fact that they are only just brought forward. We well remember the period when first the unused copies of the early series (CORREOS 1854-55) were offered for sale—it is now between three and four years ago at least, and they were accompanied by copies of the "correos interior" stamps of 1864, 1 rl. deep violet, 2 rls. deep blue, and of the lithographed 1 rl. dull green (inscribed CORREOS only), but not by any 5 c. stamps, and if these latter, equally with the other, are, to use a draper's term, "remnants," why were they not offered at the same time as the others? The idea that a number of sheets have been "discovered" at this length of time is quite untenable, assertions to that effect have had their day, and were they put forth, would only serve as evidence of reprinting.

In the current number of *Le Timbrophile*, Dr. Magnus argues that it is by no means an assured fact that the plates and stones which served for the impression of the old stamps were all swallowed up or destroyed at the same time as the Manilla post-office, the matrices at least may have remained; once ascertain that such is the case, and the reprinting of the stamps is no longer a matter of doubt. As it is, the balance of probability is greatly in favour of the supposition that the copies of these 5 c. "correos interior" are no more than reprints.

REVIEWS OF POSTAL PUBLICATIONS.

Supplément au Guide Manuel du Collectionneur. Quatrième Edition. Description de 1170 *nouveaux timbres-postes émis du* 1*er Janvier*, 1868, *au mois de Fevrier*, 1870. Paris: Pierre Mahé.

This work is given as a *prime* by M. Mahé to the subscribers to *Le Timbrophile*, and sold by him to every one else at 50 centimes. It is got up with remarkable neatness, the typographical part being perfect, and as it is printed on very tough, thick paper, it will stand pretty frequent reference without tearing.

From the title it would seem that 1170 stamps were issued in the twenty-four months which elapsed between January, 1868, and February, 1870, but this is hardly correct, as some stamps are inserted in anticipation of their issue, and several series already catalogued in the *Guide Manuel* are recapitulated with the addition of price. Among the stamps not yet out which are included, we may mention the Angola series, of which M. Mahé gives the values "on spec.," and the 6 centimes of Belgium, whose appearance is again deferred.

One or two of the stamps named are decided novelties, which we do not recollect having seen noticed in *Le Timbrophile* itself; thus, for instance, we find the following description of a mythical Bolivian series:—

1866. Three mountains surmounted by a Phrygian bonnet, in a pearled oval. Coloured impression. Red-brown; dark green. No value indicated.

If the existence of these stamps be authenticated, their history is worth relating at length; if not, why do they find place in a professed guide?

Several avowedly counterfeit stamps are catalogued; stamps by which, as we understand it, the post-office officials were themselves deceived. At the head of these, of course, come the Spanish with three values, the 4 c. of 1864, the 20 c. d'esco. of 1866, and the 12 c. orange of 1869, and these form, probably, not a tithe of the forgeries which have passed current in Spain. Besides these there are counterfeits of the entire trinacria series of Naples, though, as M. Mahé only puts a price against two of the values, the 2 and 10 gr., we presume the others were either "caught in the act," or were but very little used.

Some "suspicious characters" are permitted by M Mahé to occupy a place in his list without any notice being given of the doubts which are felt concerning them. The Leitmeritz series are thus described and priced, and so also are the issues of the Dresden Express Company, though no collector who cares for his album would damage its appearance by inserting in it such transparent humbugs. The Fernando Po stamp, first noticed by M. Moens in 1868, but never authenticated, is also mentioned by M. Mahé without any reservation; and to conclude our criticism, two 10 c. Confederate States, head of Davis, perforated, which it certainly would require strong evidence to prove genuine.

The Postman's Knock. St. John, New Brunswick: The Excelsior Stamp Association.

In the opening article the editor solemnly announces that Providence has permitted him to come back from the "Valley and the Shadow of Death!" to greet his readers again. This announcement, both in tone and wording, is exquisitely droll. Has the editor, we may naturally ask, been allowed to return expressly for the purpose of greeting his readers? In other words, has he been resuscitated for the purpose of, in his turn, renewing the existence of the *Postman's Knock*, of which the farewell number was issued, as he states, to a "sorrowing philatelic public," in November, 1867? Why, if this be not the case, did our contemporary choose such peculiar phrases to herald his return to the ranks—phrases which, viewed in connection with their subject, must inevitably suggest a train of ludicrous ideas and associations?—why, if a metaphor may be permitted, did he not moderate his voice to the size of his room?

Well, we will not blame him for being unintentionally funny, and in all seriousness we wish him every success, for to our knowledge the editor is an honest and upright collector, and his magazine itself bids fair to be a useful one as time goes on. A proof of the spirit in which it is conducted is given in the demand for investigation into

the history of the Honduras stamps, which unquestionably require to be better known. In our own pages, at least one of our contributors has from time to time contested the claims of the Honduras stamps to be considered as genuine, and pointed out the utter want of anything like conclusive information about their employment. Lately, a certain amount of proof of their circulation has been produced, in the shape of pen-marked copies, for the arrival of which on letters from the country we have the word of an honest dealer. Confirmation of this fact has also been received, we believe, at San Francisco, but something more is required to settle the position of these stamps.

Under the heading, "Californian Locals," a stamp is described which is not included in Mr. Pemberton's list.

> The stamp in question is rectangular, having for its centre the head of Haskell, the manager of the concern. Above and below the head are the words ADAMS & CO.'s EXPRESS; and in each of the four corners, as well as on either side of the head, is the value—25 CENTS. This stamp was used to prepay letters between this city and New York, and has long since been out of use. I know of but three in existence, and all are in the hands of collectors here.

This is the description given by Mr. J. H. Applegate, jun., of San Francisco, and quoted by the *Postman's Knock*, which believes that the stamp referred to was the first ever in actual service in California.

The remaining contents of the number before us are of no great interest; the "Dark Sayings of the Timbrophilic Minstrels," as might perhaps be expected from their nature, do not come out very *clearly*; and the "puff" paragraph, respecting another stamp-dealing firm, is of no interest. This paper is sent gratis to any part of America, but to Europe only in consideration of 3s. per annum, in advance! Such being the conditions, we cannot venture to predict for it a wide circulation on this side of the water, but it will be strange indeed if it does not achieve success in America.

POSTAL CHIT-CHAT.

The Roman law required that bread should be printed or stamped with what may be called a trade-mark, indicating its composition. Examples of this practice have been found in excavating the buried city of Herculaneum.

The Force of Habit.—In most of the principal Italian towns there are two or more windows for the delivery of letters at the *poste-restante* offices—one, say, for letters addressed to persons whose names begin with any letter from A to L; the other, for letters from M to Z. A gentleman who had been several times for his letters to the A—L window, and thought the official had had sufficient time to learn his name, went one day and inquired familiarly, "Any letters for *Me?*" "Next window, sir," was the reply of the clerk, who recognised in the word "me" only the *name* of the applicant.

Post-office Statistics.—We learn from a parliamentary return that the estimated number of inland letters posted in the United Kingdom in 1869 was 772,000,000 (exclusive of official correspondence), realising £3,438,183 in postage. It shows that the loss that would be produced if, on all letters reaching 2 oz. and not exceeding 16 oz., the charge did not exceed 4d., and if all others exceeding 16 oz. were charged at the book-post rate, should there be no increase in the number transmitted, would be £65,247, Should the reduction lead to double the number transmitted, the gain would be £1,440; if treble the number were transmitted, the gain would be £68,127. No fewer than 55,000,000 newspapers and book packages passed through the post in 1869, producing £408,792.

Halfpenny Postage.—The postmaster-general received, on the 12th ult., a deputation of gentlemen who are favourable to the adoption of a halfpenny rate of postage on printed matter weighing not more than two ounces, and to the adoption of the same rate on newspapers. In replying to the deputation, the Marquis of Hartington had very little doubt that the department over which he presides would be equal to the increased work, but he was not so confident that the rates proposed would be remunerative. At present he had no statistics of such a character that would enable him to put the matter in a promising light before the chancellor of the exchequer. He would, however, take the opinion of the government on the subject, and hoped shortly to be able to make a statement upon it in the house.—*The Pall Mall Gazette.*

Fraud by a Pump.—At the meeting of the Marylebone vestry yesterday a letter was received from the authorities of the western division of the post-office, stating that an old disused pump in Newman street, Oxford street, had been mistaken by some persons for a pillar letter-box, and several letters had been "posted" through the slit left by the removal of the handle. A request was added that the pump might be removed. A short time ago a similar mistake, on a more extensive scale, was discovered, with respect to an old pump in New street, Dorset square. Numerous complaints had been made from that district of the loss of letters, and the matter remained a mystery, until the pump was examined for other purposes, when it was discovered that 27 letters had been posted in it. The vestry yesterday ordered the removal of the deceptive pump-case.—*The Times.*

An Illusion dispelled.—We noticed, some months ago, a paragraph in some Berlin papers to the effect that the Chinese valued old postage stamps so highly that missionaries were able to purchase little children with them. Great had been the sensation produced by the announcement. Boys and girls saw, in imagination, small Chinese hands stretched out to them, and heard youthful voices praying them to come to the rescue with as many postage stamps as they could procure. Instantly, both in Berlin and throughout the provinces, there arose a sort of postage-stamp mania. Fathers and mothers, uncles and aunts, friends and acquaintances, were entreated not to destroy what might prove of so much service: a single postage stamp might do something towards

the purchase, and consequent education and conversion, of at least one little Chinaman. How could such pathetic appeals be resisted! Postage stamps came pouring in by the thousand. It seemed as if half the youthful population of China stood a fair chance of being bought up by eager young philanthropists of Prussia. Alas for the cruel destiny which rules human affairs! It now begins to be whispered abroad that the Chinese don't, after all, care so very much for old stamps, or, at least, are not so willing as had been supposed to give up the young folks to the missionaries.—*Globe.*

Macadam and the Mailroad.—By degrees Mr. Macadam so far satisfied his fellow-magistrates and road-trustees of the excellence of his plan, that the London road out of Bristol, as far as their authority extended, was repaired altogether under his direction. The success corresponded to the anticipation. Thus it chanced that one day the Postmaster-general, on looking over the winter programme for the timing of the mail, which differed materially from that arranged for the summer, saw that there was a stage for which no extra allowance was made. "How is this?" said his lordship, "you have allowed no further time for the stage into Bristol?" "No, my lord," was the reply, "the mail always goes as fast over that stage in winter as in summer." The Postmaster-general asked no further questions, none, at least, that elicited any explanation of so anomalous a fact, but he ordered his carriage, and made the best of his way to Bristol. Stopping at the post-house which bounded the trust administered by Mr. Macadam, he walked over the ground, and then, without saying anything further, drove back again to town. Then he wrote for the amateur commissioner to come up to him. "I want you to take the superintendence of all the mailroads of the kingdom," said the Postmaster-general. Mr. Macadam hesitated, and wrote to his sons, then making independent starts in life, to come to his assistance. The young men, who had generally their good-humoured jokes ready to pass on their father's hobby, now thought that the old gentlemen was out of his senses. What! give up the actual business of life, and set to work at carrying out their father's road-making fancies all over England! Reflection, however, and consultation brought the younger men over to the views of the elder. The offer of the Postmaster-general was accepted, and when this account was given by Sir James, the income of that gentleman from the various trusts, which paid him £50 per annum each, was about £10,000 a year.—*Recollections of English Engineers.*

Renovation of used Postage Stamps.—In the last report he presented to Congress, the American Commissioner of Inland Revenue called attention to the relatively low revenue derived from stamps—a result which he ascribed to the fraudulent second use of them after cancellation. It seems that in the United States, the cleansing and renovating of spoiled stamps proceeds on system, to an enormous extent; the temptation to the kind of fraud being no doubt enhanced by the circumstance, that postage stamps, on the other side of the Atlantic, perform many of the functions of currency. But such frauds are by no means peculiar to the States, and there is good reason to fear that, among ourselves, postage stamps, and perhaps the stamps for bills and receipts as well, are often used again; the stamps which are supposed to be obliterated being cleaned by a very simple process so thoroughly as to defy detection, and so passed over and over again. The practice may not prevail so widely as to injure the revenue to a serious degree; but the fact of its existence is a danger, for it provides an ever-present temptation to those who, while not hardened criminals, are yet quite willing to turn over a dishonest penny by cheating that convenient abstraction, "Government," where the stake is small, and the risk trifling. Consequently, whether the exchequer is a loser or not, it seems advisable, in the interests of public morality, that a check should be adopted. The United States commissioner says, that no method has been pointed out free from difficulty or objections. Possibly not; but there, as here, it is a choice of evils; and surely practical science is not so far behind the genius of deception that it cannot at least greatly limit the opportunities for fraud, if it does not completely counteract the evil. What is wanted is a plan by which, either through perforation, indenting, or tinting, the stamp may be so thoroughly spoiled that the labour of renovating it must exceed the value of the restored article. We have no desire to give publicity to processes, either of cleansing used stamps, or of preventing them from being used a second time. It is for the authorities who know the danger to ascertain and introduce a system of prevention.—*Daily Telegraph.*

CORRESPONDENCE.

THE STAMPS OF ST. LOUIS.

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

Sir,—In the current number of *Le Timbrophile* M. Albis complains I impute to him an imperfect acquaintance with the English language. In closing the correspondence on my part, I hope he will understand me when I say, assertion is not proof, neither does boldness in statement, nor persistence in repeating it, establish its claims to be deemed truth.

I am, Sir, yours faithfully,

Temple. FRED. A. PHILBRICK.

A VARIETY OF THE 20 LEPTA GRECIAN.

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

Dear Sir,—Whilst the discussion is going on about the 80 lepta Greece, it may be interesting to mention that I have a 20 lepta Athens printed, but with 80 on the back. It is not a 20 printed on paper previously prepared for the 80, for the figures behind are in blue, showing that the wrong plate had been taken when the back of the stamps were printed. I have not seen the error noticed before, though one whole sheet must have been issued at least. I got the stamp a year or two ago from a collection formed at St. John's, New Brunswick.

Hartlepool. JAS. J. WOODS.

THE INSCRIPTION ON THE RUSSIAN LOCAL POSTAGE STAMPS.

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

Dear Sir,—I find that the printers have made some slight mistakes in the setting-up of the type of my letters to you on the above subject, which appeared in the last month's issue. By so doing they have made parts read senselessly. For instance, taking the inquiry first,—(No. 3.) The fifth letter of the first word should have been an English k, and the second letter of the same word should have been e instead of e. No. 3 of reply: the second letter of the first Russian word on the second line should be e, and not e, as printed; and in the *resumé*, the fifth word should have had the cursive e instead of the e for the second letter.

Yours truly,

W. E. HAYNS.

London. *Hon. Sec.* Philatelic Society.

THE COLOUR OF THE LAST ISSUE OF FIVE CENTS BOLIVIA, EAGLE SERIES.

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

Dear Sir,—Illness alone has prevented me from sending you the promised results of my investigations into the 5 c. Eagle series of Bolivia, but M. Albis' letter to the last *Timbrophile*, requires a few words of reply at once.

First.—M. Albis states, in reply to my remarks in your February number, that the later 5 c. are violet, and not lilac. Both Moens and Mahé have sold several of the disputed shades, and call them,

Mahé — 5 c. *lilas-bleu.*
„ 5 c. *lie-de-vin.*
Moens—5 c. *lilas pâle.*

So that their decision is for lilac and not violet. For my own part, I most emphatically repeat my former statement as to the shades of lilac *and* violet.

Second.—As the three shades I described were actually before me when I wrote, and as M. Albis can see them any time that he likes to communicate with me, when he has done so, I trust he will recant this his last statement that their colour is violet, but *not* lilac, for I say that both exist.

Third.—Mons. Albis says, "*Mr. Pemberton me traite d'insense*,"—*i.e.*, calls me mad. This I can safely deny. I used the word nonsense *(absurdité)*, but to say that a person talks nonsense, or utters an absurdity, is not *traiter d'insensé*, and this is quite a misapprehension of my meaning.

Yours faithfully,

Birmingham. EDWARD L. PEMBERTON.

ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS.

Mr. E., Liverpool.—We are obliged for your notice of the new 3 c. Canadian.

R.B.T.—The 3 cent St. Thomas, with brown gum, was the earliest issue.

Emma, Birmingham.—The 3 centesimi unperforated does exist in two shades—grey, and a kind of dull lilac.

L. C.—We have not yet seen the 1 centavo Nicaragua, and have no certain proof that it has been issued.

W. P. B., Lennoxville.—Thanks for your communication respecting the 12d. Canadian, of which we make use, after a long delay caused by pressure of matter.

A Collector calls attention to the rogueries of some dealers, who shall be nameless for the present, in selling packets of forged stamps. We intend buying a packet or two ourselves, and shall give the names of the vendors, and a list of the forged stamps we find in their packets.

Well-Wisher.—The following are the addresses of the publishers of the two principal stamp magazines in the United States.—*American Stamp-Mercury and Numismatist*, F. Trifet & Co., 20, State street, Boston, Mass.; *The American Journal of Philately*, J. W. Scott & Co., 34, Liberty street, New York.

A. R., Plaistow.—We are obliged to you for a sight of the English stamps with perforated letters, and inscriptions on the back, and you will observe that we notice them in another part, but as they are merely put by private individuals for the prevention of theft, we hardly think they deserve being catalogued in detail.—There *is* an English post-office at Callao.—The "official paid" stamps you send are known to most collectors, and accepted by many.

Know-Nothing.—The design of the English penny envelope stamp was never struck on an adhesive label, but even you ought to be aware of the fact that the stamp may be cut out of the envelope on which it is impressed, and will pass the post if it be afterwards stuck on another.—The English with a French postmark on it must have franked a fourpenny letter posted on board the mail-boat, at Dover, or the passenger-boat at Folkestone. No doubt, French stamps on letters posted on the return boats bear the English postmark.

Inquirer, Barnstaple.—1.—The 2s. English is, we believe, more employed to frank postage to this country from foreign towns where there are branches of the British post, and letters are despatched by British mails.—2.—The Cape sixpence rect. has not been withdrawn.—3.—Your deep lilac sixpence Jamaica has been in use for a considerable time.—4.—Your ¼ gr. North German *rose* is, we believe, a chemically made variety. We remember seeing one which its author admitted was thus produced, and it was at least as thorough a deception as your specimen.

J. E. W., London.—Your 50 bani Roumanian looks rather different about the profile of the prince, but we think this is due to the excess of the red colour.—The die, too, may be rather worn.—The Roman 20 c. stamp has been changed to solferino for some time. It was noticed in *The Stamp-Collector's Magazine* as far back as June last.—The Mexican 2 reales, green on white, belongs to the first issue—1856.—The stamp No. 5 has long been known to collectors, and its authenticity has been much debated. It is said to be in use in the republic of Honduras. If, as you affirm, it was received on a letter from Amapala, this is good proof of its genuineness.—Your 6d. bronze Western Australian is not a forgery, as you suppose: it belongs to the first issue of that colony.

J. C. You are right in supposing that your first letter only reached us after our last number had gone to press.—With regard to the Mexican, we can ourselves express no decided opinion at present. It must always be borne in mind that the statement we quoted as to the almost entire identity between the genuine and the false was made not by a collector, but by a newspaper correspondent, who, even supposing he did see the stamps himself, is not likely to have had much experience in comparing them, and noting minute differences: the resemblance may be quite enough to deceive an official, but the differences may be patent to a collector.—We should not consider a 13 c. Maximilian, with the date, but without name of town, a rarity.—The handstruck "10d" on the Natal stamps can hardly, we think, have come there by accident; as you will see from our chronicle this month, another stamp has turned up similarly marked.—We refer in another part to your Cape and South Australian varieties.—Your Segna Tasse, with portions of two 8 baj. Roman at the back, is certainly curious.—Your Nos. 4, 6, 17 are all genuine, 5 is forged, 20 and 21 are reprints; the value of No. 17 is 1 peso.—We cannot explain, apart from its ordinary signification, the appearance of the word franco on your Luxembourg 30 c.—We do not know Hindoostanee, but as it is customary in India to write in ink across stamps after they have been put on the letter, in order to prevent the servants from stealing them whilst on their way to post, we imagine the inscription, whatever it may be, on your stamp was put there for that purpose.—You should put the mount about half-way down the back of your triangular Cape.—Your English 10d. oct., without thread, must, we should think, be a stamp from which the thread, with a section of the back, has been taken; we hesitate to believe it is a variety.—Please send us copies of the shaded and unshaded ½ gr. of the North German Confederation.—Your correction as to the 1 piastre Egypt is just.

THE CONFEDERATE PROVISIONALS.

BY J. W. SCOTT.

Second only in interest to the provisionals described in our January number,* are the first issues of the Confederate States; and now after years of labour, during which time we have written thousands [?] of letters to all parts of the South, asking information, we have only arrived at the conclusion that we know next to nothing concerning them; but if we should be the means of throwing some light on obscure points, and of discovering some new stamps, we shall consider ourselves amply repaid for our trouble.

The passing of the ordinance of secession by the Southern States left the postmasters of that section of the country without postage stamps with which to carry on the business of their offices. To those situated in small towns this made but little difference, but in large commercial centres it was found almost impossible to get along without stamps, more especially as the officials had always been used to this easy mode of securing the fees for the transport of letters. The government at Richmond had all they could attend to in equipping men for the approaching conflict, and had no time to spend in preparing postage stamps.

Numerous inquiries kept pouring into the postmaster-general's office for stamps which as yet had not been prepared; many of the most enterprising postmasters asking permission to prepare temporary stamps till the department could furnish them, a request which we have every reason to believe was in all cases complied with. Possibly some or all of these requests might still be found amongst the archives of the Confederate post-office now lying at Washington, and we shall take an early opportunity to search there in the hopes of getting on the track of some unknown provisionals, for there is not the least doubt but that there are dozens of these interesting stamps that have never been chronicled in the journals, or even heard of by any collector; and probably there are many priceless locals hidden away in Southern schoolboys' collections, that are thought but little of by their owners, unless possibly they may have been taken from the last letters received from a brother who died battling for the lost cause.

As it is impossible to arrive at anything like correct dates whereby to determine priority of emission, we shall describe the stamps in alphabetical order by States. It must be remarked, that there appear to be only a few distinct designs, the others being evidently copied from those prepared first by some neighbouring postmaster. Every stamp we describe is before us in our own or our friends' albums.

ALABAMA.

Greenville.—Our list commences with probably the scarcest stamp of the entire series, we never having heard of more than two. The design consists of four corner pieces, so placed as to leave a narrow space open across the centre, which is occupied with the inscription, PAID FIVE, GREENVILLE, ALA.; printed in blue on white paper. It has never before been described.

5 cents, blue.

Mobile.—The stamp or stamps issued by this city are chiefly distinguishable from their companion provisionals by a considerable degree of artistic merit, which unfortunately appears to be very deficient in most of the other series.

The design consists of the figure in a five-pointed star; the outside angles of which are filled by figures, representing Commerce, Agriculture, and the Arts; this is enclosed in a square frame, bearing the inscription, MOBILE above, POST OFFICE below, PAID on right, and CENTS on the left. The corners are occupied by an ornament composed of four ovals formed in a star.

2 cents black.

5 cents blue.

We have never seen a copy of the black, but it is generally catalogued, and, from information we have received, we believe it exists.

GEORGIA.

Athens.—We give this stamp in our list without vouching for its character; all we know concerning it is, that it was purchased, along with some Mobile and other genuine

* Those of the United States.

provisionals, from the collection of a schoolboy residing in one of the large cities of the South. The late owner had no idea of its value, and sold it for a low price; he stated that he took it off an old letter. We believe that it is genuine, and we need scarcely add, that it has never been described before.

The design is the same as the Nashville (from which it was probably copied), with the exception that it has twelve stars, The inscription reads, T. CRAWFORD, P. M., ATHENS, GA.

5 cents, purple.

Macon.—Is represented by a small-sized square stamp, printed from type, with a parallel rule border, with rounded corners; it is divided into three compartments, containing the following inscription, POST OFFICE, FIVE CENTS, MACON, GA., printed black on green.

This stamp, like most of the provisionals, is extremely scarce, and the only copy we have ever seen had lost a large piece from the corner. It was first described in *The Stamp-Collector's Magazine*, vol. iv., p. 89.

LOUISIANA.

Baton Rouge. — This label takes rank amongst the scarcest of known stamps. It is formed of printer's type and border, printed on paper with a green pattern on it, something like what is used to cover fancy boxes. The inscription reads P. O., BATON ROUGE, LA., J. McCORMICK.

5 cents carmine.

In the copy before us (which we ourselves took from off the letter it had prepaid) occurs a curious mistake; the name reads McCcormick, instead of McCormick, from which we should conclude that there must have been several copies of the design "set up," or it could not have escaped the notice of the proof-reader. There have been a number of different counterfeits of this stamp engraved, one of which is very difficult of detection; but we intend to devote a separate paper to the description of these "vermin."

The story that went the rounds of the philatelic press some time ago, about this stamp having been prepared as a sort of fraction currency, is entirely without foundation, and was probably invented by the same bright genius who manufactured the interesting romance concerning the New Orleans stamps.*

New Orleans.—There is every reason to believe that these were the first stamps issued in the Southern Confederacy; anyhow it is very certain that they became known about the first, and are decidedly the most commonly met with; in fact, they are the only stamps of the entire series—excepting, perhaps, the 2 cent Memphis—that are at all attainable but on the breaking up of some large collection.

The design consists of figure of value in centre, surrounded by PAID, CENTS, which is again encircled by NEW ORLEANS POST OFFICE, with J. L. RIDDELL above and below.

2 cents red, 2 cents blue.

5 cents brown, 5 cents brown on blue paper.

SOUTH CAROLINA.

Charleston.—The design consists of the figure 5 with CTS. below in oval, surrounded by oval band, inscribed P. O., CHARLESTON, S. C., POSTAGE PAID. The whole is enclosed in rectangular frame, formed of three lines; the figure 5 is repeated in each corner.

The American Stamp Mercury notes a 5 cent "type-set" stamp for this city, on yellow paper, but we have never seen such a one.

TENNESSEE.

Knoxville. — The design consists of the word PAID, with a dash and the figure 5, surrounded by eleven stars in oval, which is enclosed in an oval garter, inscribed C. H. CHARLTON, P. M., KNOXVILLE, TENN.; the spandrels are filled in with ornamental scroll work, and the whole is enclosed in an outer frame, composed of two lines, one thick and one thin. It was engraved on wood, and appears to have been first printed of a bright scarlet tint, which gradually turned to reddish brown. In some copies of the latter shade the die appears to be much worn. All the specimens we have yet seen are cancelled by penmarks. It has never been described in any of the journals or manuals.

We have also seen an envelope stamp purporting to have been issued by this city; but we await confirmation.† It is type-set in an

* To the effect that they were first used in 1846, and reissued under the Confederacy.

† This envelope certainly exists. A copy was recently shown before the Philatelic Society.

outer and inner circle, with an eagle for the central device. The inscription reads C. S. POSTAGE, KNOXVILLE, TENN., FIVE CENTS.

5 cents blue on yellow.

Nashville.—Same device as the Knoxville adhesive, from which it was evidently copied, that is, if the Knoxville was not copied from in it. The inscription reads, W. D. M'NISH, P. M., NASHVILLE, TENN.

5 cents purplish-red, 10 cents dark green.

Mr. Pemberton in *The Philatelist* for May, 1867, says, "All other values except the 5 cent crimson are counterfeits," but he must surely have found out his mistake ere this. For our own part we attach very little importance to the colour of a stamp, as it is liable to change after it is printed, even provided they were originally all exactly of the same shade, which, from the fact of the Confederate States being blockaded, and all kinds of printing materials being scarce, is hardly to be expected. He also remarks, "On the imitation the border is of two lines, one thick and one thin." Again he evidently is in the wrong; we cannot say what he wrote from, but in the genuine stamps the outer line is much thicker than the inner one. *The Mercury* and *The P. S. C. Hand-Book* mention a 3 cent stamp, type printed; we have one in our collection, but do not consider it genuine.

Memphis is the only city that has furnished us with two distinct types. The first consists of figure 2 in circle, with CENTS crossing the figure, which is enclosed in a solid band, containing eleven white stars; the balance of the rectangle is composed of a plaid ground, inscribed PAID above, and M. C. GALLAWAY below the circle.

2 cents, blue.

The design of the five cent is as follows: Oval of plaid groundwork, with large white figure in centre, PAID above, MEMPHIS, TENN., below.

5 cents, red.

This has also been printed on yellow envelopes.

VIRGINIA.

Petersburg.—This is set from common type border, composed of small flourishes supporting balls; this border surrounds the stamp, and runs across in three places, besides filling up all spaces not occupied with the inscription. The first space is filled with the words, PETERSBURG, VIRGINIA, in two lines; in the second is POST OFFICE; a large figure 5 occupies a square space near the centre, and the postmaster's name appears below in full—W. E. BASS, P. M. The colour is bright red, and it is printed on thick, white paper.

This was correctly described in *The Stamp-Collector's Magazine* for June, 1866. We also find it named in the *Mercury* for February, 1869, but there are two mentioned, one blue and the other black; we should like to know if the editor ever saw them.

Pleasant Shade.—This is exactly like the former, with the exception of the names and the ornament on each side of "Virginia," which in this case is omitted, and "Virginia" is printed as we have it, instead of small capitals as in the former. The postmaster's name is R. E. DAVIS.

5 cents blue on white.

This stamp was first described by Mr. Watson in his paper read before the New York Philatelic Society, June, 1868.

These are the only stamps that we have ever heard of being issued in this State. The Richmond stamps being unmitigated humbugs, we feel tempted to ask M. Marcou how he accounts for such an insignificant place as Pleasant Shade (but perhaps he will not believe in it, so say Baton Rouge) issuing a stamp, when the large city of Richmond, the capital of the Southern Confederacy, does not appear to have required one?—*The American Journal of Philately.*

THE STORY OF A SOLDIER'S LETTER.

BY PIERRE ZACCONE.

Translated from *La Poste Anecdotique et Pittoresque.*

ABOUT the year 1837 there was in garrison at Saint-Pol-sur-Ternoise, in the department of the Pas-de-Calais, an honest soldier named Goraud, who in the course of the seven years he had passed in the service had never been able to attain to the rank of corporal.

And yet he liked his occupation; but he did not know how to read or write, and as

this lack of knowledge hardly permitted of his aspiring to the marshal's *bâton*, which for a long while he believed he carried in his knapsack, he turned a melancholy glance towards the home he had quitted, and began to dream of peaceful joys in the middle of his family.

Far away, in a little-known corner of Provence, there was quite a group of dearly-loved beings, whom he had not forgotten. His mother first. Poor old woman of sixty, who several times had written him sad and tender letters, the reading of which had drawn from him many a tear. Then there was a brother, younger than he, and by the law exempted from service; this brother was married, he had a wife and children. And then, lastly, another image, a little dimmed but still existing, that of a young girl, of whom they spoke sometimes in their letters to him, and whom he remembered always.

He was attacked with home-sickness: a new idea took birth from his reveries, and thenceforth he had but one idea, one desire, one ambition—to return to his country. It was easy to do so. He had largely paid his debt to the state, had always conducted himself in such a manner as to satisfy the most exigent of his chiefs: he had but to demand his freedom, therefore, to obtain it at once. But at the very moment that he would have been successful in his efforts, and have attained the end towards which tended his every thought, a letter came from his brother, which immediately changed all his resolutions — a terrible letter, which turned the pleasures he had promised himself to sadness. It told him that his mother was ill; that disease had decimated his brother's cattle; and that, in short, misery and misfortune menaced all these beings among whom he had formed the project of living and reposing.

The poor soldier became appalled on reading it; he wept bitterly over his broken dreams, and paused a moment to think of what now remained for him to do. But his dejection did not last long: he soon regained possession of himself, and set himself to the struggle, and to his duty.

A new force, unexpected, was born from his profound filial love. The next day, then, he went to an agent, whose business lay in finding substitutes for conscripts, and some days later he received from him the sum of 1500 francs (£60) in exchange for a new engagement, which bound him to the state for seven more years. We need hardly add that that very day he sent the 1500 francs to his brother, informing him, at the same time, that he was about to start for Algeria, where his new regiment was stationed.

Three months elapsed from that time without his receiving any news from home. Still, he was not surprised at this silence; but fearing his mother might be worse, or that his brother had met with some misfortune, he decided to write to this latter a second time. He informed him what he had done, and how anxious he was, and begged him not to delay long in re-assuring him. The reply was not long in coming. His brother told him that their mother had recovered, and that he need not fear for her health. He further stated that the months that had passed had been indeed hard ones; that he had been almost ruined; and that he should perhaps be forced to quit the country; but, he added, he hoped, with the help of Providence and hard striving, to surmount these cruel strokes. As to the pretended remittance, he laconically announced he had received nothing.

This letter had a sad effect on our soldier. There reigned in it a singular tone, which was not usual with his brother; under that calculated coldness he believed he could see that at home they doubted him, and the blush of shame mounted to his face. He did not stop there. By one of those evolutions familiar to the human mind, the unhappy man passed successively from shame to scorn, from scorn to anger, and, carried still further, he got quickly from anger to suspicion. It was all quite possible. The remittance was made by an ordinary letter; its secretion would be easy, and free from danger.—and so he concluded that his brother had allowed himself to be tempted, and that he had gone so far as to appropriate the 1500 francs, which he declared he had not received.

Under the inspirations of these evil sup-

positions, he dictated a violent letter, cruel beyond measure, and posted it at once, without even allowing it to be re-read to him.

The next day he left for a distant expedition. He was sombre, discouraged, tired of life. At the first affair which presented itself he flung himself into the midst of the enemy, and for several hours sought death with a kind of frenzy. "*The bullets strike not those who go before them*," says the Arab poet. He sought death on the field of battle—it was the Cross of the Legion of Honour which he found. Alas! a month before that distinction would have sent him mad with joy, but now he had become indifferent to everything, even to glory!

But we must shorten this recital—already sufficiently long. A year after Goraud came with his regiment to serve in garrison at Paris. One day as he was coming out of the barrack, he heard his name called by the quarter-master. "Aren't you called Goraud, too?" he inquired, holding the while a printed form in his hand. "Yes, major," replied the soldier, with an involuntary start. "In that case here's a letter addressed to you. As there are several Gorauds in the regiment, it has been opened, and I see from it you are requested to call at the returned-letter office, for some affair which concerns you."

Goraud tremblingly took the letter, hurried off to the post-office, and, arrived at the returned-letter department, he found at last the explanation of the mystery which during a whole year had weighed so cruelly on his life.

The letter which he had sent to his brother was there before him, with its contents intact. The address had been written by one of his comrades, and was thus arranged:—

"*A monsieur monsieur Jacques Goraud pour remettre à madame veuve Goraud, à la Bastide.*

"CANTON.

"*de Marseille.*"

By an unfortunate freak of the little-experienced writer, the only word which was clear and readable was CANTON, and the letter had come back from China!

At that time the maritime service of the post was not organized as it is to-day; and the letter had taken six months to travel to Canton, and six months to return. Once back in France, it was sent to its real destination, but the brother, for whom it was intended, had gone away without leaving his new address, and at last the missive had found its way to the dead-letter office at Paris.

PAPERS FOR BEGINNERS.—No. IV.

BY OVERY TAYLOR.

EUROPE.

The emissions of this division of the globe far outnumber those of all the others, and although many great rarities are found among them, yet the bulk of the European stamps are easy to obtain, as it is within this continent that the means of intercommunication are the most completely wrought out, the postal rates are lowest, and the number of stamp-franked letters is consequently greatest.

In treating of the issues of European countries, an alphabetical order will be adopted, as being the easiest for reference, but will be infringed on in so far as Great Britain is concerned: this, as the country which took the initiative in postal reform, being decidedly entitled to be placed before all the others in a general review like the present.

Great Britain.

It was on the 10th of January, 1840, and after an agitation extending over more than six years, that the postage of half-ounce letters to any place within the United Kingdom was reduced to a *penny*. This reduction inaugurated a new era in the history of postal communication throughout the world, and to give it its full effect adhesive stamps became a necessity. It is generally believed, and the writer is not in a position to positively contradict the belief, that the well-known Mulready envelope was the *first* postage design issued. Yet, if we are to accept the statement made by Mr. Pearson Hill (son of Sir Rowland Hill), the black adhesive penny was issued simultaneously with the Mulready envelope: he gives the 6*th May*, 1840, as the date of emission of both.*

* See *Stamp-Collector's Magazine*, vol. iii., p. 92. Berger-Levrault makes the date of emission of the Mul-

Dr. Gray—whose assertions are of equal authority—says, "On the 6th May, 1840, the Mulready envelope was issued, for Mr. R. Hill still had his predilection for a *cover*. The public called for *adhesive stamps*, and these were AT LENGTH issued; and their general adoption by other countries * * shows the advantage of the system over the prepayment by money, or the covers originally suggested by Mr. (now Sir) Rowland Hill."

Which is right it is not for me to decide; I trust, however, that by drawing attention to the existing uncertainty, Mr. Hill, or some other competent person, may be induced to remove it by proof one way or the other. In view of the purpose of these papers, I regret being compelled to open with the discussion of a doubtful point; but it was only in making the necessary researches before commencing that I became aware of its existence, and it is of sufficient importance to be worthy of notice, and of settlement.

Without, then, expressing any opinion, I will, in obedience simply to popular tradition, take first the Mulready design. This design, were it familiar to the eyes of my readers in no other way, would be so from its monthly appearance on the wrapper of *The Stamp-Collector's Magazine*. It was drawn by the academician whose name it has received—though some say the Prince Consort had a hand in it,—and was intended to symbolise the benefits arising from cheap postage: Britannia being represented in the act of sending out angelic messengers of peace and good will to the ends of the earth. Its reproduction on brass occupied one of the most celebrated engravers of the day—John Thompson—for six months. His name, as well as that of the artist, figures in the lower margin.

The design did not find favour with the people, nor is it surprising that with so many grotesque objects in it, it soon became the butt of the satirists of the day. Leech, and a host of minor artists, drew caricature envelopes, and the author of the *Ingoldsby Legends* chimed in with the popular taste, or distaste, in his allusion to

> Those queer-looking envelope things,
> Where Britannia (who seems to be crucified) flings
> To her right and her left funny people with wings,
> Among elephants, quakers, and Catabaw kings.

Perhaps the fact that it was produced in competition for a prize offered by the government accounts for its inferiority, though if this was not chosen out of partiality, but was really the best, then what depths of oddity must have been revealed in the designs of the unsuccessful competitors.

The period during which the Mulready envelopes were in circulation cannot be accurately stated, as they have never been formally superseded: an unused copy would still prepay a letter, and we know that as lately as 1859 a copy really did pass the post. They can only have been in general use for a short time, but a very large number must have been printed, and at no time have they been, in the common acceptation of the term, rare, though now so many have been absorbed into collections, that they are by no means easy to get hold of. No doubt their comparative abundance is due to their having been preserved, not for their own sakes, but for the sake of the letters written on their backs.

The Mulready design was issued in two shapes—as a cover and as an envelope. The cover contained a number of postal regulations and information to the public, which do not appear on the envelope. On the cover, the design is struck square with the paper, and the printed matter runs up the sides, the word POSTAGE, on an engine-turned label, appearing on that part of the border below the design which, when the cover was folded over, formed the outer flap. On the envelope, however, the design is struck diagonally, leaving four triangular margins to fold over and form the four flaps, and the word POSTAGE appears in the same position as on the cover; moreover, to guide the hand in cutting out the envelopes from the strip on which they were printed, a thin line was added to indicate the course of the margins.

ready the 27th April, 1840, and that of the penny adhesives the 13th May, 1840, but according both to Dr. Gray, and to the author of the article on the Proofs and Essays of Great Britain (*Stamp-Collector's Magazine*, vol. vi., p. 135), the Mulready was certainly issued on the 6th *May*, as stated by Mr. Hill.

The type, such as it was, was not finally completed until after several modifications had been made in it. Proofs of the cover, which are of the greatest rarity, exist, with the instructions in a smaller, thicker lettering, and with an engine-turned pattern covering the whole of the lower flap; others, again, with this pattern covering only a portion of the flap, and so on; and besides these, proofs of the Mulready design alone were struck on China paper, both from the original brass die and from the stereotyped plates.*

The covers were printed in sheets of twelve, disposed in four rows of three; the envelopes (if I am right), in strips of six; and the paper employed was what is termed Dickinson's, distinguished by having silk threads woven into its substance, which plainly appear in the margins of the vignette. This paper was adopted as a preventive of forgery, and other governments have since used it, whilst we ourselves have discontinued its employment. Both envelopes and covers were struck in the same colours, and bear respectively the same values, viz.:—

One penny	black.
Twopence	blue.

But it appears that they were really sold at 3d. per dozen above their facial value, in order to cover the cost of the paper; and this gave room for advertisers to come in and supply the public, at a reduction, with covers bearing their announcements on the inside margins. Thus, the Anti-slave Trade Society sold the covers, with their appeals and notices printed on the inside, at 1s. and 2s. per dozen, and a private trader offered the penny envelopes, with his advertisements on, at 9d. per dozen, at which price they were bound to sell. At length, however, the authorities took umbrage at the use of their envelopes as an advertising medium, and forbade their further employment for this purpose, though why it is difficult to understand, since if those who thus employed them were content to pay the full price and sell at a loss, the post-office was not injured, but rather benefited, by a practice which must have conduced to the sale of a much larger number.

It now only remains to mention that on passing through the post, the Mulready was obliterated by what is generally known as the Maltese-cross postmark, of which the annexed engraving is a fac-simile; and this as a rule was struck over or near the figure of Britannia, that being the place were it would show best.



In Moens' album space is only given for one pair of vignettes—covers or envelopes,—and the allotted squares are barely adequate; and the same remark applies to Stafford Smith's album. Still, where both pairs can be had, it is wise to keep them, as few impressions surpass in interest these earliest emissions of the post; and besides, though they are rather dear to buy, many may be able, by diligent search among old files of letters, to discover used copies.

(*To be continued.*)

* See *The Stamp-Collector's Magazine*, vol. vi., p. 135, for full details.

NEWLY-ISSUED OR INEDITED STAMPS.

Let us commence this month with two forthcoming novelties, of whose emission the rumour has often gone forth. And first,

Dominica.—A London correspondent of ours has very obligingly communicated to us a proof impression of the type which has just been engraved for this island, obtained by him from the engraver himself. It is a very charming stamp, rivalling the St. Lucia in its fineness of execution, and to a certain extent resembling it in design, though it is by no means a slavish copy. The profile of the Queen, diademed, and with pendant curl, occupies the centre, on a solid ground, formed of very fine waved vertical lines. This is enclosed in a light and rather narrow oval frame, with double-lined edges, bearing the word DOMINICA in a clearly-cut type, slightly raised, and enclosed within a kind of label, just over the portrait; and in the lower half is a similar label, left blank for the value. The spandrels are filled in with a delicate open engine-turned pattern, and the stamp is completed by an exterior double-

lined frame. The proof before us is struck in chrome-yellow on thickish cartridge paper. Our correspondent gleans from the engraver that the emission will take place about the end of the year, but neither the colours nor the values appear to be fixed on as yet.

St. Christopher (or St. Kitts).—Passing now to the second novelty (for information respecting which we are indebted to *Le Timbre-Post*), it appears that two stamps are, or very shortly are to be, emitted, namely:—

One penny	rose.
Sixpence	green.

The design is said to consist of the Queen's head to left, in a circle inscribed with the name of the island, ST. CHRISTOPHER, and the value in words. The impression is on white paper, watermarked CC. and crown, and, without doubt, perforated.

Victoria.—Still keeping among the colonies, we have next to chronicle a change in the type of the Victorian twopenny, which no doubt foreshadows a change in the whole series. Although the type here given has rather a bald appearance, it is, after all, preferable to its predecessor. It is, at least, neatly engraved, and printed on a surfaced paper, whilst the latter, though itself a considerable advance on the green penny, which it superseded, was, after all, but a rough and uncouth production as compared with the engravings of Messrs. De La Rue, who, it is scarcely necesaary to state, are the fabricators of the new type. Judged by itself, however, the De La Rue stamp shows many defects: the letters of the word VICTORIA are widely spaced and poor; the side discs, and the figures they contain, are insignificant; the spandrel ornaments common and tawdry, and the oval too narrow; besides which, the design is too evidently a copy of the Natal, and shows an utter want of originality. In the land of the blind, the one-eyed man is king, and so this stamp will lord it over most of the other Victorians; but as a specimen of what the first English engravers can do, it is not a thing to be proud of.



So much by way of criticism, we have now only to add that the old colour—lilac—is maintained for the new type, that the "V and crown" watermark appears in the paper, and that the stamp is already in circulation.

Belgium.—If we have reason to complain of the lack of talent shown by our English stamp designers, the Belgians make far louder objections on the same score. For our own part, we cannot see that the new





Belgian series is so dreadfully bad as those who have to employ it make it out to be; but, perhaps, they are the best judges after all. Whether or not the newly-issued types deserve the severe strictures passed upon them, our readers will be able in some measure to judge from the annexed copies of the designs. At any rate, it must be admitted the authorities themselves are by no means hasty in courting public opinion, for hardly any of the stamps have been issued at the date prescribed by the official decree. That we are already in possession of the types of the three values here represented, is due, as regards two of them, at least, simply to M. Moens' perseverance. The 30 c. came out some time in March, during which month we received a used specimen from a correspondent, but too late for notice in our last. The 40 c. and 1 franc are, we believe, just out. The colours of the new comers are as previously stipulated, viz:—



30	centimes	amber.
40	„	carmine.
1	franc	violet.

And in addition to these the 5 centimes, amber, identical in type with the 8 centimes, has made its appearance. The 6 centimes

which is yet to come to complete the series, will also, it is said, be modelled on the design of the 8 c.

Holland.—From Belgium to its neighbour is an easy jump. Here the new unpaid letter stamps are the objects of our attention. We announced last month that they were to appear, and also gave the values:

5 cent blue.
10 „ orange.

We now have the pleasure to place an engraving of the type before our readers. The rather mysterious-looking inscription in the upper margin means simply *to pay*, the word in the lower margin completing the meaning,—*carriage* (or postage) *to pay*. The design has a regular Dutch appearance—solid, heavy, laboured, and plain.



New Granada.—Passing now to the other hemisphere, we have to chronicle fresh additions to the list of Granadine stamps. Novelties from New Granada have long since ceased to excite surprise; a far greater novelty would be the lapse of six months without a new emission. There is, indeed, something almost provoking about the constant appearance of fresh series, for they none of them last long enough to become even moderately common, and as for the high values, they seem for all practical purposes to exist only in the dealer's catalogues. But the most difficult thing in connection with these stamps is to find a reason for their emission. It cannot be the fabrication of counterfeits, for the most active gang of forgers would tire in the attempt to keep their stock of imitations level with the current type. Nor can it be the large consumption of stamps which keeps the administration in a constant ferment, nor any desire to obtain a really respectable type, for each successive design is, to say the least, cousin-german to its predecessors, when it is not more nearly related. Well, we must pronounce the Dundreary formula over the difficulty: "It is one of those things which," &c., and simply recommend our readers *not* to apply to any Colombian official for a complete list of his country's emissions, for we feel sure it would puzzle him to comply with the request.

But enough of badinage: let us to the work of description. Of the three values here represented, two, the 50 c. and 1 peso,





replace the same values of the 1867 series, which remained in use until the end of December last; the third is conjectured to belong to the SOBRE-PORTE issue, though we feel inclined to doubt that such is the case, as all the "sur-tax" stamps bear the word SOBRE-PORTE, which this does not. The 50 centavos presents an unusual variation from the usual type, both in its inscribed margin, and in the peculiar lettering of the leading inscriptions within the rectangle. The 1 peso, on the contrary, has little to distinguish it from the crowd that has gone before, and the 25 cents is remarkable only for having a number of little disks at the side. The colours are:—



25 centavos bluish-grey (blk. imp.)
50 „ green } on white.
1 peso flesh }

We may mention that the initial S. in the inscription E. S. DE ANTIOQUIA means SOBERANO, or "sovereign." In English, the line would read "Sovereign State of Antioquia."

Spain.—The congress stamp has submitted to another change. This time it is the arms which have been altered, to suit the altered notions of the times. It is true the regal crown remains, perhaps, as M. Moens suggests, because of the recent vote of the Cortes in favour of monarchy, but the arms appear as on the fiscal stamps issued



under the republic. The new stamp is struck in blue, and was in use on the 30th of March, if not earlier.

New South Wales.—We have lately had placed before us for inspection a set of proofs from the *ateliers* of Messrs. De La Rue, for a new sixpenny stamp for this colony. The design strikes us as simple and effective. It consists of the Queen's head to the left, in an oval frame, which for legend bears NEW SOUTH WALES, POSTAGE SIXPENCE. This oval is circumscribed by a hexagon with its two vertical sides a little longer than the others; and the hexagon in turn is completed into a rectangular form by the addition of four lines, two running parallel with its longer sides, and the others at right angles to them. There is an entire absence of side, border, or corner ornamentation, and the design has a practical business look about it, and a certain simple elegance quite to our taste.

We are not yet informed when the issue may be expected, but believe this design is approved, and will be before the public in the shape of a stamp ere long. Meantime, we can chronicle these proofs, which are struck on glazed card, in black, lilac, and green. The first bears date Feb. 26, 1870, in printed letters; probably the date when the design, in its present shape, was submitted.

Ceylon.—Emanating from the same establishment, and to be found in the exceedingly fine collection of a London amateur, we have recently noticed proofs of the lately-issued tenpenny envelope, struck on glazed card, and in red-brown (the colour of issue), rose, carmine, and black.

Straits of Malacca.—We have also to chronicle a stamp of a denomination of value entirely new for this settlement, viz.: a proof in black of the die of the 4 cents stamp as now in circulation, but instead of *cents*, the value beneath reads PENCE. Evidently the printer had the regular dies in his possession, and the only alteration is in value; we rather regard this as a trial stamp, and the currency altered from pence to cents, as being that circulating in the settlement. At any rate, the proof is one of extreme beauty (as to our fancy all proofs in black are), and of great rarity.

Great Britain.—We must not omit to notice, and we commend the fact particularly to the attention of the writer of the paper on British Essays, that we have met with, in an official collection, a proof of the three-half-penny envelope design, struck on card, in *bright orange yellow*, in lieu of the pink hitherto known; and in the same album we saw a design for a three-halfpenny stamp which was submitted to the authorities, and formed by taking the head and groundwork of a common penny stamp, putting the word POSTAGE in a curved line over the head of the Queen, and the words THREE HALFPENCE below the bust in two lines. These legends were gummed on the stamp in the specimen we saw; no doubt this design preceded the well-known curvilinear triangle, printed in red mauve, and so commonly met with.

One must go abroad to hear news of home. Our ever-active contemporary of *Le Timbre-Poste* has found out that a sheet of the current penny stamps, *unperforated*, was recently delivered to the Cardiff post-office. It was found among a number of perforated sheets, and was unquestionably the result, in every sense of the word, an oversight. As some foreign collectors catalogue the unwatermarked sixpence as a Maltese stamp, because a sheet showing this variation happened to be sent there, so also may we not expect to see the unperforated penny figuring as a local Cardiff stamp in French catalogues?

United States.—M. Moens notices a specimen of the 15 c. with the vignette wrong side up.

The following are stated to be the values, designs, and colours of the new series, which is probably in circulation now:—

1	cent,	bust of	Franklin, blue.
2	,,	,,	Jackson, dark brown.
3	,,	,,	Washington, green.
6	,,	,,	Lincoln, red.
10	,,	,,	Jefferson, light brown.
12	,,	,,	Clay, purple.
15	,,	,,	Webster, deep yellow.
24	,,	,,	Scott, violet.
30	,,	,,	Hamilton, black.
90	,,	,,	Perry, scarlet.

Mason's Magazine, to which we are indebted for the above list, says there is still some uncertainty with regard to the colours, as it

may ultimately be decided to print some of the stamps in green. It adds, with a kind of patriotic lament, that it regrets the new 3 cents is to be *green*, as it will be in general appearance much like the 20 cents Confederate stamp. This new series, if it at all answers to our expectations, will be a very handsome and interesting one, forming, as it will, quite a picture gallery of the leading American celebrities, but it is a pity that there is no room in it for portraits of Vanderbilt, Fisk, and Barnum, for they are all representative men.

Portugal. — Some little time back we noticed as a new emission the 25 reis Azores with the surcharged word in smaller and closer type, but we now learn that stamps showing this variety were among the earliest printed. There were but a few hundred thus surcharged, when it was resolved to use a bolder and more extended type: this variety is consequently rare, and will become still more so. Some few also are found with the word ACORES struck upside-down—these must be classed with the *erreurs d'impression*.

Natal.—Our supposition last month as to the cause of the issue of provisional stamps was only partially correct. It now appears the penny orange, sixpence rose, and shilling violet, were used as fiscals before the emission of the provisionals, and it was because these fiscal stamps were ignorantly employed to pay postage, and to prevent any further mistakes on this score, that the postage stamps were issued with the word POSTAGE surcharged, and that it was decreed that only the stamps thus distinguished should be applicable for postal purposes.



Canada.—We have already chronicled the issue of a curtailed edition of the Dominion series, and now beg to put in the annexed illustration in evidence of the design of the new comers. The promised 8 cents has not yet made its appearance.

Philippines.—A new type is stated to have been issued for these islands, resembling that in circulation in Cuba, but without any date after the value, as it is intended to make this emission serve for two years. The values are, 5, 10, 20, and 40 c. de esco.; the colours are unknown.

Cuba.—Here we will take the opportunity to complete the information given last month as to the colours of the new Cuban stamps, by stating that that of the 40 cents is rose.

A correspondent informs us he has in his possession a 1 rl. green, printed on the usual dull white paper of 1856, but bearing the watermark of interlaced loops peculiar to the emission of 1855. Can any of our readers show similar varieties?

Mauritius.—The one shilling is now printed in *blue*, and it is said the ninepence will be in *green*.

THE SURCHARGED SPANISH STAMPS.

(Abridged from "Le Timbre-Poste.")

Just after the revolution of 1868, the Spanish government gave orders that the mark HABILITADO POR LA NACION should be impressed on all the stamps bearing the royal arms or the effigy of Queen Isabella. For the execution of this decree, the government had from five to six hundred stamps made in bronze, and these were sent to the revenue officials, and to those who sold stamps for the account of the government. The hurry which occurred in preparing these stamps accounts for the want of resemblance between them, although they all bore the same legend, and also for the existence of three sorts of characters, if not more. With regard to the colour in which the inscriptions were struck, it will be easily understood that the stamps being distributed among many hands, each *employé* used what colour he pleased—black or blue, more or less clear.

The government order to apply the mark *Habilitado* upon the stamps of 1868 and 1869, bearing the effigy of the queen, was fully carried out with the stamped paper, but it was not the same with the postage-stamps. The clerks, during the first few days which followed the promulgation of the order, complied with its provisions, but afterwards—probably because it was found that the work was too great—they disobeyed orders, and ceased to affix the mark, and the govern-

ment finding this to be the case, withdrew its decree, and interdicted the circulation of the "Habilitados" stamps.

I have [says the writer of the article] several Cuban and Philippine stamps of 1868 and 1869, but none bear the mark "Habilitado." I believe that the Madrid office sent to the provinces and colonies a certain number of handstamps, but that the colonial administration, after marking some hundreds of stamps, permitted the law to fall into desuetude. From these facts it results that authentically surcharged stamps are exceedingly rare.

As to the mark, HABILITADO POR LA JUNTA REVOLUTIONARIA (and not REBOLUTIONARIA), I have never seen it. Genuine specimens bearing this mark must be extremely rare, for the handstamp was never used except at Madrid, and there only for some days.

REVIEWS OF POSTAL PUBLICATIONS.

A Descriptive Catalogue of all American and Foreign Postage Stamps. New York: J. W. Scott & Co.

THIS is a neatly-printed catalogue, with a rather gaudily ornamented wrapper. The list is a comprehensive one, and as the publishers are numbered among the few really trustworthy American stamp dealers, no collector in the states should be without it. The printing is remarkably well done, the type, though small, being very clear and legible; but the appearance of the book would be better if the lines which cut off each country's issue were omitted, which, as they really serve no useful purpose, they well might be. We should likewise recommend Messrs. Scott to adopt the European system of numbering the stamps; it would, we have no doubt, facilitate their trade.

An Illustrated Catalogue of Postage Stamps for the use of Collectors. By Dr. J. E. GRAY. Revised and corrected by OVERY TAYLOR. Fifth Edition. London: E. Marlborough & Co. Bath: Alfred Smith & Co.

UNDER the auspices of the publishers of our magazine, this, the fifth edition of Dr. Gray's catalogue has just been given to the public. To reach a fifth edition is no uncertain trial of popular favour, and the modest announcement by the editor, Mr. Overy Taylor, gives but a faint idea of the real labour and trouble involved in such an undertaking.

As our first impression of a man arises from his external appearance, so a glance at this convenient sized volume satisfied us; and on a more close inspection we found that same excellent and careful printing and beauty of typography, for which (if we may be permitted to say so much) this magazine is remarkable, and which we have heard commended as conscientious and thorough work by eminent printers in England and abroad.

In the edition under notice, paper, type, and wood-cuts are, for the price of the volume (1/6), wonderful, and we doubt not every British collector, whatever be his particular "school" of collecting, will find it to his advantage to possess this, the only catalogue of stamps in our language at all *au courant* with the day.

Mr. Taylor preserves the old arrangement, viz., that of taking the quarters of the globe in order, and arranging the countries alphabetically under each head. This is the plan which M. Moens advocates; it has many and great conveniences.

The very elaborate and scientific descriptions of Dr. Gray, which tended rather to confuse most minds, have been judiciously pruned, and now the stamps are so described as clearly to identify everything, and yet not to overload the list with minute differences. This part of his task—and a by no means easy one—Mr. Taylor seems to have discharged particularly well.

Notice is taken of perforated and unperforated stamps, but beyond the bare mention, no attempt is made to classify and distinguish the kinds of perforation; indeed, the scope of the work would not admit of this. The chief leading varieties in colour, where a marked difference is created, are noticed, but mere shades are wisely passed by.

Some valuable and pertinent foot-notes will be found interspersed through the book; many of these contain excellent remarks of interest alike to the beginner and the experienced collector, *e.g.*, those on pp. 21, 51, 62, 136, &c.

It is almost needless to state that the latest issues are duly set forth, *e.g.*, the new series for the Dutch Indies, the Victoria 2d. envelope, the Turkish envelopes, and the 1870 of Spain, head of Liberty (?), all appear; but the chief labour has doubtless been in the revision and re-arrangement, according to the very latest research and knowledge, of the whole of the old materials.

Herein lies the chief value of this edition. We know of no other catalogue, *in any language*, to which one can turn and find the whole of the Swiss stamps classified according to the now accredited information on the subject. Similarly, where else can we find the California local stamps even named? To hunt for these things in the pages of magazines is wearisome to a degree. To have them all collected, and a really substantial catalogue before one, embracing all that is of use, is a convenience all can appreciate.

The instances above referred to are not solitary; besides being far ahead of all existing catalogues, this is the only one in the language worthy of being used at the present date.

The editor has carefully collated the fruits of Mr Pemberton's researches, and those published in the foreign journals, and the reader has a short practical compendium of the results; but the framework is given, by the aid of which, if his tastes so lead him, the most enthusiastic collector of varieties can indulge to the top of his bent.

Some few errors have glided in, and it is best to notice them now. On p. 91, Mauritius: we doubt if the famous island-printed errors, POST OFFICE, were ever issued as stamps at all. We incline to think them proofs of a trial die, and which, from their similarity to the actual issue, were obliterated by the letter-stampers without remarking the difference. Dr. Magnus, we believe, shares this opinion with us, and has announced it in an interesting monograph on this very rare variety.

But whatever be its true nature, it exists in the one penny as well as twopence variety. Our editor gives the latter, but omits the former. *Hiatus haud valdè deflendus.*

Again, New South Wales, p. 159, 1849 envelope, a cover for Sydney, the value is erroneously given as *two*pence; it is *one* penny, as the very reference given to *The Stamp-Collector's Magazine*, 1869, p. 124, shows.

No doubt some other like slips may be found, but they are comparatively trifling, and do not detract from the value of the work as a whole, or impair its usefulness to all.

Every collector in English-speaking countries—the *Greater Britain* of Sir C. Dilke—owes a debt of gratitude to Mr. Taylor; and as a perfect catalogue is as far from attainment as a complete collection, we hail with pleasure this list which satisfies all reasonable requirements, and which all can afford to possess, and none to be without.

POSTAL CHIT-CHAT.

IT IS THE DESIRE OF THE POST-OFFICE that the public should make greater use of the envelopes bearing impressed stamps than they do at present.

A PECULIAR INCIDENT.—Some days ago, says the *Havre Courier*, Mr. Z——, director of a financial company at Evreux, addressed a registered letter to Mr. X——, railway contractor, containing 4000 francs. The postman delivered the letter the next day. The seals were intact, but Mr. X—— having opened it, found only *three* 1000 fr. bank notes within; one was missing. Complaint was immediately made to the procureur-imperial; an investigation was commenced, and the same evening an individual was arrested who admitted he had stolen the missing bank-note—but here the affair became complicated. The following day Mr. X—— was advised by his correspondent, that by error only 3000 francs had been enclosed, instead of 4000 francs, and at the same time he received the bank-note of which he was short. What does that seem to say? And yet, the most incredible thing of all, the man who had been arrested declares still that he has stolen a thousand francs.

AN ABSURD RUMOUR was current in Paris a few days back. It was said that the Emperor, in addition to the general proclamation respecting the plebiscite which is to be placarded in all the communes, was also going to address a letter to every one of the ten million electors in the empire. At first, so ran the report, it was intended to lithograph the letter, which was to be in the handwriting of the Emperor, but as it was found that lithography would not lend itself to the production of such an enormous number of copies, it was decided to have recourse to typography. It was further stated that the postmaster-general had been requested to prepare for the distribution of these letters, and that the soldiers in garrison in Paris were hard at work writing the addresses. It was a well-fledged *canard*, but it did not have a long existence, and when one considers the mechanical difficulties connected with every stage of the work—from the printing to the delivery by post within a given time, one can only wonder that it ever found a moment's credence.

THE SEGNA TASSA STAMPS.—A correspondent sent us a couple of months back a couple of Segna Tassa stamps,

on the backs of which could be traced portions of the design of the 8 baj. Roman, and even a thin film of the latter's surface. How the transference could have been effected we had no means of conjecturing, so in our April number we contented ourselves, when replying to the sender of these stamps, with the admission that they were curious. A friend, long resident in Italy, has, however, since furnished us with a key to the solution of this little problem. It appears that letters from Rome to Italy can only be prepaid to the frontier by the Roman stamps, and the internal postage from the frontier to destination has to be paid by the receiver, the amount of the postage being collected by means of the unpaid-letter stamps, which the Italian officials frequently stick *over* the Roman stamps, so that the latter are completely covered. The internal single rate being 20 centimes, two 10 c. Segna Tassa stamps are employed, and our correspondent's pair having no doubt served in this manner, brought away with them portions of the Roman 8 baj. when removed from the letter.

Diamond cut Diamond.—Messrs. Bowles Brothers & Co., the American bankers of London and Paris, have hit upon an ingenious plan for circumventing the United States post-office, and obtaining the benefit of the cheapest route for letters between the States and France. Half-ounce letters for France sent by the direct line cost in all 1/6 postage; but the same letters sent from the States to England cost only 3d., and the postage for a half-ounce letter from England to France is another 8d., making 11d. in all. Messrs. Bowles Brothers call the attention of their friends to the anomaly, and suggest that they should in future address all their letters to Messrs. Bowles' care in London, and these gentlemen will forward them from London to Paris. By this arrangement there will be a saving of 7d. postage on every letter, and as Messrs. Bowles are the bankers of by far the greater portion of the well-to-do Americans who visit the Continent, the number of letters on which this saving will be effected will no doubt amount to many thousands. Newspapers they propose to receive and re-forward in the same manner, at an economy to their clients of from one-half to two-thirds of the expense.

CORRESPONDENCE.

THE "TOO-LATE" TRINIDAD, &c.

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

Sir,—In a recent number you noticed some "too-late" stamps of Trinidad. I have just obtained a specimen of the 6d. with too-late printed in red diagonally in two directions, and after examining it I am disposed to differ from your conclusions.

1st.—As to these cross inscriptions being printed on a whole sheet at once. I annex a sketch of the stamp in question, from which you will see that in each case the last letter of the surcharged inscription is wanting. This proves that the too-late is a trifle too large, and could not have been printed on a whole sheet at once, because if that was done the *whole* inscription must of course be contained on each stamp, or could not be made to fit at all.

2nd.—You consider that this inscription represents the "too-late" charge, and that the stamp is sold to the public to represent the ordinary postage, *plus* the "too-late" charge.

Now, my specimen is not obliterated beyond the cross inscriptions, yet the price I paid for it was only 2d., and this seems to prove that at any rate it cannot have a facial value of *more* than 6d.

I should therefore conclude that these "too-late" stamps are mere official labels of no value to the public, though possibly indicating a charge to be made *on delivery* of a too-late letter, and the inscription itself must be made by means of a hand-stamping machine, and each one printed separately. I may add that the two inscriptions on my stamp appear to be from the same die.

I note you accept my correction with regard to the Egyptian one piastre stamp, old issue, but it still remains, as I before remarked, a curious fact when taken in conjunction with the exhaustion of this value, that the one piastre stamps are on totally different paper to the rest of the series. Can any one explain the reason of this? Were they prepared first, and the watermarked paper introduced only after the supply of this value had been completed, or were they originally printed on watermarked paper, like the other values, but a later supply struck off in an emergency on the plain paper, from which the specimens now in the market would come? Have you ever seen a watermarked specimen? What I cannot get over is, that although the stock of this value became exhausted, it is now as common as the rest of the series; but the specimens are all quite different in appearance, and certainly look like reprints.

Yours truly,

Manchester. J. C.

THE STAMPS OF ANTIGUA.

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

Dear Sir,—In the April number of this magazine there appeared a list of the Antiguan stamps. This was a very useful list, but it occurred to me, that if the stamps were arranged in order of emission it would be better, and would also give a better display of colour than having all of one colour together.

List of Antigua.

Issued 1862, 1d., rose-violet.
" " 6d., dark green.
" 1863, 1d., rose.
" 1868, 1d., orange.
" " 6d., light green.

Barbados.

Britannia, seated, name, without value.

1.—Issued 1852, green, blue paper.
2. " " blue.
3. " " red.
" 1856, white paper, imp.
4. " " green.
5. " " blue.
6. " " red.
" " with value below.
7. " " 6d., lake-red.
8. " " 1s., black.
Issued 1861, white paper, perf.
9. " " green.
10. " " blue.
11. " " rose.
12. " 1865, rust red.
13. " 1866, 6d., orange.
14. " 1869, bright red.
15. " " 6d., vermilion.

The above I have borrowed from Mr. Pemberton's list, for which I thank him.

Yours respectfully,

Braintree. B. HARRISSON.

THE BARBADOS STAMPS.

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

Sir,—In his last paper on West Indian Stamps, Mr. Pemberton asks for further information respecting the (mythical?) slate-coloured Barbados, so confidently spoken of in your magazine for November, 1865, and January, 1867.

I have long given it up as a mistake, for many reasons. I have had thousands of Barbados stamps passing through my hands, from the earliest issue down to 1868, and have examined each singly without discovering this unknown claimant to postal honours. In the spring of 1867 I received a letter from Barbados offering me a postmarked specimen (as described in *The Stamp-Collector's Magazine*), for seven-and-sixpence. I at once sent out for it, but when it arrived it proved to be a common blue one changed to slate by chemical or atmospheric agency, and a few hours in cold water restored parts of the stamp to its normal blue colour. A short time after this disappointment I was told that a post-office clerk at Bridgetown, Barbados, had an unused specimen in his collection, but whether it were an essay or an issued stamp was not known, and that he would probably part with it for a "consideration." Full of hope, and delighted at the prospect of being on a par with the much-envied "German amateur," I immediately commissioned a person to secure it for me; but the answer returned was, that the post-office clerk had been accidentally drowned, and that his collection had passed into the hands of his sister, who, though she hardly knew one stamp from another, could not be induced to part with anything, however trifling, which had belonged to her beloved brother! Thus ended my search after this West Indian *ignis fatuus*.

That a sheet of Barbados stamps without value was once upon a time printed in slate colour for the government to choose from, is more than probable, but that they were ever issued, I have yet to believe; for had they been in use, even for a few days only, like the far-famed "Gauchos," some one or other would surely have found one ere this. The theory, that being a twopenny stamp it was almost useless, and consequently speedily withdrawn, is, however, very plausible; that value never has been popular or general in the West Indies. Jamaica adopted it, I think, about 1861 or 1862, and Bermuda in 1865, but, if I recollect right, no other island has issued it. True it is, that British Guiana, which is sometimes erroneously called part of the West Indies, has a four-cent stamp; but I am now speaking of pence—not cents.

With regard to postmarks, Mr. Pemberton seems to think that the central numeral goes as high as 14. As he professes, a few lines before, to "chronicle nothing which he cannot produce," I venture to ask can he produce a Barbados stamp bearing this numeral? In my own experience, which was considerable up to 1868, I have never met with more than eleven numbers, commencing with No. 1, which I have understood to indicate the eleven parishes into which the island (which contains only about 60 miles) is divided; viz., St. Michael, Christ Church, St. Philip, St. George, St. John, St. James, St. Thomas, St. Joseph, St. Andrew, St. Peter, and St. Lucy. Bridgetown, the capital, contains the parish of St. Michael, and is, if I am rightly informed, represented by the postal numeral, 1. The others I have not been able to identify; but I may mention that, in making up my sets, I find No. 4 the most scarce to obtain.

Clifton. FENTONIA.

P.S.—I possess a Barbados postmark not mentioned by Mr. Pemberton—a specimen on unperforated *blued* paper. It resembles that now used on the Newfoundland stamps, and has neither figure nor name of district.

THE BOSTON SWINDLERS AND *THE PHILATELIST*—KOORSHEDJAH—GUADALAJARA, &c.

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

Dear Sir,—I thought it was quite time that some notice should be taken of the published indebtedness of *The Philatelist's* editor to *the politeness of Mr. S. Allan Taylor, of Boston*, which inexplicable civility appeared in January last, and was criticised by you last month. Since then, in the March and April numbers, similar notices have appeared, from which it is but reasonable to infer, that a system of monthly puffs is being established. Everyone knows that Taylor, Lyford, and Chute, form that celebrated fraternity, yclept *The Boston Swindlers;* and that Taylor is the principal of the three, Chute having, apparently, retired into paths of less ostentatiousness, whilst Lyford is simply a lad who acts under Taylor. Under such circumstances, the taste which dictated those three polite puffs from the pen of the editor of *The Philatelist* is most questionable.

As the editor of *The Philatelist* is a member of that Committee (of the Philatelic Society) which passed a vote of censure upon Taylor, Lyford, and Chute, their works, letters, and doings, the three puffs for Taylor are inexplicable; they are, too, excessively galling to those who have, in the interest of philately and honesty, done their utmost to expose the swindling nature of the man and his business, for he is thus openly quoted as a respectable unit of society, and an authority to be thanked, instead of being simply ignored. As long as these three puffs are not recalled or explained, so long will they remain a lasting insult to those who have arrayed themselves against the man and his gang, and who have been so scurrilously attacked by him in his disgraceful papers.

I don't know what exceptional sources of information M. Moens or the editor of *The Philatelist* may have on the subject of Koorshedjah stamps, but as the three specimens which are being described, and a fourth on blue paper, have all been my property originally, and are all known to fame, I hope I shall not appear egotistical in saying, that any description of the meaning of the design, or any attempt to fix its facial value, is quite suppositious. Last November, through the kindness of a correspondent, I received the three which all the magazines are describing (on pale green, amber, and lilac, all thin laid paper); they reminded me that I had, a long time before, had one on blue paper; after a diligent search, I found it, and the three on fancy papers I gave to Mr. Ph. These are all *I* ever saw, and none of the members of the society appear to know it, so it is incorrect to say that they have been in the Ph. collection for over two years. My old one I described in the February *Stamp-Collector's Magazine*, and I obtained it, with some circular blue and black Cashmeres, at the time the latter first appeared. M. Moens thus getting scent of it, with praiseworthy alacrity borrowed one of Mr. Philbrick's, engraved it as an upright, termed it adhesive, and named it 1 anna; but, as it is an oblong, is handstamped upon envelopes, and is of unknown value, M. Moens was not so successful as he might have desired. So little is known of them, that it is important that that little should be correctly told, which is why I trouble you with the preceding remarks.

I lately received some unused Guadalajara provisionals, among which were two undescribed varieties, viz., 2 rls., 1868, on thick wove paper, light rose-pink, and 1 peso, 1867 (un), on lilac *batonné* paper, with interior *vergeures* (linear paper, with thick lines about one-third of an

inch apart, with thin close lines between them, all the lines being laid).

Let me call your readers' attention to a forgery of that scarce and little-known Confederate local, the *Knoxville, Tenn.*, 5 c. red: it is very roughly engraved, and printed from the frame of a die used for a forged Nashville, the design of the latter being the same in generalities as the Knoxville; the forgery is on thick, spongy paper, the original not so, as far as my experience goes.

Recently some half dozen of the rare carriers' stamp, head of Franklin, unused, have appeared; they are in dark, rather brown yellow, are ungummed, on tough thinnish paper; whether these are stamps as issued I do not know, but I have received them some time back as proofs; cannot our American friends enlighten us? Turning to your number for October last, Mr. Ireland, of the Washington post-office department, says, "the stamp was orange-brown; proofs blue on pink, also green and yellow." Now the only *used* specimens known appear to be blue on pink. *The American Journal of Philately* mentions it as cancelled by dots, and as existing orange-brown, unused, on ordinary paper, and orange on plate paper. Query, did the issue consist of orange-brown (or more properly brown-yellow) on plain paper, and of blue on pink paper, or of the latter only, all others being proofs or specimens? I think the latter, because the unused brown-yellow has been known for years, as existing in the Ph. collection, and by hearsay as described by Levrault (p. 111), heading Baltimore, *brun rouge sur blanc*. As American proof-stamps, or, more correctly speaking, the great majority, have been obtainable at various times, and as the blue on pink, which undoubtedly exists as a *bona-fide* emission, has remained unknown until lately, it is more than probable that the only one issued for postage was the blue on pink, others being proofs or specimens.

Yours faithfully,

Birmingham. EDWARD L. PEMBERTON.

ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS.

O. P. Q.—Send us the article you refer to, and if it be suitable for our columns, we will find space for it in our next number.

DANE.—When this magazine is ordered direct from the publishers, no charge is made for postage—a single copy is sent post-free for fourpence.

J. B. B., Norwich.—You will see we notice your variety of the 1 rl. Cuban in our article on new issues, with a view to elicit further information.

CAPT. PRESTON.—We cannot account for the omission of the Scinde stamp from the new edition of Dr. Gray's catalogue, and take this opportunity to draw the editor's attention to it. It certainly seems to be fully deserving of notice.

S. M. B.—The Cuban ½ rl. plata f. of 1864 was issued on rose-*tinted* paper, and on a deep rose paper; your copy, if on pure white, must be a faded specimen of the former.—The circular Mecklenburg stamp, whatever else it may be, is certainly *not* a postage stamp.

A. W. S.—It is stated on good authority, that the reduced rate of inland postage for newspapers and printed matter will come into operation on the 1st of October next. We suppose, therefore, that the new halfpenny adhesive stamp will be issued to the public before that date.

K. A. D., Wolverhampton.—Your Confederate States stamp is a forgery.—The Indian eight annas, surcharged with crown and 24 CENTS, is one of the Straits Settlements provisionals, and an obsolete stamp.—The 3d. Victoria (figure in corners) was issued in 1867; it is included in Dr. Gray's catalogue. Your specimen is obsolete, as the design was re-issued last year in orange.—The 3d. lake, of the same colony (figure at sides), was issued in 1866, and was only in use for a couple of months.

I. P. C., Falmouth.—The two Peruvian stamps you mention (10 c. and 1 sol.), with figure of value in centre, are both fiscals, and their use for postage is probably only the result of an accident. It is, however, worth noting that they have been received on a letter from Callao within the last six months, properly postmarked, and unaccompanied (as we understand) by any of the ordinary postage stamps, so it may eventually turn out that their employment has been permitted by the post-office. For the benefit of philatelists in general, we may also add that the stamps thus employed are of the last fiscal emission, viz., 10 c. violet, and 1 sol. dark orange; and of these, the former bears the word CALLAO surcharged in green letters, and the latter in black. Our correspondent must not be surprised at finding no mention of them in the catalogues, seeing what is their generally-accepted character.

J. C., Manchester.—We insert such portions of your communication as are of general interest in our correspondence columns, the remainder we will now reply to, and in the first place, thanks for early copy of the 30 c. Belgian type, and also for German 1 gr.—1. *Mexico*. We can only congratulate you on your good fortune in obtaining the engraved 7 and 13 c. Maximilian, without black inscription, at 2/ each. You only paid half the market price of ordinary copies.—2. *Turkey*. Can you not get the sender of the letter which was contained in the envelope you forward for our inspection to obtain information from the post-office at Constantinople as to the meaning of the handstamped mark which appears on it? We cannot ourselves explain its signification, unless it be taken that the sum of f. 2 40 c. paid the postage to Marseilles. In any case, this handstamp is a great curiosity, and it would be worth while getting some explanation respecting it.—3. *Switzerland*. We should be much inclined to doubt whether the word RHEIN is, after all, anything more than a postmark. 4. *La Guaira*. Your ½ rl. blue and 2 rls. yellow are both genuine, and belong to the second type.—5. Your Natal are reprints.

J. N. R., Deal.—1.—The best test we can give for distinguishing the lithographed from the engraved Mexican head of Emperor, is the greater fineness of the latter.—2. The 1 and 2 c. (figure), and the 5 c. (head), Sandwich Islands, exist on both white and blue paper; the 13 c. (head) on white paper only; the 13 c. (figure) is a fictitious stamp.—3. The stamp inscribed KANTON-BERN comes from the Swiss canton of Bern, and is a fiscal, though it has been occasionally used for postage.—4. The Spanish stamp inscribed HABILITADO POR LA NACION is, no doubt, genuine; whether the inscription is also, is another question, as that has been forged, and impressed on genuine stamps. Stamps with the true surcharge are scarce, respecting their use you will find full information in an article published in another part of the present number.—5. The existence of the 10 c. lilac Luçon (head in circle), mentioned by the writer of the paper on "Reprints" last month, is very doubtful. He, we believe, based his reference to it on its mention in an article published in *Le Timbre-Poste* in 1865, where it is chronicled without reserve, but it is not included by Berger-Levrault or Moens in their lists, and Mahé catalogues it with a point of interrogation against it. The editor of Dr. Gray's catalogue, no doubt, felt that under these circumstances he was not justified in noticing it.

OUR CONTEMPORARIES.

Press of matter last month compelled us to postpone our usual notices, which we now proceed to give.

Le Timbre-Poste for April contains little that is remarkable. The chronicle occupies nearly half the number, and is followed by an article on the Koorshedjah, in which is embodied a letter from Mr. J. Pl., giving information respecting it similar to that which occurs in Mr. Pemberton's letter last month. The article winds up with some rather peevish remarks on Mr. Pl.'s love of criticism, which leave the reader under the impression that M. Moens is needlessly sensitive of even the mildest correction. After the Koorshedjah article comes an instalment of the "Envelope Papers," by Dr. Magnus, and the number closes with a very sentimental exordium of the postage stamp, made up for the most part of ideas neither new nor striking.

The May number is more readable. We observe that in the "Chronique" the editor, paying more attention to the wild assertions of an obscure American pamphlet than to the doubts expressed in more respectable publications, comes forward to vindicate the Honduras stamps from the suspicion cast upon them, declaring that he holds, at the disposal of sceptics, the official journal in which appeared the decree authorising the emission of these stamps, and the letter he received from the Comayagua post-office, enclosing specimens of them.

In the course of the same article, M. Moens throws doubt on the authenticity of a specimen of the 9 kr. Bavarian, first series, of a shade similar to that of the 18 kr. of the same emission, submitted to him by one of our most eminent philatelists. "These *erreurs d'impression*," he remarks, "are obtained (we have just been experimenting ourselves) with soda and boiling water. The one thing necessary is to find a 9 kr. of a green which gives you the tint of the 18 kr." Without passing any opinion on the particular stamp in question, we quite agree with our Belgian contemporary in doubting the value of these newly-discovered varieties.

We know very well that they can easily be manipulated, for some months since a notorious American swindler sent us for inspection, as if out of bravado, some thirty or forty changed stamps, and implied, if he did not only openly state, in the impudent letter which accompanied them, that these varieties owed their existence to his nefarious skill. This individual has rewarded the editor of *The Philatetist* for his polite attentions, by "selling" him (we beg our contemporary's pardon for the expression) with a brown one-cent Canadian stamp, and also with a fictitious Boston local, which he assures our confrère is in actual use at present. As this worthy creature is probably still occupying himself with the fabrication of spurious stamps, we think we cannot do better than address to our readers the warning one sometimes hears in a crowd—"Take care of your pockets."

Returning from this digression to our friend *Le Timbre-Poste:* the next article to which our attention is drawn is the one on the New Granadian 50 c. "sobre-porte," on *white* paper. This stamp was noticed by M. Albis, in *Le Timbrophile*, so long since as February, 1868, and that gentleman described it as differing from the ordinary type only by certain trifling variations in the figures 50, in the "cs.," and in the size of the letters of the inscription SOBRE-PORTE. The specimen, which is said to be unique, has just passed through M. Moens' hands; and, as the result of a very searching comparison between it and the common type, M. Moens arrives at the conclusion that the "white" paper stamp is from another die, and differs in all points from the ordinary representative of the type. Upon this he reasons, that "even supposing a whim of the administration, whereby an impression on white paper was ordered, such caprice would not have necessitated the re-engraving of the design; and if the stamp is unique at present, a few inquiries after it would soon cause it to abound." The final conclusion of this argument need hardly be pointed out.

Following this article comes another short paper, headed "The 50 mil., 1867, of Spain," in which M. Moens describes what he believes to be a forgery of that value. He

found the supposed spurious individual, which had passed the post, among his stock of used specimens, and he conjectures that the discovery by the officials of the imitation of the design led to its being superseded by the last 50 mil. stamp, with head of Isabella, although that lady had then left the country. He gives a long list of differences, but we may content ourselves with indicating what he states to be the principal one. In the genuine stamp, the spandrels are covered by minute vertical lines, intersected at intervals by lines of little dots: there are three rows of lines, and two of dots. In the counterfeit, the spandrels on the right are entirely filled by little vertical lines; and those on the left, though interrupted, show no trace of the dots. The most curious circumstance in connection with this stamp, if it really is false, is, that the perforation is precisely the same as for the genuine. To meet this rather damaging objection against his case, M. Moens can only start the query—Who knows but what the same machine may have served to perforate both the true and the false stamps?—Who knows?

The concluding article has reference to the post-office stamps of Mauritius. Dr. Magnus had observed that one of the specimens of the penny, from which we described, had its left upper angle filled with an ornament differing from all the others. Mr. J. Pl., having since examined the stamp, finds that this ornament is really that of one of the common "postpaid" stamps, and an inquiry addressed to the owner elicits the fact, that the specimen of the post-office variety in question being short of its upper left corner, the missing portion was replaced by the corner of one of the ordinary postpaid stamps. So neatly has this piece been "dovetailed" in, that the "join" was not noticed even by such an acute observer as Dr. Magnus. Altogether, the point involved is slight in itself, and only important in so far as it is connected with the analytical description of so rare a stamp.

The Philatelist.—Both the April and May numbers of this journal are distinguished by the general excellence of their contents; the former is specially noticeable for the continuation of Mr. Atlee's very careful and accurate list of the British North American stamps; the latter for a further instalment of "A Parisian Collector's" exhaustive article on the Envelopes of Germany. In another part of the present number we quote some interesting remarks on shades of colour which occur in the course of the paper on envelopes. The only other items to which reference can here be made are—first, the description of a Charleston stamp now in Sir Daniel Cooper's possession, of the genuineness of which corroborative evidence is derived from its being mentioned in the monograph on Confederate locals, by Mr. Scott, which we reprinted from *The American Journal of Philately* last month; and secondly, the editor's assertion that there is no truth in the report we recently copied from *Le Timbrophile*, to the effect that the Susse perforating machine was being surreptitiously employed to turn large numbers of ordinary French stamps into "Susse" varieties. "The simple facts," says our contemporary, "are, that the wealthy possessor of one of the finest Parisian collections has been amusing himself with perforating a few specimens for himself and friends."

The three American journals, in the numbers before us, combine to reproach us, though in terms which savour more of sorrow than of anger, for alleged want of courtesy towards them. *Mason's Magazine* is severe upon us for treating its assertion respecting the issue of a 3 cent stamp as a *rumour*. The *American Journal of Philately* complains that in "Our Contemporaries" for April we quoted the worst article in the number of this journal under review, because it would not do to let European collectors think that American papers ever contain anything to interest them; and *The American Stamp Mercury* declares that it must have been spite, as it could not be ignorance, which caused us in a recent article to ignore the announcement in its impression for December, 1868, of the date of issue of the 12d. Canada.

Taking these strictures in their order, we may reply to the first that confidence in the statements made in American papers is a thing of comparatively recent growth, and as

to the particular emission noticed, there had been so many reports circulated respecting both the new and the preceding United States series, that we could not take any assertion as to stamps in preparation as absolutely correct. Secondly, the complaint of *The American Journal of Philately* receives its best answer in the fact, that when we lighted on the valuable article on Confederate locals, which appeared in its April number, we took "French leave" to reprint it entire. Lastly, we beg the editor of *The American Journal of Philately* to believe that we did overlook the prior publication in his magazine of the facts relating to the emission of the Canadian 12d.

We are glad to find that our remarks on the very small allowance of philatelic matter in *Mason's Magazine* have been followed by a considerable and commendable change in its arrangement. Under a new editor, the philatelic department, instead of being confined to a couple of pages, is in the current number permitted to occupy more than five; and—another praiseworthy innovation—we observe an article appears bearing the same heading, and similar in intent to the present. Our own magazine comes in for a large share of the criticism, but this we have no reason to complain of, as we feel it an advantage to be acquainted with the views of our readers abroad, albeit Mr. Mason's remarks are of a somewhat "assumptious" nature—to quote an expression coined in a recent parliamentary debate. We observe with pleasure that our initiative in giving a monthly *resumé* of our contemporaries is being followed on the other side of the water, and we have the testimony of *The American Journal of Philately* to the effect that our remarks have been found of use.

The April number of the last-named journal is noticeable for a very striking feature,—the printing of the illustrations of stamps in the proper colours of the stamps themselves. The effect is very good indeed, though it is too much to expect that the exact shade can be imitated. Besides two types in black, there are represented the new 3 c. green United States, the Russian rose-carmine 5 kop. envelope, the blue Swiss "prison" envelope, the vermilion new Bergen 2 sk., and a unique variety of the blue 13 c. Sandwich Islands figure,—or in other words, two blue, two rose or red, and one green stamp. To reproduce these designs in their proper colours, and the accompanying letter-press, the centre page on which they appear must have been passed four times through the press, by no means to the printer's delectation. All the types show up very well, and have a novel appearance, but the best is decidedly the new 3 c. United States, the shade of which has been hit "to a T." The publishers of the journal deserve credit for their enterprise, though we hardly see how the improvement can prove a paying one. The sight of these coloured engravings may, however, prove a stimulant to stamp-collecting, and so become indirectly a means of bringing grist to the publishers mill, and the only thing to be feared in connection with them is that they may be cut out by rogues and sold to simpletons, as being in fact the stamps they but represent.

The Postman's Knock.—A couple of months since we reviewed the number of this journal for October last. We have now before us its March number, and it appears that a variety of circumstances have prevented the publication of *The Knock* between the two dates. Furthermore, we learn from an "editorial," that there is little chance of its being continued, as the proprietor and editor, Mr. E. A. Craig, is (or was) on the point of removing to California, where he fears the printer's bill will prove too high to admit of his continuing the paper. We are sorry for this, as Mr. Craig has always been conspicuous for the honesty and integrity of purpose with which he has both written and acted. We hope, however, that a change which will be a loss to the American philatelic fraternity will be a gain to Mr. Craig himself.

The closing number of *The Postman's Knock* is a good one. It contains some observations respecting the questionable surcharged Canadian stamps, which we quote elsewhere, and besides this there is a large amount of readable matter. Among other articles is one on a *blue* Canadian 5 cents envelope, a specimen of which was discovered by the editor in the collection belonging to the son of the money-order

superintendent for New Brunswick. Mr. Craig is inclined to believe it was not a mere proof, but, as it was officially sent by the Canadian to the New Brunswick postal department, considers it must have been the specimen stamp of an emission. We hardly feel, however, that the evidence adduced by Mr. Craig is sufficient to prove his point. He applied to Mr. Smithson, of the Ottawa post-office, whom we presume to be the gentleman whose letter respecting the 12d. Canada we recently published, and Mr. Smithson returned him the stamp with the information that it was "a *specimen*," adding, "the stamped envelopes issued were 5 c. red and 10 c. brown." As Mr. Smithson gives the colours in which they were issued, it is evident that though he calls the blue a specimen, he means, in stamp phraseology, a *proof*. Mr. Craig perceives this, and attempts to depreciate Mr. Smithson's authority, saying he has only been in the post-office for two or three years; but be that as it may, it appears Mr. Smithson was right respecting the twelvepenny Canada, and if right on one doubtful point, he may be right on another.

Among other noticeable articles there is one of an entirely novel character, on "Eminent Philatelists." Mr. Craig, under this title, with rather amusing egotism, gives his own biography, preceded, however, by that of Mr. George Stewart, jun., the editor of the now defunct *Stamp-Collector's Monthly Gazette*, a paper which in its day and generation did much good. Mr. Stewart is certainly a young man of talent, or he would not have succeeded in establishing the *New Brunswick Quarterly* when he was but 18 years of age. This paper enjoys, we believe, a large circulation in the provinces, and is made up entirely of original matter contributed by persons living in British North America.

With regard to Mr. Craig, we can pardon while we smile at the spirit which prompted him to narrate his own history to his readers, when we learn with what perseverance he has worked to carry on the papers he has brought out, and also to conduct his business during almost incessant illness.

"Mr. Craig," says the biographical notice, "has edited two stamp periodicals, *The Stamp Argus*, and *The Postman's Knock*, and with regard to the first series of the latter, when it is remembered that he had to write every line of its contents himself, that his means of obtaining information were limited, and that in most cases he got it up, corrected proof, and prepared it for mailing, while he was propped up in bed, and suffering intolerable agony, it will be considered at least passable."

We should rather think so too. Mr. Craig was sent to Europe "in the faint hope that the voyage might save his life," and though a Liverpool surgeon succeeded in "bringing him through all danger, no earthly skill could restore him to anything like health." He is still an invalid, hobbling about on a pair of crutches, and is now going to California in the hope that he may there "eventually recover, if recovery is possible." Our readers will not blame us for quoting these details, and we are sure their best wishes will be with Mr. Craig.

Up to the moment of going to press, we have not received our copy of *Le Timbrophile*, which is now a month overdue.

PAPERS FOR BEGINNERS.—No. V.

BY OVERY TAYLOR.

EUROPE.

Great Britain, continued.

WE pass now to the consideration of the first adhesive stamp—the black penny,—issued either simultaneously with, or soon after, the Mulready envelope, as may be ultimately determined. This stamp has served as a model for hundreds of others, both as to design and size; and in its second colour has remained in circulation for nearly an entire generation. Beside many of its confrères it presents but a poor appearance, and yet so much has the penny stamp, through its long currency and its associations, become as it were one of the "institutions" of the country, that we all of us feel for it a certain tenderness and respect. And as to the poverty of its design, it must be borne in mind that beauty was barely even a secondary consideration in the minds of the authorities when deciding on the type to be adopted. A device which should serve

its purpose, and at the same time offer the greatest difficulty to the then much-dreaded forgers, was their object, and no one can deny that that of the penny stamp fulfils these requisites. Its execution is of the finest, it states plainly the use of the little rectangle on which it appears, and the representation of the Queen's head which it bears sufficiently indicates its governmental origin.

Simple as the type appears, we yet know that it is composed from two separate dies—the one consisting of the effigy, and the other of the groundwork. The original block of the head was engraved by Heath, the eminent engraver, in the year 1840, and the copies made from it were introduced by a transferring process into the plates used for printing the penny and twopenny stamps.* As it was found that the lines were not deep enough, and the plates consequently wore out too soon, a transferred impression from the original engraved head was put into the hands of an engraver named Humphreys, about the beginning of the year 1855, and he, without inserting any new lines or work of any kind, deepened the old lines; and this impression, so deepened, has since been used as the original, and all the plates since made for printing the stamps have been tranfers from it.†

When once the design had been settled on, the next thought seems to have been for the paper, the colour being the last thing decided on, as is evident from all the proof impressions being on the same paper as that on which the stamp was ultimately used. Still keeping before them the fear of forgery, the authorities chose a white paper, bearing as watermark a small crown in outline. This is easily perceptible on holding the stamp to the light; and here let me observe, *en passant*, that the study of watermarks is now become of such recognised importance, interest, and utility, that no stamp collector worthy of the name, not even the youngest beginner, can afford to neglect it; and by giving attention to watermarks from the very first, the habit of observing them grows easy.

The colour, as before said, was the last thing settled, and before black was chosen, proof impressions were struck from the die in red, mauve-pink, purple, grey, slate, and blue-slate, and in more than a dozen varieties of shade of these colours. These proofs are of great rarity, and though in mentioning them here for completeness' sake, I am very far from representing it as incumbent on collectors, and especially beginners, to go out of their way, and put themselves to considerable expense to procure them, yet on the other hand, it must be said that if by chance the opportunity occurs to obtain them, they are well worth possessing, as they serve not merely to ornament a collection, but also to illustrate the history of a stamp, showing by what gradual steps its ultimate form or colour are arrived at.

In the case of the first penny stamp and

* See *The Stamp-Collector's Magazine*, vol. vi., p. 8.

† Only a couple of years ago a pair of very remarkable proofs of the original design were discovered. We think the account given of them by Mr. Pemberton, to whom the credit of the discovery is due, is well worthy of being given *in extenso*. It occurs on p. 16 of the second volume of *The Philatelist*, and is as follows:—

"Owing to one of those pieces of good fortune which now and again happens to a collector in search of the valuable, a pair of essays, from which our "penny postage" stamp was taken, have been brought to light. They are side by side on one piece of cardboard, impressed in black, and have been for many years in the hands of a well-known picture dealer of London, who had them framed and glazed, having received them direct from the late Mr. Charles Heath, who engraved them. We will distinguish them as Nos. 1 and 2, and proceed to give a verbal description of their wonders.

"No. 1 represents the 1d. stamp now in use as it would be with the top and bottom inscriptions cut off, *i.e.*, we only have the Queen's head with the background, and no corners. The background is exactly like the stamp in present use; and the head, which is quite finished and finely engraved, is nearly similar, only it is a little wider in the head; the outlines, from top of crown to the end of the bust, are straighter, and the back hair is surrounded by a white line. On the die, before printing off the essay, the engraver has made an intended alteration, consisting of fine dotted lines from the top of the crown to the bottom of the bust, thereby reducing the width of the head and bust, making the outlines more curved, and consequently more elegant.

"No. 2 shows us the head as altered in No. 1, but without the white line surrounding the back hair, the head being, therefore, exactly like that on the 1d. and 2d. now in use. The background, however, is very different, being a very elaborately engraved pattern; at the foot is engraved POSTAGE ONE PENNY, in capitals, and in one straight line.

"The stamp finally adopted for the first adhesive used in England is taken from these two essays: the head of No. 2, with the background of No. 1, of course, adding POSTAGE at top, ONE PENNY below, and a square in each angle."

(for they must to some extent be taken together) its companion, the twopence blue, the final decision appears to have been influenced by a regard for the colours of the Mulreadys — perhaps, as to the penny, by some consideration for the comparative cheapness and certainty of a black impression. The black penny stamp is one of the very few of which there are positively no varieties whatever—for the V.R. official was not a stamp at all, but an essay. If some faint variation in the shade of colour can be distinguished, it is the most that can be done, and such trifling differences are not worth noting or collecting.

With regard to the V.R. official, about which there was once a great deal of doubt and discussion, its history has been so clearly ascertained, that there is now no question but that it was an *essay*, that is to say, a design proposed by or to the postal authorities, but not actually put in circulation. It is simply the ordinary black penny, with the small disks in the upper angles occupied with the letters V.R., and it was intended to frank official correspondence, but it was ultimately decided not to employ it, but to allow official letters to be franked by the signature of the despatching officer. Some few of these stamps, however, were printed, and some cancelled, in order that experiments might be tried with several kinds of obliterating inks which had been suggested.* The cancelling mark employed was black, very thick, and formed of concentric rings, which completely effaced the design. These postmarked impressions are all, or nearly all, still in the custody of the post-office. Unobliterated copies are found in most of the leading collections, but have always been very rare, and are daily becoming more so; indeed, the price of a specimen now depends (as was said of the Nicaragnan 2 cent when it first came out) on the dealer's conscience. All the known specimens are derived from the few sheets which were saved by officials present at the destruction of the stock, and as no fresh supply is ever likely to be forthcoming, they must always remain at a price which renders them unattainable to any but the favourites of fortune.

Looking at the V.R., one is struck with the exceeding simplicity of the device for producing official stamps, as compared with the elaborate designs subsequently adopted by other countries for similar stamps. A couple of letters in the angles was all that was thought necessary, but now were it desired to issue official stamps we may be sure Messrs. De La Rue's ingenuity would be taxed to produce a type worthy of the occasion. And not, after all, without some reason, for, as experience has shown, simple designs are easily counterfeited. The V.R. itself has been so, not for the purpose of deceiving the government, but to defraud collectors.

Many are the modes adopted to produce counterfeits of this stamp: one, rather successful, being to take an ordinary black penny, scratch out the ornaments in the corner disks, and print the letters V.R. in their place—stamps thus fabricated have been sold to unsuspicious collectors at 10/6 each. But lately the design has been re-engraved for some swindler, and so accurately that the unwary may easily be deceived by the imitation. Those who wish to have full details of the differences between it and the true stamp will find them at p. 183 of the sixth volume of *The Stamp-Collector's Magazine*. It will be sufficient here to mention the most easy mode of detection, that of comparison with the common black penny, which of course the true V.R. is identical with in every respect, except in its distinctive corner letters. If this be done, it will be at once observed that the profile is remarkably different in expression. To quote from the original description —"The nose of our gracious sovereign is too pinched-up and pointed. It is not easy precisely to describe in words *how* the expression is made so unlike that of the stamp, but the slightest comparison will prove the fact, and at the nostrils especially the variation of *contour* may be seen." Besides this, the watermark is an unreal affair, not formed *in*, but in some measure impressed on, the paper, and is faint, indistinct, and not traceable in its outline. These

* See *The Stamp-Collector's Magazine*, vol. iii., p. 159; vol. vi., p. 133.

forgeries come from Leipzig, and my readers will have to be careful in accepting specimens known to have been received from abroad. The points above referred to should be sufficient to identify the forgery, but if any doubt be felt, purchasers should submit their copies to some experienced judge; and it may be worth while to mention that genuine copies are rarely, if ever, sold at *less* than two guineas each.

Returning now to the original black penny stamp, we have but to notice the apparently insignificant cause of its suppression—its not showing the postmark clearly enough, owing to its colour,—a cause which has led to the withdrawal of not a few of the black-printed stamps of other countries. The Maltese-cross mark, struck in black, was first used, but as this did not show up clearly, the mark was then impressed in red; and as it was still found to leave too faint a trace, it was decided to change the colour of the stamp itself to red. It may be conjectured that the authorities were not merely dissatisfied with the impression left by the obliterating mark, but that they also feared the chance of its being effaced by roguish hands (as it no doubt easily could be from black-printed stamps), and used stamps being thus made to serve again.

Noting here that the first English stamp is the only one of this country's emissions which has been postmarked in red ink, let us now pass on to the twopence blue.

This stamp was issued in July, 1840, some short time after the appearance of the penny, of which it is the counterpart in every respect but colour; and it was withdrawn, or rather superseded, either at the same time as this latter—viz., at the end of the year, 1840,—or early in 1841.

Its history is unmarked by any striking fact. The type, and even the colour, had been arrived at by means of the proofs of the penny, so that there existed no necessity for taking proof impressions of this value, and none, we believe, are known to exist. Berger-Levrault catalogues an émission on unwatermarked paper, both of this value, and of the first red penny, but, as it would seem, without reason. I have never seen any notice elsewhere of the existence of such stamps, and Dr. Magnus distinctly declares in his monograph that *all* the first penny and twopenny stamps were on paper watermarked with a small crown.

The two original values being now introduced to notice, forming, as they do, a series in themselves, and being still in existence, the simplest plan will, I think, be to continue their history down to the present time, and then revert to the higher members of the series.

The red successor to the black penny made its appearance on the 1st January, 1841. It is the custom to term this stamp brick-red, or red-brown, but though, in point of fact, all the specimens which have been preserved are of some such hue *now*, we have Mr. Pearson Hill's word for the fact, that "the brown and brick-red penny labels are simply labels originally printed of the *same colour as the present*, in which the ink has faded by time."* The word faded should, perhaps, be read "deepened," as we know that our penny stamps, when they literally *fade*, become lighter; with this verbal correction, the statement is one which can be substantially accepted. It is true that considerable variations of tint exist among the current stamps, but the colour of all is the same in the main, namely, carmine-red, or, as the French term it, *amaranth foncé*. It is a colour most easily affected by atmospheric or chemical agency, and accordingly, although the catalogues specify some dozen shades, the number might be almost indefinitely multiplied.

And again, another fertile source of colour varieties lies in the action of the gum upon the ink. Our first stamps, the black penny and blue twopence were rendered adhesive by a preparation which did not affect the ink, hence we find that the paper is in the same state as when it received impression, except for a mellow yellowish tint, the result simply of age. The earliest edition of the penny red must also have been backed with this kind of gum, for all the specimens I have seen postmarked with the Maltese cross are on yellowish-white paper. But for the subsequent editions, down to the

* See *The Stamp-Collector's Magazine*, vol. iii., p. 111.

year 1858 at any rate, a different gum must have been employed, which in course of time has given a blue tint to the paper—a tint differing in intensity, but uniformly noticeable, on all the old copies of this stamp.

Now my readers can decide for themselves how far they will accept varieties, which are of very inferior interest regarded intrinsically, resulting, as they do, not from any fault of engraver, printer, or paper maker, nor from any accident in mixing the colours, but simply from the action of time. Decidedly they are not things worth running after, or spending money to obtain; and if they are worth having at all, it is simply as representing certain incidents in the "life" of the stamp. Taking this view, and considering also that specimens on blue paper, and in contrasting shades of colour, can be obtained at the cost of a little searching among old letters, there can be no great harm in filling up the spaces allotted for them in Moens' album.

The design of the blue twopence submitted to a modification in 1841, viz., the addition of white horizontal lines to the marginal inscriptions. The exact date when the altered design was issued appears not to be known. Mr. Pearson Hill, the great authority on dates of emission of English stamps, makes no mention of it; Moens puts it as March, 1841; other catalogue-compilers have been content to indicate the year only. Proofs exist of this stamp before the addition of the letters in the lower angles. The colour remained unchanged.

The red penny and the blue twopence, with white lines, continued in circulation as originally issued until the year 1850, when both stamps were *perforated*. In 1854 the watermark was changed to a larger crown, the one which is still employed. In 1858 the twopence appeared with letters in all four corners; and in 1864 the penny was also subjected to this slight facial alteration—the only one, if we except the minute figures at its sides, to which it has submitted since the first issue of the design. The minute figures are, I believe, only the numbers of the plates whence the stamps are printed, and have not the slightest value to collectors.

NEWLY-ISSUED OR INEDITED STAMPS.

UNITED STATES.—The members of the promised series have begun to make their appearance. At the moment of writing we are in possession of the five lower values,—1, 2, 3, 6, and 10 cents; and probably by the time this impression is in the hands of our readers the remainder of the issue will be in circulation.

The designs more than come up to the expectations which had been formed of them. The series, one may now anticipate, will, as a whole, stand unrivalled, and we trust will become a model for the emissions of other countries. To philatelists it will have a further and peculiar interest, as it owes its existence to the strong expression of public opinion against its predecessors. These latter were condemned, not because they did not answer the purpose for which they were manufactured, but simply because they were considered unworthy, in point of design, of the great nation for whose use they were intended. The press was so unanimous in urging their suppression because of their ugliness, that the postal department could not resist the pressure. To us, and to our readers, who are accustomed to look at stamps not merely in their useful, but also in their artistic aspect, this result is most gratifying, and politicians of the liberal school may point to this change with pleasure, as exemplifying the power of a free people to control affairs relatively of the most trifling nature. It is the first instance on record of a series being withdrawn on account of its lack of beauty, but we sincerely trust it may not be the last.

The information given in our last respecting the designs and colours turns out to be substantially correct, at any rate as regards those values which are already issued, viz.:—

1 cent (profile of Franklin), bright blue.
2 ,, (,, Jackson), deep brown.
3 ,, (,, Washington), deep green.
6 ,, (,, Lincoln), pale carmine.
10 ,, (,, Jefferson), dark brown.

These stamps present to us the "old familiar faces," but the values yet to come will be

occupied with the hitherto unrepresented notables—Clay, Webster, Scott, Hamilton, and Perry, of whose lives we hope soon to be able to give a short sketch. Even our old friends appear to us under new aspects: the profiles are drawn with such boldness and delicacy combined, that they come out much better than on the preceding issues. Moreover, it is the first time that two among the statesmen represented—Jefferson and Lincoln—have been drawn in profile. Jefferson's portrait has a very fine effect, the features seem perfect; Lincoln's, too, is improved by the change, but the likeness is not so exact—he looks too much like a patriarch, at least so far as we can judge from the obliterated copy before us.

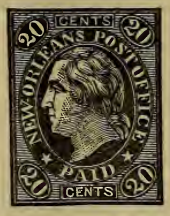
The colours are worthy of the designs—that of the 1 cent is the richest blue we have ever seen, and the green of the 3 c. is remarkably effective. Not less admirable are the deep tints of the 2 and 10 cent stamps, but the colour of one of these two must soon be altered, for there is but the difference of a shade between them, and by gas-light there is scarcely any distinction at all to be observed.

The new comers are rather above the ordinary size, care, no doubt, having been taken in deciding as to the dimensions to give no offence on this score. The designs are admirable from their simplicity, which truly deserves the epithet "classic." No attempt is made to distract attention from the effigy by any tawdry border ornaments. Three of them—the 2, 3, and 10 c.—show the portrait in a solid oval, which is contained in a large shield that all but fills the rectangle; the other two have the central device in a frame of the plainest character; a label over the portrait, inscribed U. S. POSTAGE, another below with the value in words, and a not too-obtrusive numeral in the lower margin, complete the design. Only on the 2 c. there is a delicate tracery of oak and laurel leaves, emblematic of Andrew Jackson's triumphs. Finally, the 1 cent and 10 cents are on paper impressed with the quadrilled square; the others, if we may judge simply from our specimens, are on plain paper.

We hope next month to be able to give illustrations of the entire series, and had not our engraver been pressed with work, we should have received the fac-similes of the 1 and 3 cents in time for insertion in the present number.

We learn from the *American Journal of Philately* that the new issue of envelopes "will be of the same design as the stamps, but the shape will be oval." They will be ready about the 1st of July; and, says our contemporary, "from the proofs we have seen, we judge them to be worthy companions to the adhesives." The reference to the design is rather vague, but we understand it to mean that the envelopes will be adorned with the same portraits as the adhesives of like value, only they will be in relief.

New Orleans.—The present year has been fertile in discoveries, and especially of American stamps. Some of the resuscitated emissions have been roughly treated, but if our information be correct, the stamp of which the annexed engraving is a copy, is *sans réproche*. It has been for several years past in the collection of one of our leading amateurs, and was received by him from a gentleman who formerly resided at New Orleans.



It appears that it was designed to supersede the well-known 5 cent provisionals, and on the point of making its appearance when the federals made *their*s, and the consequence was that the dies, plates, sheets, and all other things appertaining to the emission were abruptly consigned to the flames. The local service was at an end, and the copy whence we describe is the only specimen of the stamp known to be in existence, though in that philatelic *terra incognita*, the Southern States, there may be others still stored away.

The colour of this type is carmine-red. The design is above the average of those of the confederate locals.

St. Domingo.—A correspondent has shown us a copy of the last stamp of St. Domingo, printed on blue wove paper, and precisely

corresponding to those recently described, except that there is no lettering in indication of value above or below. The motto in the riband—DIOS PATRIA LIBERTAD—is there, and this is all.

The specimen in question is postmarked, and to our view has clearly not been tampered with. It is evident to anyone who sees a sheet of the stamps, that the printing of the word CORREOS and the value is done at a second operation, after the arms and frame of the stamp have been impressed on the paper; the position of the lettering in many cases proves this. Probably, therefore, a sheet of blue stamps was accidently omitted from this second operation, or the type slipped, and this one specimen escaped.

CANADA.—We mentioned in our April chronicle that the one-cent orange of the new type had been issued. We now have the pleasure to insert an illustration thereof.



In connection with the mythical halfpenny stamp surcharged 8d. STG., and discovered by M. Moens, the following very pertinent remarks occur in the *Postman's Knock*. The editor says his reasons for doubting the stamp are—First, that it could be no object to any postmaster to do such a trick, as he could not be compelled to put stamps on letters at all, and only would give himself extra trouble without remuneration when he did so; secondly, no subordinate postmaster would dare to surcharge a stamp in this way, as he would most certainly lose his situation for attempting to sell his stock above its facial value. Of course, the authorities at the general post-office could do it if they pleased; but anyone who will read the postmaster-general's report of the original stock remaining on hand at the time the *cent* issue came in use, will see that there never was any lack either of the "eightpence sterling" label or of any of the others. Thirdly, if a postmaster should dare to change the values in this way, if such an attempt were not taken notice of as swindling, it would be regarded merely as an obliteration, and this surcharged stamp would count to the poster of the letter as exactly one halfpenny, while the recipient would have the pleasure of singing songs of joy (in an undertone) as he paid double postage on the "insufficiently" prepaid letter.

DECCAN.—Annexed is an engraving of the new Deccan stamp referred to in our April number. The value is $\frac{3}{4}$ anna, and the colour deep olive. Can any of our readers decipher the inscription? Are the two "cobra capella" hoods, words, or merely ornaments?



NORTH GERMAN CONFEDERATION.—We owe to one of our correspondents information of a slight but noticeable variation in the design of the 1 groschen adhesive. It consists in the insertion of what appears at first sight to be a thick, solid, vertical line, and two thin side lines, in the body of the central figure of value; a closer inspection, however, shows that the middle line is formed of a diagonal shading, the lines of which run from right to left. As our correspondent observes, this variety is found indifferently on perforated and pierced stamps, and on mottled and unmottled paper. The specimen he sends is singularly clear and complete; we have ourselves looked over a large number of copies, but could not find on any of them more than a few indistinct traces of the middle lines. We, however, took the opportunity to examine the other values of the series, and found the 1 kr. green and 3 kr. rose, with a similar variation in the design. Of the few specimens of the former at the moment in our possession, all showed the lines in the figures, or traces of them, but it will require further investigation to prove whether the whole issue of that value is thus characterised. Of the 3 kr., our stock is larger, and among these the proportion of specimens on which the lines or shading appeared was about two out of five. This shading appears in both curves of the figure 3, but all our copies evidently show it only incompletely. Our correspondent states that the 1 kr. envelope exists with the

shaded figure, but we have not yet come across a specimen showing this characteristic.

DOMINICA.—The subjoined cut is that of the design described in our last number. Our engraver has done his best, and if the copy is far below the original, it is not his fault. No wood-cut could approach it in fineness.



SOUTH AFRICAN REPUBLIC.—As the adhesive stamps for this country were not ready for issue at the commencement of the present year, the postmaster-general decided upon emitting a few more provisional envelopes for the benefit of local traders and the public. The die used for the previous ones having been destroyed, a few were impressed with a small hand-stamp, bearing round the circle POTCHEFSTROOM ZUID AFRIKA, and in the centre, Z. A. R., with the value written in by hand, 6*d. pence*. These were placed upon exactly the same style of envelopes as the first issue, and were printed in black. They are, of course, now obsolete. Similar envelopes were provided for PRETORIA and RUSTENBURG, inscribed, respectively, with the names of those towns.

SAN SALVADOR.—A doubtful rumour is in circulation, to the effect that a one centavo stamp, colour *blue*, is shortly to be issued, the type to be similar to that of the current series; it is, however, little likely, even if such an emission has been decided on, that choice has been made of a colour which would inevitably clash with that of the half real.

HANOVER.—M. Moens has discovered that the 1 guten gr. of 1850, which has hitherto been supposed to be on unwatermarked paper, in reality possesses a watermark, consisting of a simple square of the form and about the size of the stamp itself. He adds, "It is not certainly such a watermark as is generally found, but still is one none the less for that; manufacturers' marks alone ought to be excepted from the category of watermarks."

FRANCE.—The laureated 1 centime has at length made its appearance. The design is identical with that of the 2 and 4 c., the colour is exactly that of its predecessor. The new comer has a very neat appearance, and, in reviewer's phrase, we can predict for it a very large circulation. As yet it is only in partial use, the stock of the old type being used up before the new is employed. Our own specimen, the only one we have as yet seen, we took off a circular from Dunkerque.

BELGIUM.—It appears that this country is about to follow the Austrian lead in emitting correspondence cards. The project has been approved by the chambers and the cards are to be issued within six months after the promulgation of the law. M. Moens has faith in their *ultimate* appearance.

PARAGUAY.—It is reported that the provisional government has issued a series of postage stamps, which have been in use since the 1st March. We await confirmation of this rumour.

HOW SHADES OF COLOUR ARE PRODUCED.

THE author of the valuable article on "The Envelopes of Germany," now in course of publication in *The Philatelist*, makes the following interesting remarks in reference to the manner in which shades are produced. The colour of the 3 sgr. Prussian envelope of 1861, which he describes as *dull stone*, forms the text of his observations. With regard to it he says:—

"It is very difficult to convey by words the exact colour which we desire to present to the eyes of our readers. This difficulty arises not only from the imperfection of our own description, but also from the fact that in different persons the organ of colour differs so much as to cause one man to see a colour, if we may so express it, in a different light from that in which another sees it. A further difficulty also arises from the colours themselves: so few stamps are printed in primitive colours. For the most part, the colour is formed by the amalgamation of two or more colours; and as this amalgamation does not always take place in the same proportions, we have no longer a simple dark or light shade of colour, but we have a different tone of colour, according as the

proportion of one or other of the component colours varies from the standard. As a simple instance of this, we may take the actual penny stamp of Victoria, the normal colour of which is green; in addition to which, we find yellow and blue greens in every variety of shade, as also in the three-penny laureated of New South Wales. As for the old sixpenny (diademed head of Queen) of this latter colony, the printer seems to have wandered all round his palette, until one can scarcely say which is the normal colour.

"But even if by some circumlocutory process we are able to give a tolerably accurate description of a composite colour, it is still necessary to give it a name. It is all very well to say, 'Take so many parts of yellow-ochre, so many of burnt umber, adding a *soupçon* of prussian-blue, and *fiat mistura;*' but what is to be the name of this mixture when formed—a mixture which is neither ochre nor brown? Now this is precisely the difficulty we encounter in finding a name for the colour first brought into use in 1850 for the French 10 centime stamps, and for which the French created the name *bistre—lucus a non lucendo,*—for what that colour has to do with the *bistre* of the artist's colour-box we are at a loss to conceive, except that they are both a species of brown. In the preparation of this colour, it seems as if the French colour-mixer had never been able to hit it off. It is not that he has gradually subsided into the colour as it exists at present, but between 1850 and the present date the variations in the tone of colour are as irregular as the diagram drawn by a self-registering weather-cock. Something like one of these varieties was taken as the normal colour for the stamp representing the value of 3 silber gr., when the postal convention was made with the Tour and Taxis post-office in 1861; at that time the colour chosen did not differ very widely from the French 10 cents., but since that time they have become as wide as the poles asunder. While the French have been coquetting with the yellows, the Tour and Taxis, and its allies, have been revelling among the red-browns; and the French catalogues, though they still continue to call the 10 cent. *bistre*, are driven to call the Tour and Taxis, and its allies, *red-brown* or *red-bistre*.

"In this dilemma, we have thought it better to designate the normal colour adopted by Prussia, in 1861, for the 3 sgr. envelope, as *dull stone;* the true colour of what we wish to express by *dull stone* being that found on the 9 kr. and 3 sgr. envelopes of Tour and Taxis, with violet inscriptions; for, as these envelopes only remained in use for about a year, the colour of the impression forms a better standard than we can meet with elsewhere."

REVIEWS OF POSTAL PUBLICATIONS.

An Illustrated Catalogue of Postage Stamps for the use of Collectors. By Dr. J. E. GRAY. Revised and corrected by OVERY TAYLOR. Fifth Edition. London: E. Marlborough & Co. Bath: Alfred Smith & Co.

THE experienced amateur who, under the simple *nom de plume* of "A Parisian Collector," has rendered important services to the science of philately, has been good enough to send us the following *critique* of the above work, which we feel pleasure in inserting as a

SECOND NOTICE.

We hail the appearance of the new edition of Dr. Gray's catalogue, brought down to the present time, with great satisfaction, because we think it will tend to increase the number of collectors. The catalogue is simple, and the editor appears to us to have done very wisely, when writing a work for general use, not to have overloaded it with varieties of perforation and paper, and too many shades of colour He has pointed out when series are perforated, and when not perforated, and noticed some of the more prominent kinds of paper; but when a collector has advanced so far as to have got together anything like the number of stamps described in the catalogue, he will most probably be disposed to advance in the science, and to feel for himself some interest in studying the different degrees of perforation, the various kinds of paper, and will have begun to add to the shades of his stamps.

It seems to be impossible to lay down any general rules for the collection of shades. For ourselves, we endeavour to collect such as vary in some essential point, such as, for instance, in Ceylon, the brown and red-brown 6d., the rose and the redder 4d.; but we discard degrees of the same shade of colour, unless the difference is extremely well defined. With regard to perforations, we think all such as mark a point in the history of a stamp are worthy of collection, such as the early Belgian stamps, the 1863 series of Austria; but what is the particular value of a stamp which has accidentally escaped from perforation we have been at a loss to discover. We regard the varieties of paper in the same way. For the most part, wove paper is more uniform in thickness than laid made. The latter varies much in thickness in the same edition, and we are satisfied, by examination of sheets of stamps issued at the same time, that a most sensible difference often exists in the substance of the paper of the same lot. The number of postage stamps has now become so vast, that few have the time or the opportunity to study those of every country. We therefore regard the catalogue in question with especial favour, as adapted to the wants of the major part of collectors, and as affording to all a very safe foundation, upon which they may always continue to build, even if they desire to go into higher flights.

Further, we approve of the arrangement of the catalogue. The stamp-issuing countries are arranged alphabetically, under each quarter of the world. We confess that we never did like the geographical arrangement adopted by M. Berger-Levrault; and though we lay claim to a tolerable acquaintance with geography, yet we have often found ourselves at fault, and would have been glad of a table of latitudes at the commencement of the work. The printing, &c., is all that can be desired, and, taking into account the moderate price, we shall be surprised if the work does not meet with a very large sale.

Having said so much in praise of the work, we shall be forgiven if we point out a few errors, most of which, however, are little better than simple *errata*. Thus, the first issue of Bavaria is described as perforated. The stamps of the North German Confederation are described only as perforated, while the whole of the groschen series, and some of the kreuzer series, were issued unperforated also. The 3 kr. envelope is omitted, as also those of the Victoria Invalid Stiftung. The 6 pf. Prussia, 1850, is described as "brown," it should be vermilion; and among the envelopes we find chronicled a 5 lilac and 6 green, on paper without threads with black inscription, which certainly we have never seen or heard of before. The 1865 Spanish series is described as perforated and unperforated, but the 4 cuartos never was perforated. The arrangement of the Swiss stamps appears to us to be very judicious, and we only regret that the Winterthur retains a separate place. The 5 reis Azores and Madeira exist unperforated as well as perforated. The 2d. "post-office" Mauritius is chronicled, but not the 1d.; surely if the former has a place, the latter should also. In the 1861-8 series, no distinction is made between those on plain and those on watermarked paper. In the list of Canada stamps, the date of 1857 is assigned to the ½d., 3d., 6d., and 10d., whilst that of 1850 is given to the 12d.; for the proper dates, as far as they are known, we would refer our readers to the paper of Mr. Atlee on these stamps, in the February number of *The Philatelist*. We see that the editor has admitted into the list of New Granada stamps the very suspicious Sobre Porte of 1868. We doubt exceedingly the authenticity of these stamps, and believe them to be spurious. In the St. Domingo series of 1862 the colour of the *un real* is green, not yellow, or buff; and we notice the omission of the ½ real straw colour in the series 1866-9. We think the editor is mistaken in saying that the 5s. Trinidad does not exist marked TOO-LATE. We have had it for some months past in our own collection. The Venezuela stamps of 1866 have also been perforated, and we believe officially. Among the unperforated series of Queensland, the editor inserts the 1s.; we have never seen a satisfactory copy of this, and doubt its existence. The series on *pelure* paper of New Zealand is entirely

omitted, as also the series on plain paper of Tasmania. The editor, we observe, doubts the authenticity of the Suez Canal stamps. All that we can say is that our own copies came direct from the company, by order of M. de Lesseps. We know that they were used by the company for a short time, but the authority to continue their use was withdrawn by the Khedive. The stock on hand is now selling at waste-paper prices. Obliterated copies are as rare as obliterated specimens of the stamps of the Ionian Islands.

We have now only to repeat that in our opinion Mr. Overy Taylor has executed his task with judgment and accuracy, and deserves the thanks of all philatelists for this his latest contribution to the science.

POSTAL CHIT-CHAT.

A SENSIBLE REMARK.—The *New York Evening Post* says, if letter postage be reduced to *one cent*, there will be *two cent* where there is *one sent* now.

WELL POSTED INFORMATION.—It is not necessary that a postman should possess a good voice, but it is a most essential thing that he should have a good "delivery."—*Fun.*

INTERESTING TO DENTISTS.—The *New York World* thinks the peculiar expression of George Washington's mouth on the new postage stamp is only to be accounted for by the fact that the *gum* is placed at the back of the head.

NOTICE TO CORRESPONDENTS.—A country newspaper says: "We cannot impress too strongly upon all correspondents when in doubt whether the postage of a letter is a penny or twopence, the force of the old proverb: 'Two heads are better than one.'"

AN IRISHWOMAN LIFTED UP HER VOICE in bitter lamentation at a post-office in one of the Western cities, the other day, when the official told her he had a letter for her from the *dead*-letter office. It was a long time before she could be made to understand that it was not an *avis de faire part*, as the French call their invitations to attend funerals.

DONE THE THING SLICK.—A gentleman sent a lad with a letter to the post-office, and money to pay the postage. Having returned with the money, he said, "Guess I've done the thing slick. I seed a good many folks puttin' letters in the post-office through a hole, and so I watched my chance and got mine in for nothing."—*American Stamp Mercury.*

THE ST. LOUIS STAMPS.—The engraver of these stamps, Mr. Kershaw, has just made affidavit before a notary public to the effect, that "during or about" the year 1845, he, by order of the then postmaster, Mr. Wimer, engraved a copperplate, containing the engraving of six postage stamps, bearing the coat of arms of the state of Missouri, for the use of the post-office department of St. Louis.

SINGULAR CIRCUMSTANCE.—"For some days past," says the *Nord*, "the postman at Rémersdael, Belgium, had found small particles of wool and straw amongst his letters, for the presence of which he could not account, as the box was out of the reach of children. As on one occasion he observed a bird flying away from the aperture in the lid, he closely examined the interior, and found that a swallow had built her nest inside, and had laid four eggs there! A remarkable circumstance is, that letters are being constantly thrown in, but she does not seem to pay any attention to their fall."

KPANKLA———CAL PARA ENCALAR.—A pamphlet bearing this curious title, which we will not attempt to translate, has just appeared at Madrid. It is, says *Le Timbre-Poste*, the first work treating of postage stamps which has been published in the Spanish language, and is signed Dr. Thebussen, the *nom de plume* of our contributor, Mariano Pardo de Figueroa. It consists of 24 pages, and only 150 copies have been printed. The press has deigned to notice this *brochure*, and has been good enough to bestow upon it the praise which it certainly merits. We hope the author will not stop here, and that he will find imitators in Spain, notwithstanding all the attractions to *la vié contemplature* which that country offers.

A TESTIMONIAL TO SIR ROWLAND HILL.—A few weeks back there appeared in the *Morning Post* a rather novel proposal, made by some one who appreciates the benefits of our postal system, and believes its founder has not been adequately remunerated, to the effect that a fund should be raised for him by donations of penny stamps. The writer suggests that every one who coincides with him should enclose a penny stamp in an unstamped envelope, addressed to the postmaster-general, such letters to be "duly registered," and the contents credited to Sir Rowland Hill. The idea is an original one, but to carry it out the consent of the authorities would be necessary, and the usual rule that not less than two uncut stamps be received would have to be temporarily suppressed.

ADVICE TO PHILATELISTS.—SMOKE! and, above all, buy plenty of tobacco in small packages. The following anecdote will explain the recommendation. A stamp collector of Marseilles went recently to a tobacco shop and asked for two sous worth—take note, two sous—of the fragrant weed. The mistress of the shop, of an economical disposition, caught sight of a piece of paper which had once been an envelope, and did not fail to utilise it to wrap up her merchandise. The timbrophlist, when he got home, turned out his tobacco, examined the wrapper, and found—what?—a NEW fourpenny green Mauritius. Since then all the collectors of Marseilles have taken to smoking, and buy their tobacco in the same quarter. We are not told if they have been equally fortunate.—*Le Timbre-Poste.*

HALFPENNY-POSTAGE.—As our readers are aware, the estimated loss to the revenue this year by the reduction on the postage of printed matter is £120,000. *The Pall Mall Gazette*, in reference thereto, says: "We hope that the postmaster-general will place among the public records of his office the estimate upon which the post-office founded their opinion in regard to the consequences of the change, so that in five years hence this may be compared with the actual results It will be a circumstance without precedent if the figures of St. Martin's-le-Grand are not wonderfully distanced by facts. Rowland Hill counted on a fivefold increase, and received ninefold. We are the last of European nations to adopt such a beneficent reduction, but we shall not be the least successful. The proportion of letters of all weights to parcels of printed matter under 4 oz. passing through the post-office is now 20 to 1. This shows how greatly the reduction was needed. A threefold increase will pay, but who would venture to say that a tenfold rise will not be speedily attained?"

CORRESPONDENCE.

THE UNITED STATES POSTAGE STAMPS.

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

Dear Sir,—It may be interesting to the many readers of the magazine to state, that there are now in actual use in the United States four different emissions of postage stamps.

I posted a letter a short time since bearing stamps of the issues of 1861, '69, and '70; and a few days ago a letter passed through this post-office with a 5-cent stamp of 1847 affixed to it.

Yours, &c.,

Philadelphia, Pa. L. W. D.

SPANISH "CONGRESS" STAMPS.

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

Sir,—In your May number you say, in speaking of the new congress stamp, that the arms (except the crown), *appear as on the fiscal stamps issued under the republic.* Excuse me for saying that there has not been any republic established in Spain. Perhaps you intended to write "under the revolution;" in that case you were right. The money, telegraph stamps, congress stamps, &c., all bear the shield adopted since the fall of Isabella II., *i.e.*, the arms of Castile, Leon, Aragon, Navarre, and Granada,

Yours obediently,

MARIANO PARDO DE FIGUEROA.
C. de l'Academie de l'Histoire.

Medina Sidonia, Spain.

MR. PEARSON HILL ON THE DATE OF ISSUE OF THE PENNY ENGLISH BLACK STAMP.

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

Sir,—In his article, which appears in your May number on the postage stamps of Great Britain, Mr. Overy Taylor —the gentleman by whom Dr. Gray's catalogue has been revised and corrected—expresses a hope that I will furnish proof of the accuracy of my statement, that the Mulready envelopes and the black penny adhesive labels were issued on the same day, seeing that such a statement is obviously irreconcileable with Dr. Gray's assertions, which are to the effect, that the envelopes were issued first, "as Mr. R. Hill still had his predilection for a *cover*," that "the public called for *adhesive stamps*" (which Dr. Gray claims to have been the first to suggest), "that these were at length issued," and proved far superior to money prepayment, "or the covers originally proposed by Mr. (now Sir) Rowland Hill."

As there are, and always have been, numbers of letters passing through the post too large to be enclosed in the Mulready envelopes, and too heavy to be franked by a penny or twopenny rate of postage, the manifest absurdity of attempting, even in the beginning, to carry out a system of prepayment by stamps without employing adhesive labels, should, I think, have led Mr. Overy Taylor to doubt Dr. Gray's statement rather than mine, and to call upon him, not upon me, for proof; especially as Mr. Overy Taylor's connection with Dr. Gray must, I presume, afford him every opportunity of referring to that gentleman for information on the matter.

In proof of the accuracy of my statement that the Mulready envelopes and adhesive labels were issued on the same day, I annex to this letter, for the information of your readers, a printed copy, which I have been fortunate enough to obtain, of the identical Notice, which was issued to all postmasters on the 29th April, 1840, enclosing specimens of the Mulready envelopes, and, as you will see, of the penny adhesive labels, preparatory to their being issued to the public.

On the following day, another notice was issued, of which a printed copy is filed in the books of the General Post-office, but of which I have been unable to obtain a duplicate. I shall, however, have much pleasure in showing the original to Mr. Overy Taylor, if he will favour me with a call. It begins as follows:—

"NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC,
AND
"INSTRUCTIONS TO ALL POSTMASTERS.

"General Post-Office,
"*April*, 1840.

"The Lords of the Treasury having fixed the "*6th May* next for the issue of postage stamps, on and "after that day all letters written on stamped paper, or "enclosed in stamped envelopes, or having stamps affixed "to them—the stamps in every such case being equal in "value or amount to the rates of postage now chargeable "on such letters if prepaid—will pass free of postage in "whatever part of the United Kingdom they may be "posted."

I have more evidence in abundance at hand, if it were necessary, but I think Mr. Overy Taylor will now admit that Dr. Gray's statement is inaccurate, and he will, I hope, cause it to be corrected in all future editions of his catalogue.

Though the refutation of Dr. Gray's statement is so easy, I greatly regret that Mr. Overy Taylor has raised any discussion upon the point. His so doing necessarily opens a much wider question; as this reference, in a journal of such authority as your magazine, to Dr. Gray's statements (the first which has appeared since I became acquainted with it), renders it impossible for me to continue to ignore them, though otherwise I would willingly have contented myself with the contradiction which his claims have already received from Sir Rowland Hill,* rather than enter on a controversy, which may possibly cause annoyance to Dr. Gray, a gentleman for whom I have entertained, ever since I can remember, a most friendly feeling.

Although Dr. Gray has greatly modified the statements which he put forward in the earlier editions of his catalogue, he still claims to have been the first to suggest the system of low and uniform rates of postage, prepaid by stamps, giving as the date of his suggestion, the year 1834.

To show, as I am quite prepared to do, the utter improbability of Dr. Gray having, at the date he mentions, or at any time before the publication of Sir Rowland Hill's pamphlet, made such a suggestion, would extend this letter beyond all reasonable length, and would, at present, be premature. The Uniform Penny Postage System (which is essentially the system of low and uniform rates of postage, prepaid by stamps) has, for the last thirty-three years, been associated with the name of Sir Rowland Hill, and it is surely not unreasonable to require that those who now question his claims to the authorship of that system, should produce some evidence, beyond their bare assertion, in support of their pretensions. Until they do so, they have, I think, little or no claim to consideration.

In all scientific societies, as Dr. Gray must be well aware, rival claims to any invention or discovery are decided by priority of publication. Sir Rowland Hill, in his pamphlet, and in his evidence before the Com-

* See letter in *Athenæum*, 20th December, 1862, and *Parliamentary Papers*, No. 146, 1864.

missioners of Post-office Inquiry (see their 9th *Report*), published his plan as far back as 1837, while the earliest publication of Dr. Gray's claims was, I believe, in the year 1862, that is to say, twenty-five years later, and twenty-two years after the plan had been in actual operation.

Though his statements have been repeatedly challenged, Dr. Gray has hitherto failed to produce any documentary evidence in support of his claims; and until he does, he can hardly complain of injustice if the public assume that no such evidence is forthcoming, and that his statements are based upon his recollection, or fancied recollection, alone. I have now shown that on so important but so simple a question of fact as that raised by Mr. Overy Taylor (one of the most recent, moreover, of the facts to which Dr. Gray's statements relate), Dr. Gray's memory has failed him altogether, and I think I may therefore safely leave your readers to draw their own conclusions with regard to the other claims he puts forward.

Before closing this letter, however, it is only just to Dr. Gray that I should state my full conviction that he would never have put forward any claim at all had he not honestly and sincerely believed it to be well founded. His belief in this matter appears to be one of those strange cases of hallucination, well known to the medical profession, in which people, beginning, perhaps, by wishing they had taken part in some great measure, end by persuading themselves that they did,—a well-known instance being the case of George IV., who during the latter years of his life believed, and constantly asserted, that he had commanded the British troops at the battle of Waterloo.

With every apology for the length of this letter,
I have the honour to remain,
Yours obediently,
London. PEARSON HILL.

[COPY.]

TO ALL POSTMASTERS.

GENERAL POST OFFICE,
April, 1840.

I BEG to inclose you two Specimens of the Penny and Two-penny stamped Covers and Envelopes, and two of the Penny adhesive Labels, (the Two-penny one is not yet ready) which I must beg you will carefully preserve, in order to compare them in case of doubt with the stamped Letters that may pass through your Office. In the event of your suspecting that the Stamps used on any Letters are forged, you will not detain the Letter, but simply take the Address, and report the circumstance to me without loss of time, in order that the Party to whom the Letter is directed may be at once applied to. You will observe, however, that the adhesive Stamps vary almost in all cases, one from the other, having different Letters at the bottom corners, and I point this out that you may not be misled by this circumstance, and be induced to suspect Forgery, where the variation of the stamps has been intentional. The Numbers on the Covers and Envelopes also vary. You will carefully Stamp with the Cancelling Stamp that has been forwarded to you, the stamped Covers and Envelopes, as well as the adhesive Stamps, the two former must be struck on the figure of Britannia, and in case of more than one adhesive Stamp being attached to a Letter, each Stamp must be separately obliterated. The use of the Cancelling Stamp, however, will not dispense with that of the ordinary dated Stamp, which will be struck on the Letter as usual. Where the value of the Stamps is under the rate of Postage, to which the Letter if pre-paid in Money would be subject, you will Surcharge the Letter with a Pen in the usual manner.

You will acknowledge the receipt of this Letter and the Specimen Stamps by return of Post.

By Command,

W. L. MABERLY,
SECRETARY.

ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS.

J. N. R.—The one groten Bremen is a fiscal.—The 50 c. white New Granada, 1863, is not generally believed in.

G. W. B., M.—We can only acknowledge the receipt of your stamps and queries, which came rather late to hand, and must defer our reply until our next impression.

S. L. R., Birkenhead.—The half-schilling Heligoland is the only value of that island that has yet been perforated: the three other values are still issued rouletted.

R. K., Bristol.—Baden, Luxembourg, and Wurtemburg, are the only states of those named in your list which still use their own stamps. All the others employ the Confederation series.

COPE ANSTEY, York.—M. Berger-Levrault has not yet published his catalogue in English. The only recent work of the kind is Dr. Gray's Illustrated Catalogue, which may be had of the publishers of this magazine.

A YOUNG COLLECTOR.—There is not the least doubt as to the genuine character of the Transvaal Republic stamps. We have ourselves received them direct from the postmaster of Potchefstroom—the principal town of that state.

K. WALLIS, Dublin.—The first postage stamps used in Tasmania were issued in 1853, and are the one penny blue, and fourpence orange; both are inscribed VAN DIEMEN'S LAND, and bear a rude profile of her Majesty Queen Victoria.

W. C. M., Bristol.—The 10 pennia Finland, printed in the same colour and on the same paper as the 5 pen., we had not before seen, though we had heard of it. We believe it to be a genuine *erreur d'impression*, and no doubt it is scarce.

A SIMPSON, Montreal.—You do well to purchase your old Swiss stamps only of trustworthy dealers. This country's stamps have been most frequently forged, and good judges even sometimes find it difficult to discriminate between the bad and the good.

AMATEUR, Chelsea.—The kingdom of Holland has issued three series of stamps: the first in 1852; the second in 1864; and the third in 1867-9. The last comprises six values bearing the profile of king to left, and four, of lower denominations, with the arms of the country.

SENOR DON PARDO DE FIGUEROA.—Nous insèrons d'autre part traduction de la communication que vous avez bien voulu nous faire au sujet du nouveau timbre du parlement Espagnol. Nous profitons de cette occasion pour vous prier, lorsque vous obtiendrez des renseignements quelconque sur les emissions de votre pays, de nous en favoriser, et nous leur donnerous le meilleuer accueil. Nous vous envoyons le No. 87 de notre journal et vous remercions de votre remise en timbres.

W. H. E., Newcastle, Staffordshire.—The explanation of the appearance of your Peruvian stamp on an envelope side by side with the shilling and sixpenny English, is not very difficult. The Peruvian paid for the transmission of the latter from some interior town to the seaport, Callao, where there is a branch of the British post-office, and the English stamps paid the postage from Callao home by British mail-packet.—The green stamp is not a one peso, but a one dinero, and *is* described in Gray's Catalogue, see No. 10 in the list of Peruvians.

A CARD FROM LORD HARTINGTON.

"What great events from little causes spring!" What national customs and fashions, affecting the physical and moral well-being of millions, arise from some apparently trivial fiscal arrangement, or small change of taxation! The treaty with Portugal, which introduced into England the common use of port wine—what a fearful heritage of gout has it not left in the constitution of the whole wine-drinking class of the nation! Again, the share the old window-tax had in making people like dark and stuffy rooms; and how the various laws for and against linen, woollen, and calico manufactures influenced the clothing and cleanliness of England, and the whole commercial interest and political peace of Ireland—these, and a hundred other instances, might be cited to show how completely we are at the mercy of our legislators, not, as we might fancy, only for our laws and our taxes, but also for the most intimate habits of private and personal life. The introduction of the penny postage alone revolutionised a custom which had endured among the most polished nations for two thousand years. That cheering composition, a real letter, the literary vehicle in which the lighter thoughts of Xenophon and Cicero and Pliny have come down to us,—the elegant play of Ganganelle and Sevigné and Cowper, came all at once to an end. The dignified epistle ceased to be written, even by the prosiest of mortals; the brief, pert note reigns for evermore in its stead. The literary minuet has given place to the literary jig, and the biographers of the next generation will find it hard to preserve a scrap of the familiar intercourse of their heroes and heroines. Instead of great lustrous diamonds there will be nothing to set but a few sparkling brilliants, into which the thoughts will have all been chipped.

Now we are going to try changes in the postal system, of which the results may very possibly be quite as remarkable as those of the introduction of penny stamps. The halfpenny newspaper stamp will do a good deal, but the halfpenny card, we apprehend, will have more curious and novel effects. The beneficial consequences of the introduction of this cheap stamp in the increased circulation of the printed matter it is designed to further, are obvious enough. But the really new thing will be the use which may be made of the halfpenny cards. As our readers are aware, this additional boon conceded by Lord Hartington—whose reign at the post-office is already distinguished by these great reforms—will consist in official stamped cards, to bear an address on one side, and an open message on the other. Such cards have indeed been in use in Germany for some time. But it must almost inevitably be a very different experiment to introduce them to our overworked and far less ceremonious people. It is difficult to say who among us, except a few idle fine ladies, will not seize on them with thankfulness. First there will be, of course, the obvious pecuniary economy of a halfpenny on the stamp, and the value of the envelope. This alone would be sufficient recommendation for that by no means inconsiderable proportion of the population which does not feel that noble passion, the disdain for halfpence. But to many more the trouble of seeking note-paper and envelope, folding the paper, fixing the loose stamp, and fastening the adhesive envelope, are troubles of which the evasion by the use of a plain and already stamped card will be of much greater importance than the saving of cost. Twenty notes may be despatched on such cards during the time now needed for the preparation of ten for the post-box. Nay, even the need to sit down at a writing-table will be abolished. Carrying a few cards in our pocket-books, we can scribble a line or two wherever we may find pen and ink, or with an indelible pencil write it as we walk along the street. Doubtless special pencils suitable for the purpose will be forthcoming, and the whole cumbrous paraphernalia of correspondence will be reduced to the contents of a waistcoat pocket. Nor will the economy of labour stop here. Among the evils under the sun in 1870 the plague of daily and hourly notes is one of the bitterest to flesh and blood. The idle, the dull, the impertinent members of society actually prey like mosquitoes upon the occupied and careworn. Their endless

notes each act as a tiny proboscis stuck into the victim's skin, and not withdrawn without its drop of blood and consequent irritation of tissue. Everybody asks everybody else every question they please, on the plea that they post-pay their own inquiries. Will A tell B the address of C? Will D be good enough to introduce E to F? Will G recommend H's school? or read I's manuscript? or dine with J? or sit at home to receive K? or lend L £10? or induce M to receive his verses into his magazine? Every man and woman who does anything in the world receives such letters by scores, together with appeals to help charities, public and private, altogether innumerable. Who will not, then, jump at the chance of always replying on the postal cards whereon a "Yes" or a "No, thank you," must necessarily satisfy the claims of politeness?

The authorities have calculated on the publicity of these card messages as fixing some limits on their use. We should not like to wager they will find these limits as narrow as they suppose. Who cares, after all, whether the postman, or his own servant, sees that he invites, or is invited, here or there, or promises to go or stay at home, as the case may be. The publicity in the case of the officials will only be the same as that of telegrams which nobody heeds; and the curiosity of servants can be checked either by locked letter-boxes, or by another obvious resource, the adoption of which we look upon as one of the most curious probable consequences of the new system. Ladies will, perhaps, take to writing their messages in French, German, or Italian; and gentlemen may send theirs in Latin; while between near relatives and friends, all sorts of secret symbols will be arranged to cheat inquisitive eyes. In the former case, what a stimulus will be afforded to the learning of the grammar of foreign tongues, and what delicious stories we shall find circulating about the bad Latin and queer French of our acquaintances. Few are aware how imperfectly they have acquired a foreign tongue, till they are called on suddenly to write in it, and we suspect that many an M.A. of Oxford and Cambridge—nay, even many a D.D.—will find it as hard to accept an invitation to a tea-party in accurate Greek as the Irish bishops do to make a Latin oration at the Œcumenical Council. As to the various ciphers, they will be an education of themselves; but probably they will all yield to some system of shorthand which will reduce correspondence to its final minimum, and enable us to say "Yes" with the Algebraic sign for *plus*, and "No" with the sign for *minus*; and invite our friends to dinner by a round O, to signify the table. How delightfully such a plan would abridge some of the toils of pleasure, if not of business, it is needless to point out. Thus, instead of "Dear Mr. Jones, will you give Mr. Brown and myself the pleasure, &c.," Mrs. Brown might—for the card-post will at once excuse and encourage brevity—simply send a card with a circle at the top, and under it "8th, 7.30?" and Mr. Jones would reply by another card bearing the simple inscription of the sign for "Yes." Then, lastly, for the morning visits of London—cannot we all have our names lithographed on postal cards, and merely address one of them, whenever etiquette requires, to our dear friend, at whose door we should be otherwise compelled bodily to leave it? Truly, with such contrivances, the burden of life in London will be greatly lightened, the consumption of that "pestilent fluid," ink, essentially diminished, and friendship itself rendered—well, not quite so serious a tax as many of us find it now.—*Echo.*

OUR CONTEMPORARIES.

The Philatelist.—The June number is full of readable matter. The further instalment of the article on the Envelopes of Germany forms the *pièce de résistance*, and contains the conclusion of the list of the Prussian series. We observe with pleasure that the same writer has forwarded to the editor, in competition for a prize, an essay on the envelope stamps of this country, the publication of which we shall await with interest.

The American Journal of Philately.—The May number of this periodical is hardly up to its usual level. There is a fair amount of smart writing, but a deficiency of original matter. The coloured cuts, however, are

beyond all praise, and tend strongly to disprove our own statement last month, that exact identity of shade with the originals could not—and could not be expected to—be obtained. The reproduction of the Belgian stamps are really deserving of the title of fac-similes.

The American Stamp Mercury.—All the magazines are alike this month—they contain nothing, in the strict sense of the word, remarkable. *The American Stamp Mercury* is no exception to the rule, it gives no intelligence of any special importance, and we are driven to note the conclusion of the translation of Dr. Magnus's monograph as the most prominent feature of the number. There is, however, a curious little article on the last page, which is worth notice. It gives details of the first auction-sale of stamps which has ever occurred. It took place at the Clinton Hall Book Sale Rooms and Art Galleries, New York, and the stamps offered were said to comprise the entire stock of a bankrupt European dealer, several small American collections, and many exceedingly scarce stamps, together with a job lot of albums. Among the leading items in the sale, we find

1 set of three Sydney stamps, uncancelled	1	dol.	75 c.
1 Knoxville 5 cent red ...	2	,,	25 c.
1 Sandwich Islands 5 c. 1852	11	,,	
1 United States carrier stamp, orange ...	4	,,	50 c.
1 yellow Mercury Austria ... [Qy., reprint.]	2	,,	75 c.
6 (?) and 10 c. St. Louis ...	9	,,	
½ peso Peru, cancelled ...	9	,,	

The Knoxville and Sydney sold at ruinous prices, but the others mentioned fetched about their market value.

We observe the table of contents contains two novel items :—

"OLD FRIENDS WITH NEW FACES (omitted from this number, the author having failed to furnish copy in time for publication). —*E. L. Pemberton.*"

"THE MASSACHUSETTS COINAGE.—The author being unable to furnish his article, it will not be continued.—H. E. W."

The editor must have been non-content when he inserted these notices, and the contributors referred to will not, we should imagine, be too well-pleased on reading this amusing specimen of an American rap over the knuckles.

Le Timbrophile.—Since our last article was written, we have received three numbers of this valuable but irregular magazine. The March and April numbers are principally noticeable for the exhaustive articles by Dr. Magnus and M. Albis, on the Bolivian stamps, a translation of the first of which will appear in our next number. Under the title of *Le Vieux-Neuf*, the editor refers to a fictitious St. Louis stamp, concocted some years ago by Allan Taylor, and, without professing to believe in it, he goes to the expense of engraving it. We remember seeing this absurd stamp a long time back, and never deemed it worthy of notice. Its fabricator now sends it to M. Mahé, with a letter in which he tacitly admits it to be spurious, and in which he asserts that the known St. Louis stamps are humbugs. M. Mahé inserts this letter, and then asks if this is not "rather conclusive." M. Mahé's way of reasoning is most amusing. If a notorious swindler sends him a design purporting to be that of the stamp of a certain country, and if at the same time he admits his design to be a mere concoction, it follows that an assertion of his respecting other stamps, purporting to be for the same country, and known or believed to be genuine, is entitled to full credence! According to this, if any one in Spain sends M. Mahé a type which he (the sender) admits he has forged, and at the same time declares that the stamps inscribed "comunicaciones," and generally supposed to be genuine, are in reality worthless, M. Mahé will consider such information as *rather conclusive!* Granting, for the sake of argument, that the St. Louis stamps are of doubtful character, the assertions of Mr. S. A. Taylor are, at any rate, not worth quoting one way or the other, and the proof is that no one would accept a stamp as genuine, merely because he should say it was.

In the May number of our Parisian *confrère* appears a translation by Dr. Magnus of the reports which have appeared in the English journals of the meetings of the Philatelic Society. The learned translator appends to

the report some very sensible observations relating to the plan of comparing, at the meetings, the members' collections of the stamps of given countries. He says, this is all very well, in its way, and instructive to those who are present at the comparison, but to obtain any permanent benefit from this proceeding, notes ought to be taken at the time of the specimens exhibited, with a view to compiling a catalogue from them afterwards; such notes to include mention of the collections in which the rarest varieties figure.

The translator also gives his opinion *against* the formation of an *official* collection of stamps by the society, as he argues that possessors of really valuable stamps would rather exchange them for others they have not got, than give them away, and that a collection consisting merely of the commoner varieties, would not be worthy of the society. There is considerable force in this objection, but permit us to suggest that though rare stamps might only be attainable (if at all) by purchase, yet many of the now-current emissions which may be freely given by members, may, in time, from one cause or another, become of considerable rarity.

Following the report on the Society's meetings, comes an attack on the 20 c. New Orleans stamp, of which we gave an engraving last month. We should like to hear the other side—that of the owner of the assailed stamp—before we give any opinion ourselves, and we trust he may be induced to come forward to reply to the arguments against its genuineness.

ERRORS OF ENGRAVING AND PRINTING.—II.

BY W. DUDLEY ATLEE.

FINLAND.—Upon information received, the writer made a search and instituted inquiries as to the existence of a 10 pennia stamp of this country, struck off in the colours of the lowest value, *i. e.*, brown on lilac paper; but, notwithstanding much trouble, the reward was *nil*. Moens gives it in his catalogue among the current emission, but does not price it. Although this compiler is a pretty safe guide, he is, of course, like the rest of mankind, liable to err. We cannot prove a negative, but should be glad if some one can give the question an answer that we can consider positive.

FRANCE.—Another error, arising from the inserting of the wrong die in the "form," is found in the stamps of the Republican era. It is a 15 c. printed in black, instead of its normal blue colour. Certain "shams" are about which might pass muster as the genuine article, were it not for the difference in the paper. The test is a very simple one, for the *bonâ-fide* stamp is upon toned paper similar to that used for the 20 c. black, of which, by the way, it is an error; but the counterfeit is on paper of a different and whiter kind. We have applied the word "stamp" to this label, but we have never seen or heard of a specimen which bore a postmark; therefore essay is, perhaps, a more correct, and certainly a safer expression to apply to it. The swindles being "doctored" from the 15 c. green, show the deception when held up to the light.

In the splendid collection of "A Parisian Amateur" there exists a copy of the 20 c. Republic, printed in the exact shade of the 25 c. blue, and duly obliterated with the small dots which followed the "gridiron" postmark. For full particulars of this rarity, and of the surcharged 25 c., we cannot do better than refer the reader to the article in our last volume under the heading, "An Interesting Embryo."

GERMANY.—The only error to chronicle is the $\frac{1}{4}$ groschen rose of the present issue of the Confederation. This was evidently placed in the frame of the 1 sgr. It is rouletted, and is a very scarce variety.

GRANADINE CONFEDERATION.—This republic, so prolific in postal emissions, only gives us two *erreurs d'impression*. These are found in the 1868 series, and arise from the correct colours of the 20 c. and 50 c. being reversed; therefore presenting us with the former in green, and the higher value in red Both these varieties are well known, but the rarest is the 20 c.

GREECE.—Some few years since, we saw a copy of the 20 lepta similar to the one described by Mr. Woods in April. We believe that the numerals at the back are first

printed upon the sheets, and then the design; but in this instance the "form" of the 20 lepta for printing the reverse of the sheets had an 80 slipped into it by mistake, which would account for both the stamp and numerals being in blue.

In November last *The Philatelist* mentioned a pair of 5 lepta in the roseate hue of the 80 lepta as being proofs from the Paris Exhibition. Although some doubt was afterwards thrown on their genuineness, it is now pretty generally allowed that they "are what they seem to be."

HAMBURG.—On the authority of M. Mahé we must note a $1\frac{1}{4}$ sch. of the 1866 emission, printed in rose, but we have not seen the stamp, and have but little faith in it.

HANOVER.—The only varieties we have to notice for this kingdom consist in the sizes and positions of the *burelé* or network. The "fractional" series of 1856 are found with two classes of this netting, one much finer than the other. The largest is the acknowledged authorised emission, but of the smaller only the $\frac{1}{10}$ thaler was issued to the public. The others—one-third and one-fifteenth of a thaler—are supposed to be merely essays. Although the above are not errors, we feel it necessary to mention them, so that they may not be mistaken for what really do come under that heading. Of these there are the 1 guten-groschen green, and $\frac{1}{15}$ thaler rose, which have the *burelé* placed upon them vertically, instead of horizontally.

HOLLAND.—We feel somewhat nervous in avowing our belief in the existence of such a long-cast-off stamp as the 5 c. of the first series in *black*. We fully expect to be unmercifully "set upon" for our presumed folly, but we well remember seeing a pure deep black specimen of this label, in the year 1865, in the collection of an officer now in India. That it had passed through the post there could be not the slightest doubt, as it was "well" obliterated; and as to its being "doctored," we do not think it is possible to translate a blue stamp into such a jet black as the one we are describing. We were unable to obtain it, but made a note respecting it at the time.

INDIA.—A half-anna blue of the first issue is given by Mahé, in his *Guide Manuel*, as having an *erreur de lithographie*, in the shape of a malformation of the word India, which is given thus—INDIA. How this peculiar transmogrification came about we are at a loss to state. We court information on the matter.

ITALY.—Nearly all the vagaries which are presented by the stamps of this state must be laid at the door of the embosser, for in the first series of journal labels he has reversed the central numerals, giving us a one c. black with figure 2, and a 2 c. of the same sable hue with the unit as its embossed value.

In some of the 1855 emissions, with a recklessness almost bordering upon treason, he has placed the head of his august sovereign in the uncomfortable position known to the initiated as "down-side-up," thereby allowing the king's subjects opportunities for making rude and unfeeling remarks as to the topsy-turvyness of his majesty's power. How many men have lost their heads for less than this!

Stamps with *tête renversée* are found in all the values, but we have never noticed the error in the 40 c. *orange*, or in the *yellow* 10 c., although they may exist.

We must not omit to mention the variations which were discovered upon the 20 centesimi of the present issue soon after their emission. To exhume an old subject, we must state that an accident having happened to the matrix, the engravers, to hide the flaw, placed four white dots over the part injured, and they will be seen in the elliptical frame, above and below the ornaments on each side which divided the inscriptions. The plate "getting into the wars" again, it had to be retouched up, when eight more dots were added, which —to quote a writer at the time—"may be observed in the lefthand upper part of the stamp, between PO and after E; and on the right, between AL, and below the letter N. In the lefthand lower part, between the letters UI and also the CI; and on the right, between the EN and under the first I in CENTESIMI."

These two varieties are only found in dark blue, and both were used for making the provisional surcharged 15 c.

We need merely remark, *en passant*, that in the current chiffre-taxe the lowest value is inscribed in the plural, as CENTESIMI, and that the 1 lira is suffering under a similar error, being marked LIRE. This, as it has been before stated in these pages, is defensible on the ground of economy, the government making two dies take the place of four.

A CONTRAST.
POST-OFFICE REGULATIONS AND CHANGES IN 1753.

THE following is an extract from a book called *The Bath and Bristol Guide*, published in Bath in 1753, and lately reprinted by a local paper. It gives such an amusing insight into the postal arrangements of a century ago, that we feel sure it will interest our readers :—

"The Posts from London to any part of England or Scotland are Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Saturdays; the return on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays. But to Wales and Ireland the Post goes only twice a week, namely, Tuesdays and Saturdays, and returns from Wales Monday and Friday—but from Ireland the return is uncertain. The Postmaster to provide horses on all the Post roads; and not providing sufficient horses he is liable to a forfeiture of £5. He is to receive for furnishing a horse to ride Post 3d. per mile and 4d. for the guide, and he shall not charge anything for carrying a bundle so as it does not exceed eight pounds.

"Besides this excellent convenience of carrying letters and men on horseback, there is of late an admirable commodiousness both for men and women travelling; and that is by Post-chaises, wherein one may be transported to any place, sheltered from foul weather and foul ways, at so easy a price as 9d. per mile, either single or double; and the passenger or passengers are allowed to carry any weight provided it does not exceed sixty pounds.

"The Post is obliged to travel 5 miles an hour. By a statute made in the 9th of Queen Anne the following rates are appointed to be paid for Post letters:

England or South British Inland.—Letters or Packets.

"From London to or from any place not exceeding 80 miles distance, a sheet or single letter, 3d.; two sheets, 6d.; three sheets, 9d.; and an ounce of letters, 1s.; and to and from any place above 80 miles from London, 4d. single, 8d. double, and ounce, 1s. 4d.

North Britain.—Letters or Packets.

"From London to Edinburgh and the contrary, 6d. single, 1s. double, 1s. 6d. treble, and 2s. the ounce. From Edinburgh, not exceeding 50 miles in Scotland, 2d. single, 4d. double, 6d. treble, and 8d. the ounce. From any place above 50 miles and not exceeding 80 miles in Scotland, 3d. single, 6d. double, 9d. treble, and 1s. the ounce. And if to or from places above 80 miles from Edinburgh in Scotland, 4d. single, 8d. double, 1s. treble, and 1s. 4d. the ounce.

Ireland.—Letters and Parcels.

"From London to Dublin and the contrary, 6d. single, 1s. double, 1s. 6d. treble, and 2s. the ounce. From Dublin to or from any place not exceeding 40 English miles, 2d. single, 4d. double, 6d. treble, and 8d. the ounce. If above 40 miles from Dublin, 4d. single, 8d. double, 1s. treble, and 1s. 6d. the ounce.

"*An account of the expence of sending a letter or packet by express* to the following places, and so in proportion to any other place, according to the distance, the same being despatched from the General Post-Office at any hour without loss of time.*

	£	s.	d.
To Bath ..	2	1	0
,, Berwick ..	4	9	6
,, Blandford ..	2	2	0
,, Bridgwater ..	2	10	9
,, Bristol ..	2	3	6
,, Calne ..	1	17	6
,, Carmarthen ..	4	5	6
,, Chippenham	1	18	0
,, Devizes ..	1	16	3
,, Dorchester ..	2	9	0
,, Dover ..	1	12	6
,, Edinburgh ..	5	1	0
,, Exeter ..	2	16	9
,, Gloucester ..	2	1	6
,, Haverfordwest	3	0	9
,, Hereford ..	2	7	0
,, Hungerford ..	1	10	6
,, Maidenhead ..	1	0	0
,, Marlborough	1	13	0
,, Minehead ..	2	19	3
,, Monmouth ..	2	5	6
,, Newbury ..	1	8	0

	£	s.	d.
To Newcastle .	3	15	6
,, Oxford ..	1	7	6
,, Penryn ..	4	6	0
,, Penrith ..	3	19	3
,, Penzance ..	4	13	0
,, Plymouth ..	3	8	9
,, Portsmouth ..	1	11	6
,, Reading ..	1	3	6
,, Salisbury ..	1	13	9
,, Scarborough	3	9	0
,, Shaftesbury ..	1	19	0
,, Sherborne ..	2	8	6
,, Shepton Mallet	2	5	8
,, Taunton ..	2	12	9
,, Twerton ..	2	17	6
,, Truro ..	4	3	0
,, Wells ..	2	7	3
,, Weymouth ..	2	9	0
,, Worcester ..	2	3	9
,, Yarmouth ..	2	2	0
,, York ..	2	18	0

* [From London ?—ED.]

SAINT CHRISTOPHER.

Two miles to the north of Nevis, and forty-six to the west of Antigua, lies a little island which has only within the last couple of months followed its neighbours' example in issuing postage stamps.

Four years ago an emission was talked of, and at a time when frauds in the way of essays were frequent, an attempt on the credulity of collectors was made, in the shape of a set of pretended proofs of a forthcoming series for this island. The badly-employed talent of the engraver was temporarily rewarded by the purchase of his productions by collectors, but after a few months had passed they fell into disrepute, and were ultimately discovered to be entirely fictitious.

Since then the stamp world has heard little of St. Christopher; nor has the general public heard much more, for St. Kitts (to quote its more popular name) is not an island which occupies a very conspicuous position, and only careful students of the news brought by the West Indian mails can be at all *au courant* respecting its progress.

Still, it must not be supposed that St. Christopher is declining—it keeps the even tenor of its way, but that way is an upward one; and certainly it is not likely to retrograde for want of educational facilities, for we find that there were in 1858 no less than 34 schools in the island, or one to two square miles. The revenue has risen fivefold within a brief period: in 1834 it was £3,600, in 1857, nearly £20,000, and it probably has increased in the same ratio since. This advance is ascribed to the system of free labour, which has had such a contrary effect in other colonies.

The general make-up of a West Indian island can almost be guessed beforehand: a couple or so of large towns, a mountain ridge, and a sprinkling of plantations, form the principal items,—and these are the chief characteristics of St. Christopher. The political features are not more difficult to conjecture: a governor, a very diminutive house of assembly, and an executive, consisting of two or three officials, who each fill half-a-dozen high-sounding positions, and hardly make a decent living out of the lot—such are the notable points which we find repeated monotonously in all the minor islands of the West Indian group.

The only really peculiar thing connected with the island is its name, which was given it by its discoverer, Columbus, and is, in some sort, a *souvenir* of him, as it was his own Christian name.

THE NEW ZEALAND STAMPS.

The following information respecting the origin of the N. Z. watermark, and the mode in which the New Zealand stamps are engraved, comes from a specially trustworthy source, and will, we have no doubt, be read with interest.

The reason some stamps have been printed on paper with N. Z., instead of a star watermark, arose from a mistake. One hundred reams of paper were ordered from England, and the N. Z. put as the watermark by error; the government being short of paper used some of this on its arrival (about forty reams have been used), but on receipt of paper with the star watermark, the use of the other was discontinued, as being of inferior quality. It is very probable that some of it may be used soon, as the office is nearly out of the star brand of paper, and it may all be used before new arrives. No account was kept of the stamps which were printed on this paper, but it was used indiscriminately for all denominations required.

The adhesive receipt or bill stamps are all printed off the same form, *i.e.*, the Queen's head and lines of the stamps are first engraved on wood, off which a set of electrotype plates are taken, and from these a steel plate is engraved, large enough for a whole sheet of paper.

The stamps are engraved from this plate, the denominational value of the stamp being printed in the ordinary way, after the stamp itself has been printed—thus, one steel plate suffices to engrave all the receipt or bill stamps that are used in the colony, the difference being in the *colour* of the ink used for printing the engraving. The printing of the value is a separate process.

NEWLY-ISSUED OR INEDITED STAMPS.

WE have delayed the preparation of this article until a perilously late period of the month, being uncertain whether the promised illustrations of the United States stamps would arrive in time for insertion. The engraver has, however, redeemed his promise, and we are happy to be able to place all the types before our readers.

UNITED STATES.—We have already described at length the designs of the five lower values, but, for clearness' sake, it may be as well to repeat the information as to colours and portraits. They are as follows: — 1 c. bright blue, Franklin; 2 c. deep brown, Jackson; 3 c. deep green, Washington; 6 c. pale carmine, Lincoln; 10 c. dark brown, Jefferson.











The remaining five values of the new series are out, though if rumour is to be believed, their circulation has been temporarily suspended, to give time for the exhaustion of the two previous emissions. These higher values are, in our opinion, quite equal to the five lower denominations by which they were preceded. The designs are quite as chaste, the colouring as effective, the execution as delicate.

The 12 cent bears the bust of Henry Clay, and is very neatly designed. The portrait itself has quite a classical appearance, and gives one a good idea of the acute statesman it represents. The colour is a kind of purplish black.



The 15 cents is the simplest of all: the design may be said to be composed merely of the portrait (that of Webster) and the surrounding oval. The colour chosen (a brilliant orange) is pleasing; and if the indented square were, as on some other values, conspicuous for its absence, there would have been nothing to complain of.



The 24 cents is strikingly beautiful. It is more highly ornamented by far than any of the other values, but the embellishments have been disposed with such remarkable taste that they deserve nothing but praise. On the upper edge of the oval containing the bust of handsome old General Scott are arranged the thirteen emblematic stars, and the inscription, U.S. POSTAGE, is divided out, letter by letter, among the nine central ones. Below the oval, on the right, are three muskets piled, and on the left a flag and cannon; numerals of value in the upper corners, and the value in words in the lower margin, complete a design which is truly remarkable for its elegance. If anything were needed to enhance the effect, the colour—a rich violet—supplies the want.



After the 24 cent comes the 30 c., which most resembles the lower values, the portrait (Hamilton's) appearing on an oval in the

centre of a shield, which nearly fills the stamp. This is a fit companion for the 12 cents, to which indeed its colour (a greyish black) is rather too closely allied.





The 90 cents bears the profile of the naval hero, Commodore Perry, in the centre of a large oval, of which a portion of the border is formed of a rope, which serves to suspend the label containing the value in words; anchors at the two lower corners still further illustrate the vocation of the represented officer. The colour of this value is a rosy-red.

The specimens from which we describe are clear and perfect impressions, but it seems that the printing has not been of equal excellence throughout, as our Brighton contemporary remarks that "in all the specimens of the 30 c. and 90 c. he has seen, either from a peculiarity of the paper or other extraneous cause, the impressions are sadly blurred."

ST. CHRISTOPHER.—We announced last month the emission of these stamps, and are now able to confirm the statement, upon ocular demonstration, of its correctness in the shape of specimens of the stamps themselves. We cannot but express ourselves pleased with them, as though they do not rise far above the usual De La Rue type, they are characterised by greater neatness and taste than many of the productions of that famous house. The colours, of course, have a great deal to do with the appearance, and those which have been given, respectively, to the two values, the penny and sixpence, are well chosen; the green of the latter value is very pretty. Pleasing as these stamps are, they yet present the minimum of intrinsic interest. Had they borne, instead of a monotonous repetition of the Queen's head, the armorial bearings of the island, how much more interesting they would have been. Musing observers of the stamps will observe that the familiar appellation, St. Kitts, has been discarded, in favour of the more formal title, Saint Christopher.



NEW SOUTH WALES.—In our May number we described the forthcoming sixpence from a proof impression. This proof has since been engraved, and from the annexed illustration our readers will be able to judge whether our expressions of satisfaction were warranted.



NEW GRANADA.—We recently announced the appearance of stamps of the value of 5 and 10 pesos respectively. We have now before us one of these miniature bank-notes, and find the design is hardly equal to the monetary worth. Annexed we give a fac-simile thereof, whence our readers can judge for themselves of its beauty. They will probably be disposed to think that an allowance of 99 per cent. ought to be made to collectors who wish to obtain specimens.



Antioquia.—In our number for March last we gave the fac-simile of a $2\frac{1}{2}$ centavos for this state, of a far more primitive type of design than the 5 c. by which it was accompanied; a 10 c. pale lilac on white, greatly resembling the former, has now been discovered, an engraving of which is annexed. It is now argued, and with great appearance of reason, that there have been in all three emissions for this state. The $2\frac{1}{2}$ c. above alluded to, and the 10 c., which figures herewith, are members, according to this hypothesis, of the



first series, with the other values of which we are still unacquainted. The 5 c. engraved in our March number, and the one peso represented in our February number, are portions of a second series, and the other four types, of which illustrations are given in our February number, form the third and still-current series, of which the one peso has not yet been issued.

Tolima.—The curious and primitive label which we here reproduce, is said to belong to the New Granadian state of Tolima, a state of which, however, the very existence is doubtful;—at any rate M. Moens affirms that he can find no mention of it in any dictionary. We are unable, on the spur of the moment, to give any information on the question, but hope to be able to do so in our next. Nothing is known respecting the stamp itself—the date of its emission, whether it is in use or not—all alike is mystery. The only thing one can affirm with certainty is, that it is printed in black on bluish paper.



SPAIN.—We are indebted to an esteemed correspondent, the author of *Kpankla*, for a sight of some unexpected novelties. First of all there are three more values of the current type, under which the sender had written the brief criticism, "cheap, but frightful." At a first casual glance, we took the denomination to be 1, 2, and 4 escudos, and consequently could not see the force of our correspondent's remark, but a second reading showed the values to be 1, 2, and 4 *milesimas* d'escudo, or the fortieth, twentieth, and tenth of a penny respectively. Although these values were directed to be issued by the decree authorising the emission of the series, their non-appearance led to a very natural belief that the administration had decided not to put these stamps in circulation. Here they are, however, and we shall be glad to know what use the two lower values will really serve. Between the 1 and 2 mil. there is only the difference of a shade, they are both printed in a warm brown, almost identical with that of the 4 c. 1862, and it may be that even the difference of shade noticeable in our own specimens is but accidental; if such be the case, it will just show how little importance the authorities set on them. Mistakes no doubt will be made between the two, but no one, we imagine, will thereby be much out of pocket.

The 4 mil. is printed in buff, an ineffective tint, but showing sufficient variation from the others to prevent confusion. The design is the same as for the higher values, and these stamps are also perforated like the rest.

We may here appropriately tack on the statement of *Le Timbre-Poste*, to the effect that the 5 mil. is now being printed at Madrid. They were, however, to have been issued on the 9th ult. The 10 mil., rose on white, which has already been struck off, will not be issued until the stock of the 10 mil. figures has been exhausted.

The other novelties consist of a couple of official stamps. They resemble, in the mode of their impression, the Congress stamps. The larger of the two is in shape an octagon, and bears in the centre the arms of Spain as revised and corrected by the revolutionary government, surmounted by a large *mural* crown. The inscription, which runs round the margin, reads CABINETTE DIRECTIVO DE COMUNICACIONES. The second stamp consists simply of a scroll, something in the shape of a lover's knot, and inscribed DIRECCION GENERAL DE COMUNICACIONES. Both are struck in black on white envelopes, but the first described is of a far deeper tint. These stamps, we are informed, are intended solely to frank the correspondence of the postmaster-general.



Returning to the Belgian journal, we find M. Moens stating that he has found, among a lot of mixed stamps, a *perforated* 2 rls. brown of 1855.

He has also discovered another variety of the "Habilitado" stamps, consisting of the letters H.P.N., in an oval, struck on a 12 c. yellow of 1867. It is hardly necessary to add, that these letters are supposed to signify HABILITADO POR LA NACION.



Still borrowing from the same source, we have news of three Spanish essays sub-

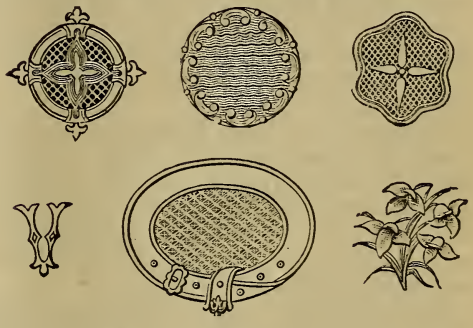
mitted for the current series. The first, value 10 mil., bears the effigy of Guttenberg in an oval, and is printed in blackish blue on white; the second, value 50 c., is ornamented with the arms of Spain *as they are*, between the pillars of Hercules; the third, value 100 c., vermilion on white, intended for the colonies in both hemispheres, represents two globes, also between the pillars of Hercules, and both of the two latter bear the celebrated legend, PLUS ULTRA. The two globes, says our authority, resemble two cheeses, and the execution of all the three types is of an inferior order, although they are none the less curious for that.

GREAT BRITAIN. — We borrow from the *Railway News* the following information respecting the new halfpenny stamp. "We understand that the post-office authorities have finally decided upon the form of the new halfpenny stamp to be used for the transmission of newspapers through the post on and after the 1st of October. The stamp will be one-third smaller than the present postage stamp, the head of Her Majesty, as at present engraved on the stamps, to be reduced in a corresponding proportion. On each side of the head will be the figures "½d." in the place of the words POSTAGE ONE PENNY, now adopted. The stamp will be oblong, the horizontal sides being longer than the perpendicular, thus presenting to the eye a clear and well-defined difference between the halfpenny and the penny stamp. The colour selected has been light pink, that having been found, after many experiments, to be the most fugitive, and the most easily affected by any attempts at tampering with it. The figures denoting the value of the stamp will be left white, and the ground will be filled up with engine work, or light pink lines. The stamps will be printed on sheets of 480, representing twenty shillings' worth. Messrs. Perkins, Bacon, & Co., who engraved and now print the present postage stamp, have received the order to engrave the new stamp, prepare the paper, and print 1,200,000 sheets of the new stamp, to be ready for delivery early in September. The preparation of the steel die will occupy about a fortnight. After this is completed, it will have to be copied on to the rollers and steel plates, from which the stamps are to be printed."

It may be well to note here that, according to a statement made at the May meeting of the Philatelic Society, Messrs. De La Rue, and not Messrs. Perkins, Bacon, & Co., are charged with the execution of the design, though it would seem that the latter had not at that time been definitively decided on, as the statement to which we refer merely says that "the designs for the forthcoming halfpenny stamp are already in existence in Messrs. De La Rue's *atelier*." The date of emission of this stamp is fixed for the 30th September, and our readers are, no doubt, aware that halfpenny post-cards will make their appearance at the same time.

VICTORIA.—We extract from the June *Philatelist* the following interesting details respecting the newly-issued envelopes:

"We have just received a consignment of the twopenny envelopes, and find that the watermark, described in January from a solitary specimen, is not found invariably in all the four sizes. The large oblongs show



JOHN DICKINSON & CO., 1869, in portions, and rarely the crown; some of them have a fancy device; others, a wafer stamp, within an oval oblong garter, as seal impression on the flap: these latter are also folded differently and usually unwatermarked. The next size is found variously watermarked, having more or less of the above inscription in smaller characters, but most often unwatermarked. A few are dated 1864! Like the preceding, individuals are seen with two distinct seal impressions, unlike those on the larger. The next size is that from which our description was taken in January; but seldom shows the

whole of the watermark. Taking up one by chance, we saw it dated 1867, and gave up further search in despair, or we should probably have to chronicle as many varieties as envelopes. So far as we had patience to verify, these are all impressed with a fanciful V. The smallest envelopes, most frequently devoid of watermark, exhibit portions of the same inscription as the second size, and at times the word POST. The seal impression is a rose. All are on highly glazed satin laid paper of varying consistency. Which of the sundry varieties above, numerated or implied, is to be considered by the quasi-purists as the normal type? We pause for a reply. We have reserved fourteen for our own collection."

RUSSIA.—Another correspondent, to whom we must admit our obligation, sends us copies of the 3 kop. Russia, the design of which is struck on the groundwork of the 5 kop., which, as our readers are aware, consists of repetitions of the Roman numeral V. This must take rank as a remarkable and peculiarly interesting printer's error. The stamps on which it appears are in the ordinary colours, black and green, and, as we may presume the error was confined to a few sheets at most, this variety must soon become very rare.

AUSTRIA.—We learn from *Le Timbrophile* that the violet newspaper stamp of 1867, head of Mercury, has already ceased to exist. There was but one supply printed, and, says our contemporary, "notwithstanding our reiterated inquiries, we have found it impossible to obtain copies."

In contradiction of this statement, we read in *Le Timbre Poste*, that for the past two months, the journal stamp has been printed in bright violet. We also learn from this latter authority that Austria is about to follow the Prussian initiative in using up all the old envelopes by covering the impressed stamps with adhesive 5 kr.

HOLLAND.—From *The General Stamp Advertiser*, a publication issued by Mr. Van Rinsum, which has taken the place of the now defunct *Continental Philatelic Magazine*, we glean intelligence of a forthcoming emission of a set of envelopes, newspaper bands, and post cards for Holland. It is surprising how rapidly the number of this country's stamps has increased since the supercession of the first long-lived trio, and it is still more surprising to notice how rapidly the idea of post-cards is being taken up by the European states.

ROUMANIA.—The current series, already numbering several values, has just received an augmentation in the shape of a 3 bani deep mauve. The design is that of the 2, 4, and 18 bani, and, like its predecessors, is unperforated.

A COLLECTION OF HEADS.

I THINK some of your readers may be interested to learn of a little supplementary collection of stamps which I have formed, consisting solely of those which are ornamented with portraits.

I have made it, certainly, for my own pleasure in the first place, but as I am an ardent lover of philately, and like to propagate it wherever I can, an equally strong motive has been my desire to have a little collection at hand, which would illustrate, in a very special manner, one of the chief uses of the science, for the purpose of showing it to the uninitiated, with a view to converting them, if possible, into stamp collectors, or at least inspiring them with proper respect for the pursuit.

I have found that it is useless to expect mere philistines to comprehend or take anything more than a coldly complimentary interest in my collection proper, which I have endeavoured to arrange in humble obedience to the dictates of our philatelic authorities. To them even the evident differences of shade are barely visible, and the finer characteristics of varieties it is useless to attempt to explain. I have learnt, therefore, not to waste time in expatiating over those beauties and rarities which are pleasing to a trained eye, and have found that to gain attention it is necessary to point to the more obviously interesting portions of my album, and especially to the historical value of stamps.

Following up this idea, it occurred to me to form a little supplementary collection of the "head" stamps, choosing just one of each, and I have found this plan answer very well. The portraits on most of the stamps

are good, and many are wonderfully exact. That of our own gracious Queen is an exception to the rule, but the effigies of the Emperor of the French and the King of Italy are very like. Again, lady-examiners of my collection look with interest on the features of Queen Isabella, in whose favour, by the way, I have been bound to make an exception to my rule to admit but one portrait.

Old Bomba's classic face always attracts attention, and so do the unclassical lineaments of the kings Kamehameha. The fine Argentine portraits draw forth inquiry as to whom they represent, and so, unfortunately, does the equally fine head on the new Chilian stamps.

The Prince of Wales, on the 10 c. Newfoundland, is readily recognised, and the portrait of old Jacques Cartier excites interest. The portraits on the old American stamps are pretty familiar, even to the outside world of unbelievers, but some of those on the new series will no doubt give rise to questions, to be prepared for which I must rub up my own biographical knowledge.

But I need not prolong these gossipping remarks. I have said enough, I think, to prove that my plan has a good deal in its favour, and I need hardly, therefore, allude to the pretty appearance of these effigied stamps as another argument. If some of my readers should be disposed to follow my example by making a similar collection, I think they would soon increase the number of their philatelic friends.

THE PHILATELIC SOCIETY.

BOTH the Committee and General Meetings on the 7th ultimo were fully attended. The departure of the President for Australia, though much regretted, was compensated for by the superintendence of the Vice-President. The annual accounts were produced by the Secretary, and passed with great approval; there being, after the payment of all expenses, a tangible balance in hand, which will be devoted to the furtherance of the Society's objects, and the advantage of its members in general.

Dr. Viner proposed that exhaustive monographs of the issues of all countries should be gradually prepared on the principle of those valuable ones published by Messrs. Pemberton and others in *The Philatelist:* that these should be from time to time printed and distributed gratis to the several members. These monographs, when completed, will form a full and authorative catalogue of all the accredited varieties of postage stamps proper. This idea, meeting with general approbation, it is hoped will be eventually carried out. Meanwhile it is contemplated to publish the proceedings of the Society during its twelvemonths' existence, and forward them to all members.

Sundry specimens were exhibited and compared, including the numerous varieties of the Victoria twopenny envelopes, some of the newly-emitted United States stamps, genuine U.S. locals, and a beautiful proof on cardboard of the new U.S. 6 cents in brown, the normal colour being pink

It was mentioned that the designs for the forthcoming halfpenny stamp are already in existence in Messrs. De La Rue's *atelier.*

In reference to certain observations on his acceptance of information from a quarter lying under the ban of the Society, Dr. Viner took occasion to explain that he did so from no disrespect to its members, but simply from a wish to impart all derivable knowledge on philatelic matters to collectors in general. He also submitted, that communications of interest, when obtained, are entitled in common politeness to courteous acknowledgment.

A committee meeting was held on the 21st, at which, and at the previous ones, donations of stamps for the Society's Reference Collection were made by the various members. Dr. Viner presented the latest edition of Oppen's album. The Society has received the accessions of many members, proposed and elected at this and recent meetings, notably a lady member, residing at Wellington, New Zealand, and Sr. Don Mariano de Figueroa, of Medina Sidonia, Spain, whose philatelic manual, the first published in that language, has just appeared, under his *nom de guerre* of Dr. Thebussem.*

* This report is copied from *The Philatelist.*

Unlike the "May meeting," that which was held on the 4th ult. was but thinly attended. The chair was taken by the Vice-President, and among the members present were the Secretary, Dr. Viner, Mr. Ysasi, and Mr. Overy Taylor.

The most interesting item in the proceedings consisted in the reading and discussion of an interesting communication from New Zealand, the principal items of which are given at length in another part of the number. The secretary was instructed to correspond with the writer of the same, with a view to the further elucidation of certain obscure points connected with the history of the New Zealand stamps, and it is to be hoped that further valuable details will be forthcoming.

REVIEWS OF POSTAL PUBLICATIONS.

Kpankla (carta dirigida al Senor Don Eduardo De Mariategui por el Doctor Thebussem). Madrid, 1870.

WE reprinted in our last number a brief notice of the above work from *Le Timbre-Poste*, and being now, through the courtesy of its author — Senor Mariano Pardo de Figueroa,—in possession of one of the 150 copies which formed the now-exhausted edition, we are happy to be able to bring this interesting little *brochure* again before our readers, and only regret that our very slight acquaintance with the Spanish language prevents our referring to it in any but the most superficial manner.

The work is divided into seven sections: the first refers to the different terms designating Spanish stamps and post-offices, with a fling at the new term COMUNICACIONES; the second section is devoted to a kind of sketch of philately and philatelists, the facts related in which must astonish uninitiated readers in Spain; section the third is entitled "Chitchat" (a term which we are spared the trouble of translating), and treats of the Spanish stamps, regarded from a philatelic point of view, and in this connection the critiques on the new issue, which appeared in our own and other magazines, are quoted in the language in which they were written; the fourth section treats of the obstacles in the way of dealing in stamps in the country of the Hidalgos, and here we notice that the author quotes those laws against the sale of stamps by unauthorised persons which he refers to in a letter published in another part of this present number. He laments the total absence of periodicals, books, or other writings, on stamps, except such cursory notices as appear in the [official] *Post-office Review;* the fifth section consists of an apology for stamp collecting; the sixth is occupied with certain suggestions respecting stamps, for the benefit of the chiefs and subordinates of the Spanish post-office, followed by a table, showing the percentage of heavily-cancelled stamps among several of the principal stamp-issuing countries, whence it appears that 44 per cent. of the Spanish, 75 per cent. of the Philippine, and 86 per cent. of the Cuban labels are rendered illegible by the obliterations. The seventh section consists of an explanation of the curious title *Kpankla*, which turns out to be an abbreviation of *ca p'ancalá*, or, in good Spanish, CAL PARA ENCALAR.

This brief analysis will serve to show the scope of the work. It is intended for general reading, and as it is the first which has appeared in the language, we may anticipate it will do much to popularise collecting in Spain. A second edition is now in the press, and we trust that it will speedily meet with the "happy despatch" which the first has received. The printing is surprisingly neat, and in all respects this little book is worthy of the honourable position it occupies.

CORRESPONDENCE.

THE *NEW* PARAGUAY.

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

DEAR SIR,—Anything, either *pro* or *con*, concerning the genuineness of the renewed rumour of an emission for Paraguay is worthy of mention, so I send you a copy of a note received from the consul-general in London respecting them:—

"Mr. Greene begs to inform Mr. Atlee that he has not heard of the issue of any postage stamps by the Paraguayan government, and in the present unsettled state of affairs in that country, he doubts whether any have been issued."

Yours truly,

Birmingham. W. DUDLEY ATLEE.

THE TWOPENNY STAMP OF BARBADOES.

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

Sir,—"Fentonia," in your magazine for May has written a lengthy letter, the greater portion of which is devoted to the now obsolete 2d. stamp of this island. He seems entirely to doubt that such a label ever existed. I beg to assure him that the 2d. stamp is no myth: that it did exist, and passed current, although but for a short period.

I must repeat that Mr. Tinling, our postmaster, has again assured me that he *recollects well* when these stamps were used.

I must also call your attention to my former remarks, viz., that a gentleman employed at the secretary's office (and who is now a partner in one of our largest mercantile houses) had substantiated what I had previously written, and that he had referred to the order-book, and told me the colour, value, and time, when they were ordered.

I will also, in proof that such a stamp did exist, volunteer a small bit of information: The postage from this to the neighbouring ports was, at the time when these stamps were issued, 5d.; frequently parties had not a penny label by them, and rather than take the trouble to send to the post-office, would cut a 2d. stamp in two, and place one half, together with a 4d. label, on their letter; this was permitted to pass the post, and so reached its destination.

When I was in Martinique a few years past, Mr. Coepel (a merchant of that island) permitted me to examine his old letters and papers, and to take from them any stamps that I required. I found three or four letters that had been posted with a 4d. and half of a 2d. stamp. I managed to obtain two halves which matched nicely, and placed same amongst my collection. This is the one that I informed you I had been happy enough to obtain in the room of that which I parted with for such a tempting price.

The specimen which "Fentonia" refers to, as having been in the collection of a post-office clerk here, was not a 2d. I saw the stamp; it belonged to Mr. Parks, the unfortunate clerk who was drowned at Demerara. The specimen in this poor fellow's album was perforated, and the 2d. labels were not.

Apologizing for having so largely occupied your space.

I am, Sir, yours obediently,

Barbadoes. BRIDGETOWN.

[Would our correspondent kindly state what the colour, value, and time of order which were communicated to him were, with any other particulars he may be in possession of; this we know would be extremely acceptable to our readers.—Ed.]

THE FIFTH EDITION OF DR. GRAY'S CATALOGUE.

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

Dear Sir,—I have had the honour to receive as a gift from my respected friend, Mr. W. E. Hayns, the honorary secretary of the Philatelic Society, a copy of the above work.

Fresh and inexperienced recruit of philately as I am, I yet must tell you that I was charmed with the magnificent introduction to the book; the rest I am unable at present to understand fully, and as regards the catalogue itself I can but admire, not judge.

Permit me, however, to make one observation. At page 62 occurs this note:—

"Specimens of many of the stamps issued anterior to 1862 exist with one line each way, drawn across with pen and ink, or with three printed bars, crossing transversely, and obscuring the design to a considerable degree. These specimens formed part of the remainders of their respective series in hand when the same were withdrawn, and the obliterating mark was made by order of the authorities (by whom, as may be presumed, these remainders were sold to dealers), to prevent their being used by any chance for prepayment of postage."

Now allow me to quote some of the laws which are to-day in vigour in unhappy and miserable Spain:—

"Any person who shall remove the postmarks from used stamps, or sell such stamps to the public, shall be put at the disposal of justice, that he may be judged and punished conformably with the laws."—*Royal Decree*, 16th March, 1854, art. iii.

Again, let us see what is the state of the law respecting the later issues, and the stamps now in use:—

"It is an infringement of the law against smuggling (contrebande) for any person other than the government [or those whom it may appoint for the purpose?] to sell postage stamps."—*Royal Order*, 18th November, 1860, art. i.

You will see from this that stamp collecting in Spain is without protection. Dealers in stamps!—there are none in the country. The government burns or destroys the useless stamps [the remainders of suppressed series], and to sell them would be to incur all the consequences of a criminal act.

Just as is done in certain offices in India, Canada, and other places, so in some portions of Spain, obliteration with *pen and ink* is still performed. The law respecting the operation is as follows:—

"In the rural offices (termed in Spanish, Carterias, a word which, however, is not found in the dictionary of the Spanish Academy), the stamps which prepay letters destined for another rural office, and which are not forwarded by an estafette, are to be annulled by means of a *cross*, made with pen and ink."—*Order of the Postmaster-General*, 14th Sept., 1857.

You can now decide as to the value of the above quoted note from Dr. Gray's catalogue. I believe it to be wrong.

In the second edition of the *brochure*, entitled *Kpankla*, which should appear in the course of August next, I consecrate an entire chapter to the consideration of this matter. I shall have the pleasure to send you a copy, which pray accept.

Yours obediently,

MARIANO PARDO DE FIGUEROA,

Medina Sidonia. *C. de l'Academie d'Histoire.*

[Our learned and esteemed correspondent has produced good reasons why dealers should not, and cannot, exist in Spain, and yet we can assure him that they *do* exist, and we have pleasant recollections of the ocular demonstration of this fact, which we received some years ago, in the visit of a young gentleman from Madrid, who dealt in Spanish stamps. It is, in fact, through him, and one or two others, that these stamps, even the old issues, have become, with few exceptions, so common. We have seen many *entire sheets* of the stamps of the 1855-7 series obliterated by pen and ink, or with the horizontal printed lines, in the manner referred to by Dr. Gray, and it was, at any rate, a reasonable conjecture on the editor's part that these obliterations were made by the authorities, before handing over the remainders to the dealers. If the sheets are not "remainders" of the series, what are they?—certainly not reprints.—Ed.]

DR. GRAY'S CATALOGUE—THE BLACK PENNY ENGLISH.

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

Dear Sir,—I cannot thank you too heartily for the very kind and flattering notice to the new edition of Dr. Gray's catalogue, which I had the honour to revise, nor am I less grateful to "A Parisian Collector" for pointing out the errors in it which had escaped my attention. Several of these errors are, it will be seen, simple *erreurs de plume*, though they are such as ought not to have been

allowed to pass in the proofs. Among these may be noted the cataloguing the newly-found Sydney as of the value of twopence, the description of the first 6 pf. Prussian as brown, &c. Other of the errors noticed are of the nature of inqualifiable omissions, and I am very glad that they have been pointed out, as I shall be the better able to remedy them in future editions, and meanwhile purchasers of the catalogue are apprised of their existence. Your lenient judgment precludes the necessity of my urging, in excuse for the occurrence of these errors, such considerations as I might otherwise have to advance, and I trust that those who take the catalogue as their guide will be equally indulgent.

Replying to Mr. Pearson Hill's courteous letter in your last number, my first duty is to own myself fully convinced, by the evidence he has brought forward, of the simultaneous issue of the black penny adhesive and the Mulready, and to express my satisfaction at finding this point definitely settled. Mr. Hill blames me for doubting his original statement, and considers I ought to have called on Dr. Gray in preference to him for proof, and he also expresses regret at my having recalled to mind the old dispute between Dr. Gray and Sir Rowland Hill, over their rival claims to be considered as the "inventor" of the postage stamp; but Mr. Hill hardly takes account of my situation in the matter.

In the course of an examination of the history of the English stamps, I light on a fact which is perfectly new to me, and entirely at variance with my belief. Fearing that I might have allowed to escape my attention a fact well known to everyone else, I set myself to search among all the authorities at my disposal, and in the result I find ample indication that it has been as much overlooked by them as by me. Lastly, I turn to the Introduction to Gray's catalogue, and find additional confirmation of my conjectures, in the paragraph which I embodied in my article; and if I gave it special prominence, it was for these simple reasons: that Dr. Gray was in the prime of life when postage stamps were issued, that he evidently took great interest in them and followed their progress carefully, and that he might be reasonably supposed to have been certain of the correctness of the statement he made regarding the prior issue of the Mulready. His manner of making the statement, and his ascription of motives for the issue of the cover first, gave it a more trustworthy aspect; and coming, as it did, in strong corroboration of the popular belief, it appeared to me to deserve quotation as against Mr. Hill's date.

Whether Dr. Gray was right or wrong in giving, as a reason for the prior emission of the Mulready, "Mr. Hill's predilection for a cover," did not concern me for the purpose of my argument, and the assertion was only valuable to me as giving an appearance of greater deliberation to the statement in support of which it was adduced. I was well aware, when writing, that Sir Rowland Hill had contested the claims put forward by Dr. Gray, and it would perhaps have been better had I stated explicitly my reasons for quoting the paragraph in which they are to a certain extent implied, but I did not suppose that there could be any mistake on this point.

Mr. Hill points out with great force that the Mulready would not have been issued alone, as it was insufficient to envelope bulky or weighty packages of which the postage would be more than twopence. Such an incongruity at once strikes any one concerned in the actual working of the postal machinery, and accustomed to consider all kinds of practical questions attendant thereon, but it is an idea which would hardly occur to those who are unacquainted with the management of the post-office. Mr. Hill will therefore, I hope, not think hardly of me, if this consideration escaped my notice.

The latter part of Mr. Hill's letter I have no need to discuss. To Sir Rowland Hill the credit of our present postal system in its entirety is so evidently due, that he can afford to leave Dr. Gray the pleasure of believing that he *thought* of the postage stamp first.

Again thanking Mr. Hill for his courtesy in coming forward to set an apparently doubtful point at rest,

I am, dear Sir, yours truly,

OVERY TAYLOR.

ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS.

INQUIRER, Cheltenham.—Your very deep orange 12 c. Spain, 1867, comes from one of the last sheets printed.

A PHILATELIST.—The 3 pf. and 6 pf. Prussian envelopes, owing to the very short circulation they enjoyed, are, and no doubt always will be, rare.—We have no information of a projected new series for Belgium.

YOUNG BEGINNER.—The unused Bremen stamps, which struck you as suspicious from their cheapness, are genuine enough. They are "remainders" of the stock, and got into dealers' hands when the issue was withdrawn.

A. R. P., Brixham.—The blue French journal stamp pays postage as well as duty. Its real value is 4 c. We remember having recently seen a rose 2 c. on a Paris paper, but expecting to meet with plenty more, did not take the trouble to secure it, and have not since met with a single specimen.

EMMA, Winchester.—The label you forward cannot exactly be termed a postage stamp, though it is sufficiently interesting to be worthy of inclusion in a philatelist's album. We may add, for the benefit of other readers, that it is a rectangle, and that it has for device a clock-face with the words DAY and MONTH below; it is, moreover, perforated, and an inscription runs round the margin stating that the design has been duly registered, &c. The use of this stamp is to indicate the exact *hour* and, if necessary, *minute* of posting a letter, as well as the day and month, and it is intended to be stuck on the flap of the envelope containing the letter. We remember seeing specimens when it first made its appearance some five years ago, and believe the inventor was George Hussey, of local post celebrity.

G. W. B., M.—1. We fear the question of the genuineness of the thin paper Mexican must be left unsolved; and that unless decisive proof of their being forgeries is received, they should be considered genuine. We have only the word of a non-collector as to the exactness of the resemblance between the false and the true; and our own argument against the thin paper stamps is founded on his assertion, unsupported by any decisive proof. 2. The watermark on the Montevideo 15 c. is not a watermark properly so termed, but merely a letter of the word TURKEY MILLS—the name of the mills in which the paper was made. 3. Your 2 and 5 lept. Greek are of the Paris-printed series.—The omission of the star watermarked South Australian 2d., 4d., and 2s. from Dr. Gray's catalogue, deserves, and will no doubt, receive the editor's attention. 4. The difference in the shading on the neck of the portrait on the 2s. Victoria is well worthy of note. We purpose mentioning it in our next. 5. We *have* seen a number of perforated 1 din. green Peru.—Among the stamps on sheet 2, only the Hamburg is forged, though we have not had the opportunity of fully verifying the Swiss 2½ rap. Should you be sending another batch of stamps, we should be glad to have the chance of further examining it. The difference in length between the two varieties of the 48 c. British Guiana has, we believe, been already noticed.—The deep and light varieties of the Austrian are worthy of collection; no doubt they are the result of different workings.

PAPERS FOR BEGINNERS.—No. VI.

BY OVERY TAYLOR.

EUROPE.

Great Britain, continued.

In the preceding paper, the history of the penny and twopenny labels, from their creation down to the present time, was narrated; we have now to retrace our steps, for the purpose of examining the other adhesives; and in the first place, the embossed trio claim our attention.

With respect to one of these—the sixpence lilac,—I find, much to my surprise, that Mr. Pearson Hill's list is in conflict with the general opinion; but in this instance, after Mr. Hill's justification of the accuracy of his date for the penny black, it is our duty to accept his statement as of superior authority to all others. Berger-Levrault gives "1842" the date of emission of the embossed sixpence; the author of the monograph on the Essays of Great Britain speaks of the "embossed sixpenny, tenpenny, and one shilling of 1842;" Mount Brown quotes this year, so also do the French and Belgian authorities; and this date has never been challenged by any other writer; but Mr. Pearson Hill gives *March*, 1854, in his list, and his access to the best sources of information guarantees the correctness of his statement. Moreover, it must not be supposed that Mr. Hill here is referring to the *envelope* stamp, for at the foot of his list he adds a note, to the effect that "the dates in the embossed stamps were first inserted about the middle of the year 1855;" and in a letter published in the volume of *The Stamp-Collector's Magazine*, in which the list appears, he says, "The sixpenny and shilling embossed stamps, *without date*, and the tenpenny stamp, were all adhesive labels, and to the best of my belief never were printed on envelopes,"—an assertion which the general experience of philatelists has fully confirmed.

We find, then, that the date of emission of the embossed sixpence has to be advanced *twelve years*, and that although still legally current, its general circulation was limited to about two years and a half, namely, from March, 1854, until the issue of the surface-printed sixpence, which took place on the 21st October, 1856. That it should, under these circumstances, be as common as its companions—the tenpence and one shilling—is conclusive proof that it was much more extensively employed than these latter.

The old date of "1842" for the emission of the tenpence and shilling has long since been abandoned. Mr. Hill's dates are as follows:—

Tenpence (first issue), October, 1848. (Withdrawn in 1855, and in 1863 the few thousands remaining on hand were reissued).

Shilling (without dates), Sept., 1847; and they have been adopted without question.

It will strike the observer as curious that after choosing a typographic mode of engraving for the penny and twopenny adhesives, and printing the penny and twopenny envelope stamps in relief, the authorities should yet adopt embossed designs for the sixpence, tenpence, and shilling adhesives. If a passing speculation may be permitted, one may suggest that this difference arose from their desire to distinguish these higher values by a finer style of engraving—to give, in fact, something better in style than the penny stamp for the money. Be this as it may, as soon as it was decided to employ these types for the envelopes, they were withdrawn from circulation as adhesives, to give room for surface-printed stamps.

The designs of the embossed stamps are so well known to all, that no lengthened description is necessary; suffice it to say, that they all bear the profile of Queen to left in an octagonal frame, and that the frame of the sixpence is ornate, whilst the others are plain. The colours are:

Sixpence	lilac (or violet at choice).
Tenpence	warm brown.
Shilling	green.

It is only among the copies of the first-named that any difference of shade can be found, and among them, the difference is so slight, as to be unworthy of distinct notice. Only a couple of years since it was discovered, by an acute French observer, that the sixpence bore a watermark—the letters V.R. It is otherwise unfurnished with any

check on forgery, and as this watermark remained undetected, even by philatelists, for so many years, it is hardly necessary to say that it is far from clear. The other two values are printed on what is termed "Dickinson" paper, with two silk threads running vertically through the paper. No proofs of any of these stamps are in existence, but the writer on the Essays of Great Britain mentions that copies are to be found of all three with the word SPECIMEN printed across in black, and he has a shilling with this word in red.

The three values are very common, and it requires but little trouble to secure a good used specimen. Unused copies, also, are far from rare, especially of the tenpenny, of which, as Mr. Pearson Hill states, the remainder of the stock was issued so late as 1863. The withdrawal of this value in 1855 shows it was not a value much in use, and it would be interesting to know for what special purpose it was first issued. Since the augmentation of the Marseilles rate, the value, represented by a new type, has been revived, and is now, to use a commercial phrase, in brisk demand. The sixpence and shilling values were found so useful that, under one form or another, they have always been maintained in circulation.

After the embossed stamps comes the first batch of surface-printed adhesives, viz., the

Fourpence, deep rose, 31st July, 1855.
Sixpence, lilac, 21st Oct., 1856.
Shilling, green, 1st Nov., ,,

Of these three, the sixpence may, I think, without fear, be pronounced the most tastefully designed, although the shilling merits commendation for its simplicity; as to the fourpence, there is certainly a poverty in the arrangement, which prevents the type from being considered other than commonplace, and barely even mediocre. On these three stamps let us note the first appearance of that diademed profile of her Majesty, which, with occasionally slight variations, has done service on nearly all the colonial stamps engraved by Messrs. De La Rue. It is a portrait in the severely-correct style, but with less of individuality to recommend it than even the profile on the first penny.

A close examination of the stamps gives ground for a belief that the portraits, though very similar, are not identical: in other words, that they were engraved separately for each value. Yet I hesitate to assert positively that such is the case, as there would seem to be no reason for such a proceeding; and where the apparent differences are minute, the eye may be misled, especially when, from an accident of printing, a detail which is clear in one stamp may be rendered obscurely in another. Unable to make so thorough a comparison as I could wish, I can but express my doubts, and leave the point for later decision.

The three values were perforated. The trial of the perforating system first made with the penny stamps in 1850 proving successful, these higher values were subjected to the improvement; and, *en passant*, it is worthy of remark, that the embossed sixpence issued in 1854, some four years after the adoption of the system of perforation, was yet put in circulation unperforated!

The watermarks of the three values were as follows: fourpence, garter; sixpence and shilling, heraldic flowers in corners. Of the fourpenny stamp, there exist some specimens with a smaller garter, and this variety is further and prominently distinguished by being printed on bluish paper. From a statement made in vol. iii. of *The Stamp-Collector's Magazine* (p. 110), it appears that some few sheets were, in 1855, printed quite accidentally on blue paper, and put into circulation with the others, but as soon as the paper was noticed, no more was used. The most singular point in connection with this variety is its possession of the smaller watermark above noticed, which is entirely peculiar to it as far as is known; and hardly less singular is the fact, that some of the stamps from these blue-paper sheets were actually surcharged with the word SPECIMEN, and sent out to the provincial offices, to be, as the word imports, specimens of the issue.

Let us now go on to what is generally known as the "small-letter series," the members of which were issued in the course of the year 1862, and, together with the

three values of 1856, comprised two new ones. The list reads as follows:—

Fourpence,	red,	} 15th Jan.,
Ninepence,	yellow-brown,	} 1862.
Threepence,	rose,	1st May, 1862.
Sixpence,	lilac,	21st Oct., ,,
Shilling,	green,	Oct., ,,

The "small-letter" stamps are so called from their having a small letter inserted at each angle, after the manner of the twopence. To make room for these letters, various slight alterations were made in the designs, which tended but little to their improvement, The framework was, as is evident, entirely re-engraved. The fine reticulations in the spandrels of the fourpence gave place to a ground of waved lines; the arched labels, which in the first issue touch the side margins, are made shorter, and the side lines of the circle between the two labels are thickened. The sixpence was less changed: the graceful corner ornaments gave place of necessity to the square blocks containing the letters; and the curves, which made the design so graceful, were abolished in favour of angles; the thin inner line of the circle is more perceptible than in its predecessor—*voila tout!* The shilling, besides the corner alterations, shows the oval interrupted on each side by blocks containing the figure 1. This figure was at first supposed to be a sly way of indicating the value, but everyone knows now that it is merely the number of the plate from which the stamps are printed. All three values have the inscription in larger letters.

With regard to the new values, the threepence may fairly be pronounced a success, and the ninepence a failure. The threepence takes attention at once from its unusual and pleasing form, its rich colour, and the skill displayed in the arrangements for the insertion of the corner letters; the ninepence, on the other hand, shows a weak design, with a poor and ineffective colour. The watermark for both consisted of the heraldic flowers.

It would seem that the trial made of the small letters was not satisfactory; probably their size threw some obstacles in the way in the printing from the consequent difficulty of manipulation, hence it was decided to reissue the five foregoing stamps with corner letters of the same size as those on the penny and twopenny. At the same time, opportunity was taken to carry out on all the system of showing the number of the plates or transfers which was first tried with the small-lettered shilling. The following are about the dates of this emission:—

One Shilling,	February, 1865.
Threepence,	March ,,
Fourpence,	July ,,
Sixpence,	Sept. ,,
Ninepence,	December ,,

To give room for the larger letters, the threepenny was much disfigured. The framework was re-engraved, the border round the profile widened and made coarse, and a little circle was inserted in each side of the frame to contain the progressive number of the plate. The fourpence was similarly changed, the entire framework was re-engraved, the numeral disks added on either side of the upper label, and the lower one rounded off convexly to match; the inscription is in a prettier and clearer type than in the preceding editions of this type. The sixpence loses all the primitive simplicity which so charmed in the first issue; the sides are crowded, a circle containing a star appearing at the top, and a numeral disk at bottom. In the ninepence several minor changes were made, the re-engraved frame shows the groundwork running vertically, instead of horizontally, and an attempt to give an ornamental character to the introduction of the blocks, by the addition of running lines. The shilling is hardly changed at all. The watermarks for all remain the same, but it is worthy of note that a sheet or two of the sixpence was by accident printed on unwatermarked paper. This variety is very scarce, and is known to foreign collectors as a Maltese stamp, because the sheets were sent out to Malta.

In June, 1867, appeared the three new values, 10d., 2s., and 5s., respecting which it is only necessary to observe that they are distinguished by new watermarks, the two lower values bearing a sprig of rose, and the higher a Maltese cross. Latterly, the sprig of rose has been adopted also for the

Threepence,	Ninepence,
Sixpence,	Shilling,

and it will probably in time supersede the garter on the fourpence. Here we must note, *en passant*, that a few of the sixpences have been issued unperforated.

To this review of the *adhesives* it may not be thought out of place if I venture to tack the following observations from *The Stamp-Collector's Magazine* (vol. v., p. 67), respecting the way in which they are printed:—

"It may interest some of our readers to know, that whenever a plate is made up for printing any of the English stamps, as soon as it is finally set up in the frame, a few proofs in black, on common paper, are struck off. This is done chiefly for the purpose of correcting and checking the lettering in the angles, which are filled into their spaces after the rest of the stamp is completed. A series of the stamps is made in soft steel from an original mother die, and then hardened, the angles being left for the insertion of the letters afterwards. There is a very well-known proof in blue of the twopence, with the square spaces in the two lower angles blank, which was taken before the lettering was filled in.

"When the letters are filled in, and the plate completed, before any impressions are struck, the plate is tested by the proofs above referred to, which are most carefully read by a principal or manager. The government inspectors, who have charge of the plates, and in whose presence they are made up on the spot, are (and properly so) exceedingly careful and vigilant. They count the very number of the proofs thus taken for revision, and require them back again, after correction, when they are at once destroyed, so that no specimen of these has ever found its way into a collector's hands."

It now only remains to notice the special purposes for which the higher-value stamps were issued. The threepence was originally intended to cover the postage to Belgium and Switzerland; in 1864, however, by a new regulation, it was settled that the weight of home letters should advance by half-ounces instead of by ounces, as previously, and the threepenny stamp is now called into use for the prepayment of letters weighing three half ounces; its employment has lately been still further extended, through the reduction of the rate for letters to France from fourpence to threepence. The fourpence must, we think, have been intended, principally, for the now-reduced rate to France; the sixpence paid the half-ounce postage to the United States and other countries; the ninepence was primarily intended to pay the rate on Indian and Australian letters, but on the raising of the charge to tenpence, the well-known stamp of that value was issued in 1867. The use of the ninepence is now very restricted, and it is about the only English stamp of which obliterated copies are worth anything. The shilling pays the rates to South America, and to a number of out-of-the-way parts, whilst the two shilling and five shilling are intended for heavy foreign letters.

The British stamps are not merely used in the British Isles. There are a number of branch offices situate in foreign parts, notably in Constantinople, Alexandria, Buenos Ayres, and Callao; they are also in use in Gibraltar and Malta, and the stamps which come from these places are well worth preserving, as they bear special postmarks; thus Malta postmarks with an M, Constantinople with a C, and so on. Some years ago, when collecting was in its infancy, the Gibraltar marks were mistaken for postage stamps, but the philatelic world was soon undeceived.

ERRORS OF ENGRAVING AND PRINTING.—III.

BY W. DUDLEY ATLEE.

Liberia.—The only error existing among these stamps may be called a "fraudulent" one, as it was the covert work of a person engaged in the establishment of the printers. It appears that having surreptitiously obtained access to the "form" of the twelve cents, he procured some lilac ink, and struck off a few labels in that colour. These he sold to a tradesman in the city who "dabbled" in stamps, by whom they were sold to a small London dealer, whose honesty, unfortunately, was considerably below the profit he gained by the transaction.

The real character of these articles was not discovered for some time, and even then

not until all were disposed of. Very few copies are to be had now, and we think that not more than a couple of sheets were printed at the most. They are only interesting as mementos of a "played-out" swindle.

The *twenty-four* cents lilac, mentioned by the extinguished Pendragon, is altogether a myth, and the sight of it by that individual in Birchin-lane, during 1861, must be either a phantasy, or else the specimen was a "doctored" one.

Lubeck.—The "*zwei-und-ein-halber*" error is by this time almost as familiar to all of us as "household words," but as a description of it is needed to make our chronicle complete, we will give it. The stamp is a two schilling, inscribed with that value in the angles, but having its denomination given as "two-and-a-half" in the surrounding oval. Two are found upon the sheets of the ordinary brown 2 sch., side by side, in the lowest row.

Luxemburg.—There are several mistakes in the minute lettering representing the value in the stamps of the present series. It is scarcely worth while to give a complete list of these various contortions, as they mostly are so indistinct as to require a magnifying glass of "hextra power" to discover their whereabouts. Among them we find such eccentric spelling as CENIIMES, CEIITIMES, CENTINES, *et hoc genus omne.*

Lucon.—By describing all the varieties of the Philippine labels we should be departing from the rule laid down in our initial paper, as the numerous differences are what may be termed "intentional," or varieties that the engraver had not the power to prevent. Those collectors who wish to be *au fait* in this subject, are advised to turn to Mr. Pemberton's list, which is to be found at page 143 of our third volume.

The only "collectable error" we can rightly so call, is that of the one real in the earliest set (this is the type that has the inscription Correos 1854 and 55 *below.*) The error consists in the omission of an E, thus making the word CORROS.

At one time, a variety was given of the 5 cuartos of 1864 with the Queen's lips thicker, and with the neck thinner, but this seems to be nothing better than a forgery.

Mauritius.—Most of our readers will recall to mind the "paper war" which occurred some two years since in this magazine, respecting (among other things) the first issue of the above colony. Pendragon rose and "played" at being censor, egotistically setting himself up to teach those whose knowledge of philately was far superior to his own. He, however, after various acrobatic distortions of his own remarks, sank into oblivion—never to rise again.

His *grand coup* of ignorance was made when he tried to prove that upon *one* die only had the engraver placed the words POST-OFFICE, instead of POST PAID. This of course was soon proved to be a falsity, as not only the twopenny, but the penny also is found so inscribed. The colour of the former is a bright rust-red, and of the latter, a deep blue.

It is now generally acknowledged that these rarities are the original designs which were prepared for the government, but from some unexplained cause, the engraver was required to alter the inscription from OFFICE to PAID. From their close likeness to the emitted type, some few were passed by the postal clerks without detection.

Of the usual type Moens catalogues two of the higher value, inscribed PENOE and PENCT, respectively. We have ourselves seen a copy of the former, which was so clear that it admitted of no doubt; but the latter is a stranger to us, although it probably does exist.

Mexico.—We now come to a stamp which in our estimation ranks as the prince of errors. It is the one real of the 1861 type, head of Hidalgo, printed in black on the lilac paper of the two reals. This is of the greatest rarity, only five copies have been emitted.

In the surcharged letterings upon several of the labels, there are various mistakes, but as we believe Mr. Pemberton is compiling an exhaustive paper on the stamps of this country, we will leave them for that gentleman to mention.

Modena.—The amount of trash we are asked by continental dealers to accept as Modenese errors is something astonishing. In fact these so-called varieties, and the large

and still increasing brood of reprints, not only of this state, but also of Parma and the Two Sicilies, are enough to dishearten any collector.

These stamps seem to be like Artemus Ward's kangaroo, "full of little eccentricities." The Modena vagaries have been insidiously launched forth at different times, until their total number has reached, according to M. Moens, no less than *thirty-three*. How very industrious some people must have been since 1865 to find as many as *twenty-eight* errors, which no one had ever heard of before! What splendid perseverance, and what a reward! We think about half-a-dozen are genuine, but by far the majority are nothing more than delusions. Mount Brown, in his fifth edition, gives in the arms series, 5 CNET, 15 CETN, 15 CNET, 40 CNET, and 49 cent; whilst Berger-Levrault, in his German edition, only mentions the three last. Moens in his first manual does not name any of them, neither does Brecker in his Italian catalogue.

There *may* be a few others beside the above that are "correct," but they are so mixed up with the forged, that their identity is lost.

As to the errors in the provisional set, we do not believe in one of them.

THE FIELD-POST OF THE FRENCH ARMY.

Apropos of the outbreak of war between France and Prussia, we venture to cull from the interesting little work by Pierre Zaccone, entitled *La Poste Anecdotique*, some details respecting the way in which the postal service of the French army is performed.

The organisation of the French field-post dates back to the Spanish war of 1823, when a government decree directed in what manner it should be carried on. By this decree the control of the military service was given to an officer having the title of Commissary, who had under him an inspector for each *corps d'armeé*, one or more postmasters and receivers for each such corps, employés of the 1st, 2nd, and 3rd class, according to the number and position of the corps, and lastly couriers and postilions, termed *sous employés*.

At the outbreak of war, on receipt of notice from the minister of finance the postmaster-general organises the *personnel* of the field service, and the commissary takes command. He it is who controls all the expenses, whilst the inspectors supervise the working of the service of the different offices, and the couriers between them doing the ordinary and the extraordinary journeys. All the employés are bound to wear a uniform, which they have to pay for themselves. If they fall into the enemy's hands, they are treated as non-combatants upon an exchange of prisoners.

The postmaster of each office may require of the military commander a sentinel to guard by night and day the funds and letters, and he or the couriers may require an escort.

Should the equipments of an office, its funds, or its correspondence, be lost through *force majeure*, the facts connected with the loss are narrated by legal documents (*procès verbaux*), but under the title of *force majeure* are comprised only four kinds of events, death, fire, capture or destruction by the enemy, or seizure by armed brigands, and it must, even when such events arise, be proved that there was no negligence or want of precaution shown by the officials.

The days and hours of arrival and departure of mails, as also the locality of the offices, have to be determined according to the situation of the army, notice being given by placard affixed at the office with regard to the times of posting and delivery.

Such are the rules which guide the field-post, but since the Crimean war the titles of the leading officials have been changed, the head authority being now termed paymaster-general, and his subordinates, *trésoriers payeurs*. When the army is on the march, the post follows immediately behind the quarter-master's staff; in the camp it takes a place in the centre, a few paces from the head-quarters. It is under the tent that the diverse operations of the service have to be performed. A few feet off is the post-wagon, confided to the guard of an official, and in the box hung in front of, or behind the wagon are flung a myriad hasty letters, written amidst tumult and uproar, and which between their rough folds

contain words of hope and joy for many a sorrowing mother.

The life of the postal *employés* is a life full of dangers and unforeseen accidents. When there are not enough couriers to carry the despatches, the agents have to take them themselves, but are then escorted by a sufficient force. We have spoken of the letter-box attached to the side of the wagon. Whilst the letters are dropping into it, the agent is a few paces off receiving or paying money; behind him again, a few feet, are his men getting ready his meal. There is nothing in this to remind one of the ordinary conditions of the service. It is a continued movement; an incessant variety of incidents, always new; an existence full of privations, but relieved by that Gallic gaiety which is the foundation of the character of French soldiers, and gives force to French armies.

Such is the attraction of this life for the valiant brigade of postal *employés*, that as soon as the first symptoms of war present themselves, the postal administration and the finance minister are assailed with requests—they may go who please—to be allowed to start, not in quest of advancement nor distinction, you may be sure, but of that life of adventure which exercises so powerful an influence over young hearts; such enthusiastic spirits experience but one regret, and that is, that permanent armies are no longer in fashion.

NEWLY-ISSUED OR INEDITED STAMPS.

United States.—We copy from the *American Journal of Philately* the following paragraph respecting a probable new issue. "We have received information that it is the intention of the post-office department to issue another stamp, and that of a value that has not heretofore been employed in this country. There have been two designs prepared, one bearing the profile of Baron Stuben, and the other of La Fayette. The framework will conform in design to the present issue. The colours have not yet been decided upon." We learn from one of our correspondents that the postage to several of the German States has lately been fixed at *seven cents*, and that the reported new value will probably be to cover this rate. The same correspondent states that he has seen the 1 and 12 cents of the new issue unperforated, though gummed, and on the usual paper.

Just at the moment of going to press we receive specimens of two of the new envelopes, the 2 and 3 c.—we say envelopes, but in fact our copy of the 2 c. is struck on a newspaper wrapper.

These forerunners of the series bear out the rumour that they would be worthy of the adhesives. They are very plain, but are also very well executed. The design consists simply of a bust, the same as that with which the adhesive of like value is adorned, upon a solid ground in broad oval. This oval bears, in sunken letters, the inscription U. S. POSTAGE, the value in words, and a raised numeral on either side in a small circular disk. Altogether, the type is a strong reminder of the first issue, but the busts are far better cut, and stand out in fine relief. If there is anything to grumble at, it is the smallness of the lettering; if it had been longer and bolder, the inscription would have shown up to more advantage.

The colour of the 2 c. is a rich brown; of the 3 c., a deep green. The watermark consists of the letters P. O. D. and U. S., interlaced, forming a kind of monogram. The former are two-thirds of an inch, the latter an inch-and-a-half, in length. Both sets of letters are in a kind of open Gothic character. This watermark is repeated at intervals of about three inches, and lies almost horizontally in the envelope, whilst on the wrapper it is disposed vertically, and runs down the centre, the space between the repetitions being only about an inch.

The paper of the envelope is a rich buff, thick and laid, the lines of the *vergeure* running diagonally from left to right; the wrapper is also of laid paper, but thinner and more coarse, showing the watermark less distinctly than in the envelope. When unfolded, it measures $6\frac{1}{2}$ inches in width and $9\frac{1}{2}$ inches in length. It upper edge is curved, and gummed on the inside; colour, a dull straw. The envelope measures $5\frac{1}{2}$ inches by $3\frac{1}{4}$ inches.

The new series is being manufactured by a new contractor, Mr. G. H. Reay, who has eleven presses made expressly for the work; and the *American Journal of Philately* states that the issue has been delayed owing to a disagreement between the government and the contractor, which it was at one time feared would lead to the recission of the contract, notwithstanding the preparations that had been made. Happily, as is now evident, the difficulty has been tided over.

Spain.—Our valued correspondent, Senor Pardo de Figueroa, sends us a new frank stamp, issued during the present year, and employed for the official correspondence of the Treasury Department. The specimen before us is hand-struck in black on a dull grey paper, it consists of a rather large oval, with the inscription running round the margin, DIRECCION GRAL. DEL TESORO PUBLICO. In the centre are three lines of print, as follows:—

CORRESPA OFICIAL.
..... KILOG.
..... GRAMOS.

From this it will be seen that the old system of franking the official correspondence by weight is still pursued. Our own copy of this stamp shows the figures "20" in ink before the word GRAMOS. Probably each department has a hand-stamp special to itself—like the one now described, plain and useful.

Our correspondent, in reply to our inquiry of last month, states that printed matter weighing not more than 5 grammes is prepaid (and, as we understand, from one end of Spain to another) by the 1 milesima stamp; the 2 mil. franks from 5 to 10 grammes; and so on upwards, at the rate of 1 milesima for every 5 grammes. These facts prove, at any rate, that sufficient encouragement is given in Spain to the circulation of printed matter, and the revolutionary government deserves credit for its enlightened procedure in this direction. That it is impossible to buy less than five of these stamps, the smallest coin equalling 5 mil., is, after all, no great drawback, and we hardly think Senor Pardo de Figueroa would like to be troubled to give or take change in 1 milesima pieces. It is rather curious, however, that whilst, as our correspondent states, the peseta, or franc, is now the unit of currency, the government uses the escudo as the unit of denomination for the stamps.

We must not omit, while writing of these new values, to rectify an error in our first notice of the 1 and 2 mil. We had but a single value of each before us, and, looked at by gas-light, they appeared sufficiently alike to justify our stating that there was but the difference of a shade between them. Subsequent examination of entire sheets by day-light shows that the 1 mil. is printed in a kind of lilac on flesh, and the 2 mil. in black on flesh.



Annexed is an illustration of the type described last month, as used by the administration of the Spanish post-office to frank its official correspondence. The impression is in black on white.

Russia.—The editor of *Le Timbrophile* has discovered a variety of the current 30 kop. envelope. The design is, in essentials, the same as the ordinary one, but the interior oval is larger by 1 millimetre each way, the circle containing the numeral is also larger, and so is the numeral itself. These differences are evident upon the slightest examination. Further, the inscribed border shows a different pattern, and the letters of the inscription are thicker, and vary in shape from those of the common type. Our contemporary inquires whether it is a new or an old issue.

North German Confederation.—Postcards for the Confederation have just been issued. We have not seen any ourselves as yet, but from the following description, taken from *Le Timbrophile*, it would appear that it does not bear the impression of any one of the postage stamps. "The inscriptions are in black, instructions in lower part of card, and the back left entirely blank for the communication. No value; black on chamois."

New Granada.—*Tolima.*—The same authority promises an early solution of the

mystery connected with the stamp for this state which we engraved last month, meanwhile he confirms the statement that Tolima is a New Granadian state, and gives a description of a variety of the type which he has found. We think, however, that before quoting this description it would be well to learn a little more about the stamp itself, and therefore await M. Mahé's details before going into the matter.

Levant.—*Russian Steam Navigation Company.*—Just as prisoners in gaol are now photographed, and their "cartes" sent round to the police-offices, so has the stamp here represented sat for its engraving, with this single difference, that it is at present only suspected. In the interests of justice we reproduce it here, to the end that if a fraud it may be convicted (pity, in that case, that its producers cannot be also); and that if a genuine stamp, its worth may be proved. Detective Moens has had his eye on it since April, 1869, when a correspondent sent him a specimen, with the statement that he had taken it off a letter, &c.—a statement which our Belgian friend would not accept. Latterly, however, several specimens have turned up, and it becomes desirable to know at once in what class they are to be put. If, then, this should meet the eye of anyone capable of bringing evidence *pro* or *con*, the sooner he publishes it the better, for the sake of his brother philatelists and the truth.



Denmark.—A higher value than any yet issued has appeared within the last few days, viz., 48 skilling. The shape of the new comer is an upright rectangle, circumscribing an oval; in the centre of the latter is a circular disc, with the figures 48 surrounded by a laurel garland, and surmounted by a crown. The outer band of the oval bears DANMARK POSTFRIM. 48 SK. The spandrels and outer frame are printed in a red-brown tint, the oval in mauve. The entire effect is neat and unpretending. The paper is watermarked with a crown, and the stamp perforated precisely as the current series.



South African Republic.—We have, we find, omitted to notice the arrival of the threepence perforated *à la roulette*. These new arrivals also show differences of shade, and there may now be distinguished—a lilac, a rich mauve, and a bluish mauve. The original unperforated specimens are very few in number, and must become increasingly rare. The last supplies of the penny received direct were printed in the colony. They are unperforated and very coarsely printed.

From a copy of the *Staats Courant*, of the 19th April last, we learn that the date of emission of the postal series was fixed, by a presidential decree therein published, for the 1st of May.

St. Helena.—An old correspondent writes as follows: "As the Azores 25 reis with smaller inscription has been mentioned in your magazine, I think it may be interesting to your readers to know that the recently-printed shilling stamps of this colony have the surcharged inscriptions in shorter and thicker letters than the previous ones. I have also seen a copy of the fourpence with the letters of the usual size, but wider apart, and consequently more spread over the face of the stamp."

Victoria.—Another correspondent calls our attention to a hitherto unobserved peculiarity connected with the two-shilling stamps of this colony. The old issue, green on white, has the profile unshaded, whilst the current, blue on yellow, shows the neck and chin thickly shaded with oblique lines running from left to right. On the earlier impressions this shading quite covers the neck, leaving only a narrow white margin under the chin; but in proportion as the plate has become worn by use, the oblique lines have become shortened, so that at present they hardly extend over half the neck, and a large unshaded patch is left under the chin. The specimens, four in number, sent by our correspondent, evidence the gradual disappearance of these lines, each specimen being no doubt the result of a different working. We may add, the obliteration of the shading

is not the sole proof of wear and tear; the lettering of the inscriptions has become thicker, and so also have the lines of the scroll ornaments at the angles.

Austria.—Light and dark shades of all the values may now be distinguished, the dark shades being the result of later workings.

Holland.—M. Mahé notices the appearance of unperforated copies of the current 1, 5, and 10 cents, but with reason argues that these are merely stamps which have, by accident, escaped perforation, and are not to be considered as a new emission.

Switzerland.—Recently-received copies of the 30 c. envelope show the stamp printed in a deeper and more vivid blue. Specimens of the 10 c. and 30 c. adhesives show both extremes of shade. The light blue 30 c. approaches almost to slate.

France.—The latest impressions of the 30 c. brown shows the circular disk covered with horizontal lines. Honour to whom honour is due: this peculiarity was first noticed by M. Mahé.

THE BOLIVIAN STAMPS.

The last two numbers of *Le Timbrophile* are principally noticeable for some excellent papers, by Dr. Magnus and M. Albis, upon these interesting and peculiar stamps, which we cannot resist the temptation to lay before our readers; and this we the more readily do, as they are devoted in part to the consideration of certain arguments put forth by Mr. Pemberton in these pages.

THE BOLIVIAN 5 CENTAVOS.

BY DR. MAGNUS.

Various articles, by M. Albis, on the Bolivian stamps, have appeared in this journal. Thanks to our *collaborateur*, the works of the American forgers have received the consideration due to them, through the publication of precise and circumstantial information respecting the engraving and emission of these stamps. It is known that each sheet is composed of 72 stamps, every one differing from the rest in the details of the design (eagle or frame) and of the legend, and that as many plates were engraved as there are values, namely, four for the 5, 10, 50, and 100 centavos, respectively.

Has there been but one plate for each value? The fact seems scarcely questionable with regard to the 10 c., which was hardly used at all, and also for the 50 and 100 c., which are generally well preserved specimens; but is it the same for the 5 centavos? —that is the point we propose specially to examine.

M. Albis (*Timbrophile*, p. 480) says, "The first engraving executed by M. Estruch (the engraver) was that of the 5 centavos, *of which two steel plates were made.*" We think M. Albis has advanced this last statement, not upon information furnished to him by his correspondents, but upon a direct examination of the sheets of these stamps, which are not difficult to find. A superficial study *seems*, in effect, to indicate that there were several plates. We have under our eyes two sheets belonging to us, and of which the stamps, when compared individually, present those remarkable differences with which, no doubt, our *collaborateur*, equally with ourselves, was struck.

The same remarks have been made by Mr. Pemberton, in *The Stamp-Collector's Magazine*, whence we extract the following:

In December a large quantity of 5 c. green, and 50 c. yellow, and a very few 100 c. blue, were received in Paris by M. E. Nunès, in sheets. He sent me a sheet of each of the first, and a pair of 100 c. I found discrepancies in the 5 c. which I could not fathom, though I found the high values genuine beyond doubt. I found M. Nunès' sheet was unlike the old sheet received early in the year, and did not contain specimens of any of the dies I found on my own single green or lilac stamps. Hitherto M. Albis' theory of two plates for the 5 c. value has been accepted, all the green being given as from one (the first), all the lilacs from another (the second) plate; but here I had green 5 c. in a sheet of seventy-two separately engraved types, not one of which types I could identify from among a lot of old genuine specimens from the two plates of this value. At this juncture, I collected all the specimens I could of the 5 c., to the number of about two hundred, including an old sheet of seventy-two types, in green. I identified four used specimens from four different types upon M. Nunès' sheet. This settled the genuineness of that sheet, but complicated matters respecting M. Albis' two plates, one green, one lilac, because this gave two green sheets; whilst, as none of the lilacs were to be found upon either of them, they were either from a third sheet, or else forged. But to cut a long matter short: after much examination, I at last got a clue, and found that of the green stamps four plates undoubtedly existed, and that the lilacs were from one of these plates. The first three plates have the borders, letters, and numerals alike; the first two plates, further, have the pinion feathers of the wings alike, so their only difference

is in the shading of the body, and of the globe; but the second plate has had some of the letters A in CONTRATOS crossed, which in the first plate are uncrossed. The third plate, that of M. Nunès, has the eagle and globe much different, and the pinion feathers of the wings, although unquestionably the same in number as in their corresponding dies on the old sheet, are, from wear I suppose, mere outlines, and the body of the eagle is very little shaded. The fourth plate is altogether different, and was printed from in two shades of green—intense dark green, and rich deep green; in slate, in red-violet, and in lilac.

We have reproduced in full this passage of Mr. Pemberton's letter, because the facts which it contains will serve as an argument to support the proposition which we intend to put forward. But first let us rectify his errors. M. Albis, in speaking of the two plates, did not say that the one had served for the 5 c. green, the other for the 5 c. violet. He confined himself, in the passage which we cited at the commencement, to announcing the fabrication of two steel plates, without specifying the special employment of the one or the other, and he confirms this style of allusion in the last number of *Le Timbrophile*. Well, to us, both that opinion and Mr. Pemberton's appear to be inexact. We take it on ourselves to assert that there has been but one single plate for the 5 c., which served for the two emissions, and this we shall try to demonstrate.

Let us remember, first, that the engraving of the 5 c. is a sunken engraving (*en creux*) upon metal. The printing-ink fixes itself in the sunken lines, and the damp paper being applied, its "filling," by making it to penetrate, causes the ink to adhere, and results in the production of the design. It is the system employed in a large number of countries, for it is more easy to recognise good engravers in *taille douce*, than passable artists in the contrary mode, which permits of typographic impression. This much established, it will be admitted that the metallic plate is susceptible of depreciation, that the wearing down of the surface has the effect, as it were, of bringing up the lines to its level, and consequently of causing the disappearance of the corresponding parts of the design—at first, the portions more superficially hollowed out, then those of medium depth, thus leaving visible only the deepest lines, without which there would be no trace of the design. It follows, then, that as the plate becomes more worn, the sheets successively printed show fewer and fewer of the details; but the last impressions must still offer a portion of those which are found on the first. If our readers will be good enough to turn to our articles published in *Le Timbre-Poste* on the Mauritius stamps of the first series, they will find the same facts developed. If, up to the present time, the administrations have continued to use the engraved plates, until the designs have almost entirely disappeared, it does not follow that nothing else could be done. There exist certain processes, by the aid whereof, and either with the burin, or with acid, it is possible to re-sink, or hollow out afresh, the worn lines, or to trace new ones on the effaced part; and this, we believe, has been done with the plate of the Bolivian 5 centavos.

It is here that the facts noted by Mr. Pemberton, and already known to us for some months past, should find place. Mr. P. admits the existence of four plates. "The three first," says he, "have the frames, the letters, and the figures alike; the first two plates further have the pinion feathers of the wings alike, so their only difference is in the shading of the body and of the globe."

It seems to us difficult, not to say impossible, for an engraver to reproduce his design with such an absolute fidelity as Mr. P. supposes, and that *seventy-two times* running. This circumstance at once renders his supposition inadmissible. On the contrary, the particularities he mentions are easily explained by the employment of one and the same plate. Here is the proof.

A.—The plate as it comes from the engraver's hands, *shows all the details of the design and inscription*. All the lines, even the most superficial, are apparent on the proofs [first impression?], and in like manner, the eagle and the globe possess all their shades. We will cite in this connection a stamp in our collection, the second in the second row, which, besides the heavy lines from the pinions, presents on each one singly several more fine and regular lines, indicating the rows of little feathers; and which lines, through the wearing down of the plate, disappeared after some workings. Several of the A's of CONTRATOS are not barred: *it* is an

omission of the engraver, easy to conceive, but which it was not judged worth while to correct.

B.—As the plate began to wear after the first few workings, the finer lines of the wings, and a portion of those which formed the shading of the body of the eagle and the globe, *disappeared little by little.* To this period in the condition of the plate we ascribe one of our two sheets—the one which we consider the older. It shows the shading of the body of the eagle well marked, formed of oblique lines more or less interlaced, and of some few lines almost vertical. On the globe are found a certain number of very short and nearly vertical lines, and other oblique lines situated on the right side. Still, on examining the stamps with a magnifier, one perceives that the stamps near the margins of the sheets have lost some of the ground lines in that portion of the oval whence springs the eagle's head. It may be, however, that the printing of those portions of the sheet has been bad or ineffective. The oblique lines remain, the vertical alone are wanting or incomplete. Here, then, are the first two plates reduced to one alone.

C.—However, the workings continue; the frames, letters, and figures of the different types are still very clear because the lines have been so deeply sunk. The principal parts of the eagle and the globe continue; but *all the details have disappeared;* such as the shading, the isolated parts of the pinions, and of the head. The breast of the eagle is nearly white. The administration, not wishing to make new plates, and awaiting probably those which it had ordered at New York, caused the old plates to be touched up by the engraver. He re-sinks the worn lines, and traces new ones. The body of the eagle is the principal subject of these first amendments, for it is the part which has become the most worn, and to an inattentive eye this *third* aspect of the type passes for the result of a new plate. Of this period, we possess the lower right quarter of a sheet, and we have met with a certain number of single specimens. Two, still attached vertically to each other, and which we take to be the sixth types of the first and second rows, bear a stamp on which this date is mentioned—Fev. 1, 1868—a date which indicates approximately the time when these stamps were in use.

It was in the course of this same year that the series engraved by the American Bank-Note Company was emitted. We take, then, this sheet of ours to be the one considered by Mr. Pemberton as produced from a *fourth* plate, and concerning which he simply says, that it is completely different, and served for the impressions in two colours—green and violet. Further on we will furnish proof. At this time took place the retouching of the A's of contratos, which on the sheets of the first two periods were without the transverse bar, and not at the second period, as Mr. Pemberton affirms, for we find the eighth stamp of the fifth row, the A of which had not been barred, on the sheets of the second period, provided with a bar on the fragment of the sheet of the third period. This remark applies equally to the other similar faults in the words BOLIVIA and CENTAVOS. There is no part, even down to the figure 5, which has not submitted, or at least on some of the stamps, to a slight retouching, appreciable on comparison of the sheets.

Towards the end of this period all the lines of the globe disappeared, except the horizontal ones, and those on the eagle's body diminished in number, breadth, and height. One might almost establish another period in the history of the stamp, characterised by the *disappearance from the globe of all but the horizontal lines.*

D.—The impression continued, notwithstanding that the wearing down of the plate became more and more manifest. A second retouch now took place, and this time both the eagle's body and the globe were "repaired." First of all we notice that the ground lines of the oval and of the spandrels have been remade, for the space between them is sensibly different. In consequence of this retouching of the ground, the eagle's head offers some striking differences. The old shading of the body has in great part disappeared, but has been remade. Instead of being short and horizontal, or slightly oblique, the lines are nearly vertical and longer, but the engraver contented himself by reforming only a few lines on the sides of the

eagle's body. The wings have not been retouched, but the lines have been thinned down by wear, and are broken at the extremities. The globes have no longer the short vertical dashes, the horizontal lines are thinner, and in many instances are broken. The oblique dashes on the right are less numerous, or are entirely wanting. To shade the globe, there are cut on the right side some very short horizontal counter-lines, which become one of the principal characteristics of this renovation. The letters are disposed in the same manner. The deterioration of the plate causes the lines to appear less coarse. This is the sheet from Mr. Pemberton's third plate, the one obtained from Mr. Nunès, upon which "the eagle and globe differ much, and the pinion feathers of the wings, although unquestionably the same in number as in their corresponding dies on the old sheet, are mere outlines, and the body of the eagle is very little shaded."

These circumstances, quoted by Mr. Pemberton, are rigorously exact. We are able at this moment to re-confirm them upon an examination of several sheets, which must be contemporaneous with the one which Mr. P. obtained from Mr. Nunès. It is evident that these sheets are the fruits of the last workings, for one finds the general disposition of design of the second period, the remains of the retouching of the third period, and a certain number of new lines indicating a second renovation.

Thus, then, we cannot see our way to admit that these were from plates, as Mr. Pemberton will have it. There was certainly but one, and the stamps derived from it can be divided into four different periods, which we distinguish as follows.

First period.—Plate fresh from the engraver's hands, and furnishing specimens on which all the lines are delicate and admirably preserved. We doubt if there is in existence an entire sheet, but one can form a good idea of it from isolated stamps.

Impression, yellowish green.

Second period.—Plate half-worn, and on which all the finer lines are already effaced.

Impression, apple-green.

This is the period to which our first sheet belongs.

Third period.—Plate more worn, but retouched, the portions treated being principally the eagle's body and the ground of the oval and rectangle, and showing on heavily-inked copies all the new lines surcharged on the remnants of the old ones.

Impression, very dark green, nearly black.

To this period belongs our quarter of a sheet.

Fourth period.—Plate so nearly worn out that the lines added on the occasion of the previous retouching have themselves three-fourths disappeared. New retouch, affecting principally the globe, and characterised by the existence of horizontal counter lines over about a third of the right side.

Impression, very dark green.

It is to this period that the greater part of the entire sheets belong.

If now to the consequences of wear and tear of the plate be added the results of ink defective, either through being too thick or too thin, we find the natural explanation of all the differences which may be found in sheets of the same period, and of the disappearance and reappearance of certain trifling lines.

(To be continued.)

REVIEWS OF POSTAL PUBLICATIONS.

Alfred Smith & Co.'s Descriptive Price Catalogue of the Postage Stamps of All Nations. Fourteenth Edition. London: E. Marlborough & Co.; Bath: Alfred Smith & Co.

EVERY edition of our publishers' catalogue consists of a thousand copies, and a few months is sufficient for the disposal of each in succession. It seems but a day or two since we reviewed the thirteenth edition, and now the fourteenth is before us. Really, if this goes on, we shall be driven to keep a review constantly in type, and our labour will be reduced to the changing of the number of the edition. This last is, in fact, a reprint of the previous one, with, however, all the new issues added, so that purchasers become *au courant*, both as to the latest emissions, and the latest changes in the market prices of stamps.

POSTAL CHIT-CHAT.

A piece of good Luck.—Dear Sir,—I read an account in your last issue of a man buying a sous worth of tobacco, and getting a rare stamp with it; perhaps I was more fortunate than he. I went into a shop a short time since, to look at some foreign stamps which were for sale, and while there the shopkeeper told me he had some envelopes which he had had for a number of years. After a few minutes' search he found them, and they turned out to be blue Mulready envelopes. In reply to my offer to buy them, he said he should be glad to sell them for what they cost him; so I bought them, forty-one in all, at twopence each, and sold them again to a London dealer and others, and I made about £5 of them; but the most amusing part of the affair was that the assistant in the shop kindly promised to *order some more* for me, if she could!

Notice to Collectors of Revenue Stamps.—The correspondent to whom we are indebted for a sight of the new Spanish postage stamps, sends us also a revenue stamp for Spain, one of a series which has just made its appearance. It is like almost all bill-stamps, a narrow upright rectangle, and is perforated. In the centre are the *revised* arms of the country in an oval inscribed de 200 escudos abajo, an inscription which is, of course, varied for each value. A kind of scroll-bordered disk, of irregular shape, occupies the space on either side of the oval, between it and the extremities; the upper margin bears the word giro, and the lower the value, 10 centimos. It is printed in lilac, and all the values are in the same colour. The 10 c. is the lowest value, and 20 escudos the highest, how many there are between we know not.

A Primitive Post-office.—A Wick fish-curer, in writing to a friend in Wick from Castlebay, one of the Barra fishing stations, on the 24th June, says,—"I have received your letter, which has only been eight days on the road—the quickest despatch in my experience. We have no regular post here. Our post-office is a small wooden shed, with one pane of glass, the dimensions of the house being—height about 7 feet, length 7 feet, and breadth 7 feet. The postmaster is a voluntary one, who goes about collecting letters for despatching, and travels with them to Northbay, which is seven miles distant. The return letters he delivers at the "office" described above. His pay is voluntary, no government aid being allowed, and he looks for 1s. from each boat's crew, and 5s. from each fish-curer. This place, taking it all in all, is the most dull and outlandish which I have ever seen.

Halfpenny Post-cards.—At the close of May last, in reply to an inquiry addressed to him by Dr. Lyon Playfair, the Marquis of Hartington said that the Government had decided, in connection with the reduction of postage on newspapers and printed matter, to adopt a halfpenny card postage: that was to say, cards would be issued bearing a halfpenny stamp, on one side of which the address would be written, and on the other any communication, whether in writing or in print. The Government thought that these cards would be a great accommodation to the public, while they would also, on account of their uniform size, light weight, and small bulk, be extremely convenient to the post-office, which would be enabled to deal with them with much greater ease than with ordinary letters. At the same time, considering that these would be open and very brief communications, they would not interfere materially with the revenue derived from the ordinary letter postage.

The latest Caricature of the Mulready has been brought out by Monsieur Maury. Britannia's place is usurped by a rough portrait of M. Maury himself, standing in a box marked *timbres-poste étrangers*, and filled with stamps, which, relatively to the portrait of the Parisian dealer, are of gigantic dimensions. M. Maury's arms are outstretched, and a cloud of stamps or letters reach away on each side. On his right are the usual Mulready elephants, which are being loaded with packages labelled "Maury." In the lower right corner are two plump-faced boys, one studying *Le Collectionneur*, the other examining his album. On the left of the central figure are a group of Indians, one dancing wildly and waving about a letter the postman has just given him, whilst the others are eagerly inquiring if there are no letters for them. In the corner is a man rolling a cask marked *timbres-poste, Maury, Paris*, and in the right lower corner a group of ladies, in fashionable attire, reading M. Maury's paper. The flap of the envelope is covered with our friend's advertisements.

Strange, but (not) true.—Another mad-Englishman story! When shall we ever be sufficiently grateful to the lively journalists of Paris for the light which they generously shed on English habits, manners, and eccentricities? We should not know ourselves but for these kindly illustrations; and we are quite interested by ingenious descriptions of "the farmer of Piccadilly, drinking grogs, and playing on the bagpipes" Now we hear of an English millionaire, who announced in the newspapers that he would marry any young girl, or widow under thirty, who would bring him five millions of used postage stamps. We presume this was to test her perseverance; but we are not told what the man of means proposed to do in the event of two or more applicants coming forward at the same time. However, a young Belgian lady—for this story has been manufactured in Brussels before being sent on for registration to Paris—accomplished the task, and came to England with five huge chests of postage stamps. Great was the joy of our countryman. In his delight he began to count the stamps; but he had only reached the number of 4,677,584, when he was struck with mental alienation, leaving his expectant spouse in despair. At present she is waiting for his recovery. The *Chronique de Bruxelles*, having related the story, rises to the exaltation of a pun which is not translatable into English. She ought, says the *Chronique*, to have known that a man who wanted so many stamps (*timbres*) would end by being *timbré*—or "cracked." The *Figaro* calls this "*une excellente plaisanterie*." Perhaps it is.

In the course of the past month we have received a letter signed "A Collector," and containing some suggestions respecting the collection of stamps which it is difficult to believe have been seriously made. We have not space to insert the entire letter, but a summary of its contents will suffice. The writer proposes that stamps should be arranged solely with reference to their colour, form, and design, and not by countries or by series. He says: "An old issue of Norway with head turned to the left, and a Saxony one with head of king turned to the right, look well together; and in like manner a Hanover with head of king to left, and a United States with head of Washington to right. I think, on the whole, it is better to have only one of a kind at first; there are, nevertheless, a few exceptions. Hamburg and American locals are all very pretty. * * A very small Bergedorf, blue, is to be either amongst a number of small ones of other countries, or in the centre of a page, making the number of squares on each side equal; a light green stamp should be placed against a pink one; a red-brick against a green; a black against a yellow," &c., &c. Why should the writer of this remarkable proposal take the trouble to collect postage stamps at all? Why not content himself by cutting up

sheets of coloured paper into squares and oblongs?—he would then have complete control over the size, and might choose what colours he pleased. Seriously, we are surprised at anyone, even the often-quoted "youngest collector," advocating such an arrangement (or rather negation of all arrangement) as the above at the present time. It may be very well for dealers' sheets, but our correspondent's album, if made on such a principle, must be indeed unique.

CORRESPONDENCE.

THE ITALIAN AND ROMAN POSTAGE.

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

Dear Sir,—In a paragraph of "Postal Chit-chat" in your May number, headed "The Segna-tassa Stamps," you say you have been informed, by one of your Italian friends, that letters from Rome to Italy can only be prepaid to the frontier, and that for this reason Italian receivers of Roman letters always have to pay the other half of the postage, represented by "segna-tassa" stamps, which are put on those letters by the administration itself.

I beg to say, on the contrary, that this is not the case, and your correspondent evidently must be in an error. I have been staying for fourteen months in Italy, and am receiving and writing nearly every day letters from and to Rome, which are always prepaid by "venti centesimi" stamps, the *entire postage* between the United Kingdom of *Italy* and *Rome*.

The reason for your finding segna-tassa stamps, on the backs of which were to be seen portions of a Roman stamp, can therefore only be, that the letter had been insufficiently prepaid, and afterwards charged by the officials with the extra postage, by means of a segna-tassa stamp stuck over the Roman, which really happens sometimes.

Excuse, dear Sir, the liberty which I have taken, and believe me,

Yours most truly,

Ancona. ALBERT STEUDEL.

HONDURAS STAMPS AND UNITED STATES LOCALS.

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

Dear Sir,—To set all doubt at rest as to the genuineness of the Honduras stamps, I am happy to be able to corroborate the statement that appeared in your number for August, 1865, having been informed by the Consul-general for the Republic that he himself caused the labels to be issued either at the latter end of 1865, or early the following year.

I would not trouble you to mention this, only there are some who, like Thomas of old, "will *not* believe."

I have commenced gathering materials for some papers on the United States locals, but feel that it is almost like going to sea in a cock-boat without any oars, but I trust to accomplish the task I have set myself, if I can obtain the assistance of my brother philatelists. I have already "much to be thankful for" in that way, and shall feel obliged by the sight of any postmarked or undoubtedly genuine copies that I may be favoured with. Letters directed "Birmingham" will duly reach me.

Yours truly,

Birmingham. W. DUDLEY ATLEE.

[Another correspondent wrote also in confirmation of the genuineness of these stamps, of which he received one on a letter by last mail from *British* Honduras.—Ed.]

DR. GRAY'S ILLUSTRATED CATALOGUE.

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

Sir,—In the course of looking over the above excellent catalogue, as revised by Mr. Taylor, I detected several slight errors—chiefly omissions and redundancies—unnoticed at pp. 77 and 93 of your magazine. These I now send to you, with a view by no means to depreciate the catalogue—which I certainly think no collector could do well without,—but rather for the guidance of beginners, and in order that the mistakes may be corrected in the next edition. I have not noticed several marked varieties in colour—such as Denmark, 4s. *red*, Italy, Spain, ('57, &c.), which I think it would be well to include, especially where, as in Sweden, Russia (first issues), two separate sets, light and dark, may be made out; neither have I particularly looked into the different watermarks, &c., of our colonies, the lists of which, however, seem rather defective.

Allow me to suggest to Mr. Taylor that authorised changes in the number of perforations, running through a whole set—as in Austria, '63, and Wurtemburg, '59,—might be as reasonably included as changes in watermark, the former being generally accompanied by some other change in colour or paper, as is the case with the Russians and Servians.

Trusting you will think this worthy of insertion,

I am, Sir, yours faithfully,

Inverness. P. I. A.

Austria.—Post cards—omitted.

" (11).—If these and the violet French newspaper stamps are given, I see no reason why the Hungarians, our own old impressed newspaper stamps, and others, should be excluded. Of the latter, those representing postage alone might, at any rate, be included; they are, without due cause, wanting in all catalogues. (See *The Philatelist*, vol. ii., p. 65.)

Austrian Italy (3).—2, 3, and 15 s. These are as deserving of a place as Romagna 6 baj., Argentine Confederation 10 and 15 c. (large figure), and Confederate States 1 c. This applies also to the posthumous stamps of Belgium, Brunswick, Spain, Shanghai, &c.

Belgium (3).—2 and 5 c., *unperf.*—?

Brunswick (1 *a*.).—3 sgr. (on white), *perf.*—omitted.

" (1 *b*.).—¼, 1, and 3 sgr. (on col.) *perf.*—?

Moldavia (1).—27 p.—omitted.

Denmark (3 *a*.).—2 s., *perf.*—omitted.

" (5 *a*.).—2 s.—omitted.

France (3).—1 fr., *perf.*—?

Thurn and Taxis, North (1 *b*.).—These are all given as *perf.* This only applies to those of 1862-4, which are found unperf., rouletted, and roul. on colour.

" " " (2).—Also found *roul.* This distinction (between perforation proper, and perforation *à la roulette*) being given in Wurtemburg, &c., should, I think, be kept up throughout.

" " South (2).—The above applies here also.

" " " (1 *b*.), 1862.—All three are found *roul.*, not 9 kr. only, and, along with 1 kr. of 1860, *roul. on col.*

North German Confederation.—Most of the stamps here are found unperf., perf., and roul. No mention is made of the *compound* envelopes. No exhaustive list has, I think, been given of their numerous varieties.

Hamburg (1 *a.*).—2½ s., 1867, and 7 s. mauve, *unperf.*—?
Hanover, 1853.—3 pf. brown (wmk.)—omitted.
,, (4).—*unperf.*—omitted.
,, (6).—3 gr. yellow, and 10 gr., *perf.*—?
Italy (1).—3 lire, *perf.*—?
,, (3).—20 c., *bar*. I may here mention that I have recently seen a copy of this stamp *without any dots*.
Luxembourg (2).—1865 and '67, and (3), '68, are all roul. on col. The 40 c. orange of this set is not given.
Prussia.—1858. 6 pf.—omitted.
,, (6).—"Prussian arms" should be "value in words."
,, 4 pf., envelope (Inval. Stift.)—omitted.
,, (12).—Inscription also found *above* and *below* stamp.
Finland (1).—*Adhesive*—?
,, *Envelope*. First issue, 10 k. black, and 20 k. red—omitted.
Poland (4).—Also in right corner.
Holstein (2).—*Perf.*—omitted.
Servia (1 *a.*).—1 and 2 p., *perf.*, on both *thick* and *thin* paper—?
Spain (14 *a.*).—The 4 c. is not found *unperf.*, instead of as at *The Stamp-Collector's Magazine*, p. 93.
Switzerland (2), (3), and (4).—Varieties with line round shield—omitted.
Turkey (1 *a.*).—*Thick* paper, 20 p. and 1 pi.—omitted.
,, (2).—Several values, *unperf.*—omitted.
Wurtemburg.—Returned-letter stamps—omitted. No notice is taken of the P. O. O. cards of this and other German states. Those of Wurtemburg have lately undergone some slight changes.
India.—1868. 8 annas—omitted.
Scinde.—½ anna—omitted.
Sierra Leone (1).—*Unperf.*—? By the way, is anything further known of the Fernando Po stamps?
Brazil (3).—10 c. black, *perf.*—?
British Guiana (5) is given *unperf.*, instead, I suppose, of (4).
,, ,, (7).—Sixth border—omitted.
Confederate States.—Many omissions of undoubtedly genuine locals—Maçon, Knoxville, &c.
,, ,, (1).—*For* 6 c., *read* 5 c.
Mexico.—Several omissions (see *The Philatelist*, iii., 86, and elsewhere).
Newfoundland (3).—2d., 4d., 6d., and 1/, orange-red—omitted.
New Granada.—Stamps of individual states of this republic seem cropping up. What of that mentioned at p. 80 of *The Stamp Collector's Magazine*, vol. v.?
St. Domingo.—The "Note" applies to the green and blue 1 rl. also.
United States (2).—24 and 30 c., *unperf.*—? 1 c. blue (eagle)—omitted.
,, ,, (20).—These are little better than our own railway stamps. (See *The Stamp-Collector's Magazine* for 1867, p. 80.)
Sandwich Islands (1).—2 c., 5 c., and variety of 13 c.—omitted.
,, ,, ,, 1865. Provisionals, with figure, 5 c. (two varieties), 13 c. (?)—omitted
,, ,, (7 *b.*).—1865 has inscription differently arranged.
New South Wales (4).—Brown, flesh (?)—omitted.
Victoria, &c.—Many varieties, perf. and unperf., wmkd. and unwmkd.—omitted.
Livonia.—Old circ., blue (?)—omitted.
T. B. Morton & Co. (*with steamer*), 20 p., 1 pi.—omitted.
Saxon and Bohemian Steam Navigation Co. (?).
Russian Navigation Co.—1864, large square blue—omitted.

Page 177.—The list mentioned here of spurious stamps of other countries than the United States, which would be very useful, is not to be found (at any rate, in my copy). I think it a pity the U. S. locals have been omitted, especially as the list of false stamps is far from complete. The reason given—that specimens cannot be obtained genuine—would apply to many other stamps contained in the catalogue. I trust Mr. Taylor will reconsider the point; a good list of these locals is much wanted, and, besides, a catalogue must be incomplete if such is absent.

ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS.

Mrs. E., Liverpool.—We will refer to your letter in our next number.

C. B. S., Cambridge.—Thank you for "Conscience money." You will be much happier for having acted honourably.

W. J. D., Dundee.—Not only the 10 k. of the current Austrian series, but also all the other values exist both in light and dark shades, a fact we notice this month elsewhere.

Mabel.—The brown one-cent Dominion can hardly yet be said to possess any great value, and we doubt much whether it would pay you to keep over your stock for any lengthened period.

X. X. X.—The obliteration, M. Q. E., on your French colonial stamp signifies "Martinique."—We have heard nothing more of the reported accession of Newfoundland to the Confederation.

A. T. H., Canterbury—We notice your remarks on the Honduras stamps in connection with a letter which we publish in our correspondence column. We think the genuineness of these stamps may now be considered as fairly established.

D. H. E, San Francisco.—We are obliged to you for your courtesy in forwarding the specimen of the Greenhood and Newbauer Northern Express envelope, which you will find correctly described at p. 189 of Dr. Gray's catalogue.—We send you our latest price list.

Dr. J. A. Petrie, Elizabeth, N. J.—We know of no change in the opinion of philatelists respecting the "Gauchos;" they are still looked on as rare and genuine essays.—We have never heard of a bronze 6 c. Spanish, 1851, and see no reason to believe in the existence of such a stamp.

R. C. M., Carlisle.—The government of the kingdom of Persia has not yet adopted the use of postage stamps. Several so-called Persian "essays" have occasionally made their appearance; but, having no official authenticity, they are of little or no value.—The laureated 5 centime French stamp has not yet been issued to the public.

Unfortunate, Chichester, complains sadly of the change in colour of several valuable red and yellow stamps in his collection. Stamps of these colours are notably liable to change, the New Zealand penny, the yellow Ionian, the first Prussian 6 pf., &c., but we think that if collectors will be careful to keep their albums in rooms beyond the suspicion of damp, they will have less to lament on this score. We have ourselves learnt wisdom by that common method, experience. Having discovered that some of the above-named stamps, which we kept in a rather damp cupboard, were beginning to turn brown at the edges, we removed them to a drier place, and, at any rate, arrested the decomposition of colour.

PAPERS FOR BEGINNERS.—No. VII.

BY OVERY TAYLOR.

EUROPE.

Great Britain, concluded.

The English envelopes offer, on the whole, much less interest than the adhesives, for the reason that they have never been really popular, and that the circulation of all but the lowest value is of an exceptionally limited nature. The public has never taken to them; the advantage of having a ready-stamped envelope at hand has never weighed against the necessity of purchasing a stock in advance, and the facility with which an adhesive can be stuck on *any* envelope that comes to hand has been fatal to the employment of the embossed stamps. And this, too, notwithstanding the fact, that they may be cut out and stuck on plain envelopes, a proceeding which is punishable on the Continent as an infraction of the law. Not long since, the Marquis of Hartington stated, in the House of Commons, that it was the wish of the postal authorities to see the stamped envelopes more extensively used, but he did not suggest any means whereby they might be popularised, and it is difficult to see how they could be, unless, indeed, it were by abolishing the charge for the envelopes themselves, and selling them at their facial value—a measure which might meet with strong opposition from the stationers, as tending to injure their trade.

Meanwhile, English envelopes have a kind of intermittent circulation, and to very few, except philatelists, is their existence known. Even to them, as above remarked, the envelope emissions of our country have an inferior interest to those of other states, and their history presents fewer striking features.

The issue of embossed envelope stamps, if it did not enter into the original scheme of the founders of the postal system, was decided on very soon after the appearance of the Mulready and its companion adhesives. It was a step in advance at that time, for the public generally had hardly become used to envelopes, and mercantile men preferred, as many still do, to write the address on the back of the letter, so that the postmarks might be struck on the letter itself, and remain legal proofs of the date of posting and of delivery. The Mulready covers, however, not proving satisfactory or convenient, it became necessary to adopt envelopes as a substitute, and, no doubt in expectation of a wide currency, the penny rose and twopence blue were issued. These two stamps, like their concomitant adhesives, occupy a place apart from the rest; and following the plan I adopted with the latter, it will be best to take them first and alone.

The penny rose was the first of the two to make its appearance: it was issued in January, 1841, almost simultaneously with the penny red adhesive; the twopence followed in April of the same year. Levrault quotes the 29th January for both, but is evidently in error as to the latter.

Their emission occasioned the production, by Mr. Wyon, of a series of essays of remarkable value and interest. Some among the designs offered are very beautiful, and all, or nearly all, were executed in the finest style. To attempt to catalogue them here would be to depart from the purpose of these papers, and further, the work has been already so completely done, that there is no excuse for repetition. Suffice it to say, that even after the die had been chosen, several changes and modifications in the subordinate parts of the design were made before that form in which the penny actually appeared was arrived at—chief among which was the suppression of a second and outer oval frame.

The design as adopted is, to say the least, a respectable one: the profile is very clearly cut, and nothing could be simpler than the accessories. It will be remarked, that whilst the penny bears the inscription above, the twopence has it below the portrait, a variation of which it is difficult to perceive the utility; also, that on the edge of the bust are the letters W. W., and a figure, which sometimes precedes and sometimes follows them; these letters are the initials of the engraver—W. Wyon; the number is that of the die. The paper employed was the same as that used for the Mulready and the embossed adhesives, viz., the Dickinson, with two silk threads, one blue and one rose, running through the texture. Varieties, however, have been noted

by acute observers, some characterised by the possession of three threads, others by two threads, both red or both blue; others, again, by the absence of the flap-seal; indeed, the celebrated French philatelist, M. Berger-Levrault, makes two distinct emissions of the envelopes on Dickinson paper—those with and those without the seal, and advanced collectors increase the number of their stamps by including each different-sized envelope on which the stamps were struck. These minor varieties may not be without interest, and may deserve mention in a complete history of the English envelopes, but we beginners can afford to disregard them, for the present at least, as tending rather to confusion than enlightenment.

With regard to the seal, however, it is desirable to note that only those envelopes which bear the one consisting of the heraldic flowers were sold over the counter of the post-office; all those with or without private seals were impressed by the government *to order*, the envelopes being furnished by the firms or persons who bought the stamps, and this rule holds good to the present day; so that if the possession of the orthodox seal be taken to enhance the value of the envelope, those which are sold at the post-office are worth more than those which are stamped in execution of special orders.

The colour of the penny—a clear rose—varies scarcely at all, but of the twopence blue two distinct shades may be distinguished—light and dark.

Besides the envelopes, there were issued a sheet of writing-paper bearing the impressed stamp, and a newspaper-band. I have never been able to meet with a copy of either myself, and believe them to be of considerable rarity. Of the former of these two, the following is the description: "The stamp is struck on a half sheet of white letter-paper, with three silk threads in the substance thereof, and the impression is so placed as to permit the paper to be folded in two, to form a sheet of note, which, being doubled in three, leaves the stamp at the right upper corner of the letter." The date of emission, I have some reason to believe, should be fixed in 1844, and not in 1841, as has been asserted; on this point, however, we must look to Mr. Pearson Hill for enlightenment. Whenever issued, their circulation must have been extremely limited, for they were even less popular than the envelopes, as they did not answer the purpose for which they were intended. It was to meet the wishes of mercantile houses, who had raised the objection already noticed—to the effect that their letters, when enclosed in envelopes, no longer bore the official postmarks—that these sheets were issued; but it is said that the stamp was so badly placed that, by no exercise of ingenuity could the sheet be so folded as to show it in the upper right-hand corner.*

The newspaper-band has never been catalogued in any English work, so far as my knowledge extends. It is to M. Berger-Levrault that we owe our acquaintance with it, and, after him, to Dr. Magnus, who thus describes it in his article on envelopes: "Half the size of the sheet previously described. The silk threads lie, relatively to the stamp, in a horizontal position, and are two in number—one red, and the other blue.

One penny rose, on slightly-bluish paper.

The band is but a variety of the sheet; this latter being cut into two, the first portion served as a band for journals and printed matter, which could only circulate under a cover open at the ends." This description leaves us in some doubt whether the band ever had an independent and separate existence, or is anything more than the stamped half of the letter-sheet. The only proof that it was a separate issue is, that it is of bluish paper, whilst the letter sheet is, in the description above quoted, said to be of white; but this proves very little, as the stamp may have been impressed on blue as well as on white letter-sheets.

Some time in the course of the year 1855, a fresh edition of the penny rose and twopence blue appeared, differing from the previous ones in two particulars: first, in the oval of the stamp itself three small circular disks are cut, which bear the date of emission in figures, thus, 3-9-55, secondly, the envelope is of ordinary paper, destitute of silk threads. The penny continues to bear a flap-seal, though somewhat smaller,

* See *The Stamp-Collector's Magazine*, vol. iii., p. 74.

and different in design, but the twopence has none.

The twopence, like the penny, was sold at the post-offices, but several years since, about 1862, I think, it was withdrawn from general circulation.

Towards the end of 1855, three new envelopes appeared, viz., the

Fourpence,	vermilion.
Sixpence,	lilac.
Shilling,	green.

The two latter were simply the types of the adhesives, of the same values, with the date inserted after the same manner as in the penny and twopence, but on the sixpence one of the date-circles, and in the shilling, two, encroach on the central disk. The fourpence is an admirable impression; extremely simple and clear in design, and brilliant in colour.

The exact date of issue of these stamps cannot be ascertained. Mr. Pearson Hill gives November for the fourpence, but it seems probable that, although its emission and the types to be adopted may have been decided on in that month, the first supply was not actually struck off until December. The writer of the oft-quoted article on British essays says that "the fourpence, dated 8-12-55, the sixpenny, dated 5-12-55, and the one shilling, dated 7-12-55, were all three issued, marked SPECIMEN, on a sheet of thick cream-laid paper, with the legend, *Embossed postage stamps, to be struck upon paper and envelopes.*" Now, it seems only reasonable to suppose that the "specimen" stamps were struck *in advance* of the general emission, and sent round to the provincial offices to show what were the stamps about to be issued; and as the above-mentioned specimens are dated, respectively, the 5th, 7th, and 8th December, it follows that the ordinary stock was not in use until, at any rate, the middle of that month.

The list of envelopes is completed by notice of the

Threepence,	dark rose,

issued in July, 1859. The design of this stamp is striking, but not of any remarkable beauty. Though modelled after the adhesive of the same value, it has not the same pleasing effect.

It would seem that all the higher values were issued solely to oblige commercial houses, as there is no trace of their ever having been sold at the post-offices. In a preceding paragraph we have discussed the question of the date of emission of the 4d., 6d., and 1s., but further consideration shows that no *day* can be fixed on, unless it be that of the official notice that the dies had been prepared, and were at the service of any one who might like to order a certain quantity. Such notices must, I presume, be in existence, and they would form a safe guide, as far as they go, but the exact date could only be obtained by reference to the post-office ledgers, showing when the first orders were executed.

Considered relatively to the adhesives, the English envelopes may be considered rare. Stamp dealers have had a fair number struck off to meet the wants of collectors, but these are sold, like foreign issues, at about double the facial value. Used copies are only to be met with in very small numbers, but are probably somewhat more plentiful abroad, as these envelopes are principally used by merchants for their continental correspondence.

That it does not pay to impress the higher values is evident from the fact, that the authorities have not thought it worth while to complete the series by issuing the 9d., 10d., 2s., and 5s., and unless such measures be taken as were suggested at the commencement of the present paper to popularise the values already in existence, there would be nothing surprising in the withdrawal of these latter, with the exception only of the penny.

Meanwhile, philatelists increase the number of their English envelopes by the collection of varieties, for whose inclusion no sensible reason can be given—varieties whose interest is, one might fairly say, in inverse ratio to their expense. I allude to the envelopes on coloured paper, to the combinations of values, and to the stamps which are surrounded with a band bearing the name of a private person or firm.

The post-office used to permit, and, notwithstanding assertions to the contrary, does still, I believe, permit, the impression of

the embossed stamps on paper of any colour, provided only that it be of sufficient thickness to receive the impress. Originally, this permission was only taken advantage of by business men, to get supplies struck on the orthodox commercial blue paper, but some speculative person had all the values struck on rose, yellow, lilac, &c. Again, the post-office will impress two stamps on one envelope, with the intent to form, from the compound of the two values, a third, which is not represented by any single stamp. These compound values might be supposed to cover rates of postage which no single stamp exactly meets. But in point of fact, the privilege accorded by the post-office has been used, and I have every reason to believe, exclusively used, to create fanciful varieties for sale to collectors, which, whether they really represent a postal rate or not, never are, or have been, used to prepay postage. I have never yet seen, nor heard of, a used specimen of a compound English envelope, and very much doubt if there be one in existence.

The production of these varieties has been carried to a ridiculous extent. An envelope with a sixpence placed before the fourpence is considered different from an envelope bearing the fourpence placed before the sixpence, a "sixpence and threepence" is different from a "threepence and sixpence," and so on. The force of folly could no farther go, and collectors who buy such varieties are hardly less to blame than the dealers who first made them popular. Nothing speaks more forcibly of the absurdity of these varieties than the fact, that by ringing the changes on compound values, and impressing these and the single values on five or six different papers, nearly a hundred varieties are to be obtained, representing a facial value of nearly four pounds, and a selling value of six or seven pounds.

The collection of these stamps has been fostered principally by the allotment of spaces for them, or for a portion at least, in Lallier's album. I have not a copy of this album before me, but I know that two or three pages are given up to these factitious varieties. The compiler of this album is not a collector himself, and he is guided in arranging his book by friends who are of that school which collects anything and everything; and, from fear, perhaps, of excluding some stamp of value, he includes such a quantity of rubbish that his album is thoroughly worthless. It is very much to M. Moens' credit that he has had the sense to omit these "paper" and "compound" varieties of English envelopes from his album, and their omission alone goes far to support our recommendation of it as the best album for beginners.

We come now to the third class of what might be roughly termed *artificial* varieties, those which consist of the official stamp, surrounded by a band bearing the address of private firms. The government permits this band to be superadded, but will not allow anything more than the address and statement of trade or profession to appear on it. Anything like an advertising puff is strictly forbidden, but for the mere sake of putting their names conspicuously on their envelopes, some of the leading mercantile firms have taken advantage of the privilege offered. Thus, we find complete series of envelopes, with circular bands, inscribed *Smith, Elder, & Co.—W. H. Smith & Sons—The Home News (Grindlay & Co.)*, &c. Besides these, there are some that are rarely to be obtained now, such as *Borne & Son—Pawson—Stafford Smith & Smith.* A short time since I met with one variety myself, in a heap of common envelopes, which has never been noticed—a penny rose, with an *oval* band, inscribed *George Furnivbe & Sons, London, E.C.*

One of the "Smith Elder" stamps—the fourpence—obtained for a time unique celebrity, through its being catalogued as an Indian envelope in Lallier's album, and a place being allotted for it on the Indian page. The explanation of this blunder was to be found in the inscription, EAST INDIA AGENTS, which occupied the lower margin. Since then a new type has been adopted for the band, and the entire series simply bears the address, CORNHILL, E.C. It is doubtful whether they are now in use, as Messrs. Smith, Elder, & Co. have given up their city business to another firm—Messrs. Henry King & Co., —and the city address is, consequently, no longer correct. These "Smith Elder" stamps

have always been difficult to obtain, as the firm put an absolute veto on their sale to collectors at any price, and only the fortunate few in friendly relation with it have been able to get unused copies.

The "Smith & Son" series is, on the contrary, by no means rare. The penny and twopence are impressed on newspaper wrappers, and very extensively used; and as this firm sends out a large number of newspapers to the continent, these stamps are very common there.

The facility for making varieties by means of bands has been but little taken advantage of by stamp-dealers. Messrs. Stafford Smith & Smith, Bath, issued the penny and twopenny bearing their "George Street" address, and the entire series with the "Queen-square House" address; but both of these, as I have good reason to know, were prepared for *bonâ-fide* purposes, and were used, with few exceptions, for the prepayment of their letters. Only one small supply of the "Queen-square House" set was ever printed, and the stamps belonging to it are scarce. Another stamp-dealing firm, holding a good position, had all the envelope values surrounded with an address-band, struck on different-coloured papers, for sale only. This is the worst phase of variety-producing, and as such may be hibernically described as doubly worthless. They have had, however, very little success, and as even Lallier does not notice them, we may hope they will soon sink into oblivion.

The value of any of these ring-stamps is very contestable, and they are decidedly not worth collecting wholesale: a single specimen, as an example of the genus, is amply sufficient; and if I have treated of them at length, it has been only because they are less known.

I will close this part of the subject with an extract from Dr. Magnus' article on envelopes, revealing some differences in the designing of the head on the English series, which have escaped general observation. It is as follows:—"We must not quit this series without drawing attention to a difference in the design of the Queen's head, which we have not seen noticed anywhere. The curl which hangs from the chignon is very thin in the 6d., very small in the 2d., and thicker in the penny, where it has the appearance of a corkscrew. It is fuller still in the 3d. and 4d., and seems to be farther off from the bust in the shilling. The hinder part of the bust seems straighter in the earlier stamps, and more concave in the later, and the lower edge of the bust is not perfectly identical. These and other more minute details seem to indicate as many engravings as there are values, a belief in which we are confirmed by Mr. Ph."

ESSAYS.

Under this head I propose only to mention the two threehalfpenny stamps, as although a vast number of essays were submitted to the post-office prior to the issue of the first adhesives—essays, moreover, which have already been catalogued by able hands,—these two alone occupy the exceptional position of stamps not merely proposed to, but adopted by, the post-office, and on the point of being issued, when the order authorising them was rescinded. Such, however, is the fact; they were produced to anticipate a proposed reduction in tariff, which would require the halfpenny value to be used in combination with the penny. Thousands of stamps are said to have been printed, but the bill which would have legalised their use was rejected at the last moment, and the stock was consequently destroyed. From this it results that comparatively few specimens have been preserved and that they are of considerable rarity.

To give a description of these essays we will borrow from a fruitful source* :—

1860. Rectangular stamp, head of Queen Victoria, diademed, to left, in a curvilinear triangle inscribed POSTAGE THREE-HALFPENCE. Watermark, large crown, perforated.

1½d. lilac-pink.

There are two distinct varieties of this in colour, the one being a rosy-lilac, the other a more blue tinge, which latter we incline to ascribe partly to the adhesive matter at the back. The copies met with are usually marked SPECIMEN, and those not so marked are very rare.

Envelope, April 2nd, 1860. Simultaneously

* "Notes on the Proofs and Essays of Great Britain."

with the proposed 1½d. stamp an envelope of the same value was approved.

Queen's head, diademed, to the left, in a curvilinear triangle, inscribed POSTAGE THREE-HALFPENCE. This was struck on thickish cream-laid paper, *vergeure* diagonal, and the colour was like that of the common penny envelope, as in the preceding case, with the word SPECIMEN across it.

LOCAL STAMPS.

It is impossible to conclude a review of our English emissions, however cursory, without some reference to these stamps. To me they seem intrinsically to be of very little interest, and M. Moens is to be blamed for devoting two entire pages of his album to them, but no collector should be without one or two of them, as they are evidences of one of the chief causes of the reduction in the postage of newspapers and circulars to a halfpenny.

They took their rise in Scotland, the Edinburgh and Leith farthing being the first which appeared. This was brought out by a Circular Delivery Company which took its name from these towns, and proposed to deliver circulars within their limits at a charge of a farthing each. Subsequently the company came south, and extended its enterprise throughout London and several of the chief commercial towns, and though its operations were never formidably great, still the post-office took fright at its competitor and put in full force against it the enactments which preserve to the government department the monopoly in the conveyance of letters. Trials took place before police magistrates; it was then urged, but unsuccessfully, that open printed circulars were not letters; the magistrates decided against and fined the company, and then the matter was taken up to a higher court—the Exchequer or Exchequer Chamber, I believe—and there the post-office suit was finally successful. But the company, though it was forced to give way, had done good service in showing the public what might be done in the way of reducing the inland postal rates. There had been some prior suggestions from isolated but influential chambers of commerce that a farthing or a halfpenny rate ought to be tried, but after the demonstration of the financial success of the cheaper rate afforded by the defeated company, public opinion was aroused, and the advocates of reduction, led on by Mr. Graves, M.P. for Liverpool, obtained without much difficulty from the Postmaster-general a promise that their proposal should be considered. This promise, though it at first seemed only an official way of staving off action, has been promptly followed by a large concession, and a month after the publication of the present number, printed matter will be forwarded by the post-office at a charge of a halfpenny.

There is still room for further concession, such as for instance the reduction to a halfpenny of the postage on local letters, by which I mean letters posted and delivered in one and the same town, but meanwhile we may rest and be thankful; and, to return to my text, a portion of our gratitude is due to the Circular Delivery Company.

The stamps of this company, which, it must be admitted, served more as mere advertisements than as franks, were multiplied as the philatelic demand for them grew, and now their name is legion and their value *nil*. Hence with the knowledge we possess that many of the changes in type which occurred were made solely for the purpose of selling the altered stamps to collectors we cannot respect them much, but as mementoes of an advance in postal progress, one or two are worthy of admission. I forbear to give a list of them, as to do so would be throwing away space; suffice it to say that my readers, if they want to get a copy or two, will find no difficulty in procuring them, as every stamp dealer keeps them.

NEWLY-ISSUED OR INEDITED STAMPS.

Great Britain.—By the kindness of Mr. Atlee, we are placed in a position to give early intelligence respecting the forthcoming halfpenny stamps. He has favoured us with three specimens, obtained by him from the chief office, and these we proceed to describe.

1. *The Adhesive.*—This, in its general appearance, accords with the description quoted by us in our July number. It is a queer little thing, with enough in shape and design

to prevent the slightest chance of confusion with the venerable penny. It is a transverse oblong, about six-eighths of an inch in length, by four-eighths in breadth. The profile of the Queen is in the centre of a rather small, white oval, which leaves a considerable margin on all sides. The ground is formed of an engine-turned pattern of interlaced lines, running vertically. There is no inscription of any kind, but on the margin of each lateral side is the value expressed by the fraction —$\frac{1}{2}d$.—in white figures, on a solid ground, and in the corners are the usual letters. The watermark runs through several stamps, and consists either of the words HALFPENNY POSTAGE or HALFPENNY in written characters; in the copy before us, only the letters LFP are visible. The colour is such a compound that it is difficult to describe it, but we may venture to term it lake-pink. The specimen from which we describe is unperforated, and will become valuable as a proof impression, as the regular issue will, of course, be perforated. 1¼″×5″

2. *The Newspaper Wrapper* is a strip of unwatermarked paper, more than a foot in length, about five inches in width, with its upper end curved and gummed. It folds up into four, without counting the flap, and the stamp is struck on the uppermost fold, at about half-an-inch from the edge, and one-third of an inch below the top. The design is very neat: it consists of a narrow upright rectangle, with corners rounded. The Queen's profile occupies the centre of a white circular disk; above, on an arched label, is the word HALFPENNY, in long, narrow letters; and below are three small solid circular disks, with the date divided out between them, thus—1,-10,-70. The remainder of the stamp is filled in with an arabesque pattern. The impression is in bright green.

3. *The Post Card.*—Unusual taste is shown in the arrangement of the design. The card is of a light buff colour, about 4¼ inches in length by 3½ in breadth; a Greek-patterned frame encloses the stamp and the place for the address. The design is something like that of the new St. Christopher series, and consists of the Queen's head in a circle, with ornaments in the spandrels, and a broad label in the lower margin, inscribed HALFPENNY, the whole forming a rectangle. The inscription, which occupies the upper portion of the card, to the left of the stamp, is thus disposed:

POST CARD.



THE ADDRESS ONLY TO BE WRITTEN ON THIS SIDE.

To

It will be understood that the stamp is not stuck on, but is impressed with the rest of the design. The whole is printed a light lilac.

It is worthy of notice that the plates are not numbered, nor is any space left for the insertion of rotation numbers hereafter. We do not observe that there is any kind of check-letter in the card; as for the wrapper, that, it will be seen, is treated as an envelope, and at each successive emission, the date will be changed.

SPAIN.—A word of caution to inexperienced collectors may not be out of place respecting certain fictitious varieties which have been lately manufactured: we refer to the Spanish stamps surcharged "Y¼." We have seen this abbreviation struck in deep blue ink on the 1, 2, and 4 milesimas, and 12 c. of the new series, on the 2 rls. Spanish of 1856, the 12 c. of 1860, and a number of others. The absurdity of the addition in connection with most of these values will be at once manifest. A stamp, value 1¼ or 2¼ milesimas, should deceive nobody, but there might be a chance of collectors being taken in by a 2 reales bearing the surcharged Y¼, and it is, therefore, as well to warn our readers that no Spanish stamp has ever been thus marked, and that varieties showing this surcharge are entirely worthless.

PORTUGUESE POSSESSIONS.—Of late we have witnessed considerable additions to the number of Portuguese stamps. The home series has been provisionally utilised for Madeira and the Azores, and now we have to chronicle fresh accessions, in the shape of new and distinct types for the Portuguese

possessions in Africa. We have, for a long time past, been awaiting the issue of a series for Angola, and now it appears, accompanied by an entirely unexpected set of stamps for the St. Thomas and Prince Islands.





A comparison of the two types will show that they are identical in design, except on two points. That for St. Thomas and Prince Islands has the name in the circle, and CORREIO in the margin; whilst that for Angola has the circle occupied entirely with the Greek pattern, and the name in the upper margin, the word CORREIO not appearing at all. It may be that the suppression of this latter word was intentional, and should be taken to indicate that the Angolan stamps will not be employed exclusively for postal purposes, or (the more probable suggestion of the two) it may be that the St. Thomas having been engraved after the Angola, the opportunity was taken to remedy an evident omission in the latter, by inserting the word CORREIO.

The values and colours are as follows:—

St. Thomas and Prince Islands.

5	reis	black.
10	,,	bright yellow.
20	,,	stone.
25	,,	brick red.
50	,,	green.
100	,,	violet.

Angola.

5	reis	black.
10	,,	orange.
20	,,	stone.
25	,,	rose.
50	,,	green.
100	,,	bright violet.

The impression is in colour on white, and, as will be seen from the engravings, the stamps are perforated. The Angolan series was to come into use on the 1st of July last; the St. Thomas and Prince will probably not be issued for some time, to judge from the fact, that the specimen from which we describe is a proof, bearing the word PROVA, in black type, across the face, and that it was sent to us from Lisbon.

For the guidance of our younger readers, we may mention that the islands of St. Thomas and Prince are in the gulf of Guinea, and contain together a population of about 30,000 souls; Angola is on the mainland, between Congo on the north, and Benguela on the south, and possesses 400,000 inhabitants.

PERU.—We are indebted to M. Moens for notice of the stamp of which the annexed engraving is a copy, but he is unable to explain its use, and no information is forthcoming from any other source. The white portions of the design are in relief, the rest is printed vermilion. It is a queer-looking stamp, which does not give much indication of its employment on its face. M. Moens suggests that there may be a special rate for the conveyance of letters by railway between the three towns whose names appear thereon, or that it may be the emission of a private company, but to indulge in speculation is useless. The stamp may turn out to be what, in French slang, is termed *une carotte;* in English, a humbug. We prefer, therefore, to await the arrival of the information which M. Moens has requested of his correspondent, before bestowing further attention upon it.



NORTH GERMAN CONFEDERATION.—The last philatelic importation from the seat of war is a field-post envelope, for the use of the soldiers of the Prussian army. It is an ugly looking affair, $6\frac{1}{2}$ inches by about $4\frac{1}{4}$, printed on paper of a brownish white hue, and without any device of an ornamental character. Above is the inscription FELD-POST BRIEF, and in the right-hand upper corner a circle to contain probably the postmark. Lines are left for inserting the army-corps, the division, number of regiment, company, squadron and battery; also, of course, for the name of the addressee. On the back are various in-

structions of the usual order, and a place for the name of the sender. It is certainly an article of more use than beauty.

Levant.—We gave last month the engraving of a stamp which appears to have been issued by the Russian Steam Navigation Company, but of which nothing certain is yet known. Since then, a second type has been discovered, and of this also we publish an illustration. Both stamps are printed in two colours. The one described last month has the framework of blue, and the central device in white on scarlet; the other has the frame of brown, and the centre of blue. We may here mention that the blue-and-scarlet (value 2 piastres) was noticed by the *Philatelist* in its April number.



Prince Edward Island.—A new stamp has just made its appearance for this colony, and is probably the forerunner of a series. It has been engraved, we presume, by the Canadian Bank-Note Company, and is to some extent a reminder of the 5 cents New Brunswick, both in type and size. The portrait is in the same style, but is a fresh engraving, and the face looks even younger and more childish than on the New Brunswick stamps. It is contained in an oval, which is nearly surrounded by a border, inscribed PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND POSTAGE; and below, within scroll ornaments, appears the denomination, 3d. stg.—cy. 4½d. The frame also consists of scroll work. The stamp is unwatermarked, perforated, and printed in a warm brown on white.

Italy.—The two designs here represented must be put in the same category with the American Sanitary Fair stamps. They were prepared on the occasion of the last carnival, by a Genoese lithographer, by order of M. Ravano, the director of the Genoa theatre, and sold by him for the benefit of a charitable society, which had organised a masked ball at his theatre. "Every one bought them" (we quote from *Le Timbre-Poste*), "the purpose being so praiseworthy; and they placed their purchase on the hand, the arm, and even on the nose, in order to prevent fresh offers." Our contemporary says, the effigy, which is that of M. Ravano, was traced, or, as we understand it, stuck on the stamps of 20 and 50 centesimi. As there is no 50 centesimi stamp, the 5 c. is, no doubt, meant to be indicated. The colours were those of the regular stamps, and the values 20 and 50 c. The inscription, NEO REGINA, 1870, may be translated freely as CARNIVAL, 1870,—the word REGINA signifying, literally, a mask, in the Genoese dialect.





Rome.—The annexed type is said to be that which has been adopted for the new Roman series, but is evidently incomplete—the inscription and value having yet to be inserted in the octagon. The design has a very hieroglyphical appearance, and if it was the intention to combine the Papal emblems with classical figures, the attempt is certainly a failure. The emblems are certainly not capable of such treatment, and should have been left alone to form the central device; the addition of a really tasteful framework would alone have sufficed to form an attractive type; but the present essay shows only a labyrinthine confusion of legs and key-handles. Pending the perhaps distant date when the new series shall be in use, the one in existence keeps the even tenor of its way, and the only change to signalise is the appearance of the 10 c. printed on a brownish vermilion paper.



Paraguay.—M. Moens, replying to the letter from Mr. Atlee which appeared in our July number, argues that as the Argentine Republic has established post-offices in Paraguay, it may also be on the point of issuing stamps for that country, and that, assuming such to be the case, the government would not inform its diplomatic agents abroad of its intention. This may be very true, but the sneer that follows, as to the insertion, in the English journals, of insig-

nificant letters, *opinion de Pierre*, *opinion de Paul*, is not in the best taste. The English journals encourage the transmission of information by their correspondents, and do not despise the slightest contribution to the stock of philatelic knowledge, believing that a guarantee of the permanence of philately is found in the interest taken by its readers in all that relates to the science. At any rate, the columns of the English journals are not occupied with attempts to hoax their readers, by the description of pretended issues for Moresnet, nor by interminable squabbles over verbal inaccuracies, discovered by the one in the pages of the other. Whoever will take the trouble to glance through the volumes of *Le Timbre-Poste* and *Le Timbrophile*, will find no inconsiderable portion of their space taken up by a series of accusations, rejoinders, and surrejoinders, upon trivial omissions or faults of style, containing not a single philatelic fact of importance to redeem the mass of verbiage. Under these circumstances, we commend to our contemporary's notice the old proverb, which advises abstention from stone-throwing by the inhabitants of glass-houses.

New Granada.—*Tolima.*—Mr. Pemberton writes, "I received specimens of Tolima last month from Bogota. There were two different dies amongst them, and they were all on blue laid paper. That they belong to Tolima, and that Tolima is a state of the Confederation, Republic, or what not, of Columbia, there can be no question. It appears more than probable that the system of each state issuing its own stamps may extend to all of them in process of time, for I received a 5 centavos for the state of Cundinamarca, colour red, design precisely the same as that of the current 20 c. of Columbia, engraved on p. 208 of Dr. Gray's new edition (and erroneously described there as lilac, all I have seen have been blue), except that the stamp is shorter, owing to the omission of the words CORREOS NALES at top, and consequent contraction of the design. The stamp is distinctly marked CORREOS, with the name of the state round the central circle. I received also a newly-issued 10 pesos Columbia, to match the 5 pesos which you have engraved, also a new 5 cent *en suite*, in the usual variations of lemon and orange. Is the lilac 20 c. mentioned in Dr. Gray's catalogue a myth? I think so; all I have seen have been blue."

South African Republic.—We noticed last month the arrival of penny stamps, printed in the republic, or "colony," as the *Philatelist* terms it, and distinguished from the previous supplies by the roughness of the impression, and by the paper being unperforated. It now appears that supplies of the blue sixpence and green shilling have also been struck off at Pretoria in the same rough manner. Our Brighton contemporary, referring to them, says, "Of the blue, we received but a single sheet, and this presents a peculiarity noticeable among some impressions of other countries, viz.: the reversal of one of the dies; the same singularity is offered by the sheets of green, which have the stamp on the left-hand upper corner reversed; the anomalous individual in the blue is in the left-hand lower one." It adds, "None of the violet threepennies have yet been printed off in the republic. There are colour-essays of the latter in circulation, probably got up for sale, in pink and blue."

Denmark.—We may anticipate the appearance of a goodly number of essays for the new 48 sk., for no less than eight types were proposed by the engraver, of which the one engraved last month was accepted, leaving seven for the use of collectors only. Two of the rejected closely resemble the chosen design, differing only in slight details; the third has the figure of value in a shield; surmounted by a larger crown, with DANMARK POSTFRIMÆRKE above, and value below; the fourth resembles the adopted type, but has a triangle at each corner; the fifth has the same frame as the fourth, but the figure of value is on a small circle in the centre of a fancy design; the sixth has a fancy design, stretching from side to side; the seventh has the figure in an oval, and the space between it and the inscribed oval contains a greek pattern. It is hardly necessary to quote the colours of the first proofs seen, as, no doubt, there will be a rainbow series of each.

Mauritius.—The sixpence is now printed of a dark green hue, and, says our Belgian contemporary, the one shilling blue has been withdrawn from circulation, and replaced temporarily by the 1s. yellow, pending the exhaustion of the stock of the 2d. blue, the identity of colour having brought about a confusion between the two stamps. As to the reported changes in colour of the ninepence, of which Count de P. possesses a specimen in green, the postmaster of Mauritius says, there has never been any idea of issuing a new tint, as he still possesses more than £4000 worth of the violet.

Bolivia. — It may be as well to notice here that there has been an extensive manufacture of blue 5 centavos, obtained by steeping the green of the "fourth period" in acid. These blue stamps are of a deep colour, approaching to indigo, and have a very new look about them. *Caveat emptor.*

Holland.—Rectification of colours of the unpaid-letter stamps: the 5 c. is brown on orange, the 10 c., carmine on blue. The colours originally given were those of proof copies.

St. Domingo.—There has lately appeared another variety of this very changeable series; the UN real is now printed in lilac-grey on ordinary paper, and gummed.

United States.—We have received the new 3 cents envelopes on white and on lemon-coloured paper.

Trinidad.—The 4d., cc. and crown watermark, stamp of this island is now of a very beautiful blue violet.

A POSTMASTER-GENERAL'S ADVERTISEMENT.

Thanks to the kindness of a correspondent, we have before us the copy of an advertisement inserted in the principal American papers by the United States Postmaster-general, requesting tenders for the manufacture of stamped envelopes and wrappers. It is not often that we see a state post-office putting up such work for open competition, but the department has ceased to do business with Messrs. Nesbitt & Co., and from this advertisement it is evident the report of its dispute with its new contractor, Mr. G. H. Reay, had more foundation than was at first supposed. Whether the remainder of the expected series will appear, or whether we shall have to wait the result of a new contract, remains to be seen; meanwhile, the conditions offered to manufacturers are of sufficient interest to make it worth our while to reproduce them, and it will be seen that they throw considerable light on the number of envelopes required, the sizes most used, &c.

Post-office Department, July 11, 1870.

Sealed proposals will be received until 12 o'clock A.M., on the 11th day of August, 1870, for furnishing all the "Stamped Envelopes," and "Newspaper Wrappers," which this department may require during a period of four years, commencing on the 1st day of October, 1870, viz.:

STAMPED ENVELOPES.

No. 1.—Note size, $2\frac{3}{4}$ by $5\frac{1}{4}$ inches—two qualities.

No. 2.—Ordinary letter size, $3\frac{1}{16}$ by $5\frac{1}{2}$ inches—three qualities.

No. 3.—Full letter size, $3\frac{3}{8}$ by $5\frac{1}{2}$ inches—three qualities.

No. 4.—Full letter size (for circulars), ungummed on flap, $3\frac{3}{8}$ by $5\frac{1}{2}$ inches—one quality.

No. 5 —Extra letter size, $3\frac{1}{2}$ by $6\frac{3}{8}$ inches —three qualities.

No. 6.—Extra letter size, $3\frac{1}{2}$ by $6\frac{3}{8}$ inches, (for circulars), ungummed on flap—one quality.

No. 7.—Official size, $3\frac{15}{16}$ by $8\frac{7}{8}$ inches—two qualities.

No. 8.—Extra official size, $4\frac{3}{8}$ by $10\frac{1}{4}$ inches —one quality.

STAMPED NEWSPAPER WRAPPERS.

Six and five-eighths by nine and one-half inches (round cut)—one quality.

EMBOSSING, WATERMARKS, PRINTING, RULING, PAPER, STYLE OF MANUFACTURE.

All of the above Envelopes and Wrappers must be embossed with postage stamps, of such denominations, styles, and colours, must have such watermarks or other devices to prevent imitation, and bear such printing and ruling as the Postmaster-General may direct. The envelopes must be made in the

most thorough manner, equal in every respect to the samples furnished to bidders by the Department. The paper must be of approved quality, especially manufactured for the purpose.

Whenever envelopes are ordered of the styles known as "Black-lined" or "Self-ruled" (lines printed inside, or ruled on the face), the same shall be furnished without additional cost, the contractor to pay all charges for royalty in the use of patented inventions for said lined or ruled envelopes.

DIES.

The dies for embossing the postage stamps on the envelopes and wrappers are to be executed to the satisfaction of the Postmaster-General, in the best style, and they are to be provided, renewed, and kept in order at the expense of the contractor. The Department reserves the right of requiring new dies for any stamps, or denominations of stamps not now used, and any changes of dies or colours shall be made without extra charge.

Before closing a contract the successful bidder may be required to prepare and submit new dies for the approval of the Department. The use of the present dies may, or may not, be continued.

The dies shall be safely and securely kept by the contractor, and should the use of any of them be temporarily or permanently discontinued, they shall be promptly turned over to the Department, or its agent, as the Postmaster-General may direct.

GUM.

The envelopes must be thoroughly and perfectly gummed, the gumming on the flap of each (except for circulars) to be put on by hand not less than half an inch the entire length; the wrappers to be also hand-gummed not less than three-fourths of an inch in width across the end.

SECURITY FROM FIRE AND THEFT.

Bidders are notified that the Department will require, as a condition of the contract, that the envelopes and wrappers shall be manufactured and stored in such a manner as to insure security against loss by fire or theft.

The manufactory must at all times be subject to the inspection of an agent of the Department, who will require the stipulations of the contract to be faithfully observed.

GUARANTEE.

No proposal will be considered unless offered by a manufacturer of envelopes, and accompanied by a satisfactory guarantee signed by at least two responsible parties.

AWARD—AGREEMENT—BONDS.

The contract will be awarded to the lowest responsible bidder for all the envelopes and wrappers, the prices to be calculated on the basis of the number used of the several grades during the last fiscal year, which was as follows:

Note size	1,468,250
Letter size, first quality	69,467,500
Letter size, second quality	8,956,750
Letter size, second quality (ungummed)	3,618,000
Extra letter size, first quality	5,815,750
Extra letter size, second quality (ungummed)	454,000
Official size	569,900
Extra Official size	3,100
Newspaper wrappers	4,936,250
Total	86,289,500

BIDS

Should be securely enveloped and sealed, marked "Proposals for Stamped Envelopes and Newspaper Wrappers." and addressed to the Third Assistant Postmaster General, Washington, D. C.

JNO. A. J. CRESWELL,
Postmaster General.

It will be observed that the numbers here given are valuable, as giving the actual quantity of each size of envelope, but the list, of course, does not speak of the values.

A very short period is allowed to the successful competitor to get up his "plant," the closing day for the delivery of tenders being the 11th ult., and the day fixed for furnishing the first supplies being the 1st October. Thus, then, it is evident that if even the higher values of the series, of which we have already seen the 2 and 3 c., are allowed to appear, they can have but a very brief currency, if the stipulations of the contract are carried out.

THE BOLIVIAN STAMPS.

(*Continued from page* 125.)

There remains the question of the impression of the 5 centavos lilac.

Upon an examination of the few rare copies which are to be found, one can recognise the identity of the principal traits, in the disposition of the legend and of the pinion feathers; and hence it is evident that they were printed from the same plate. We have been able to affirm this identity at first by our own two copies, and to ascertain that of these two, one—the unused,—is the first stamp of the fourth row, and the other—the used,—is the second stamp of the third row. Mr. W. has been good enough to hand us two other unused copies which we recognised as being, respectively, the sixth stamp of the second row, and the seventh of the sixth row. But it was not enough to prove that these stamps came from the same plate as the 5 c. green. We have admitted [see the last number of *The Stamp Collector's Magazine*] that, in consequence of the wear of the plate and successive retouchings, the issue of the green stamps might be divided into four principal periods. Arguing from facts already known, it seems probable that the 5 c. violet were printed during the fourth period —that of the wearing away of the primitive lines, and of the lines of the first retouch. If this were the case, the new lines ought to have been found, together with the traces of the old ones, and above all, the horizontal "counter lines" which characterise the retouching of the globe. As sheets of the 5 c. green of the fourth period are comparatively common, the comparison is easy. But in fact, these evidences are not found. On the first stamp of the fourth row we find, on the lower part of the body of the eagle, a certain number of oblique lines, which are wanting on the corresponding stamp in three entire sheets of the green which we have before us.

The same observation applies to our stamp —the second of the third row. There are a good many more interlaced lines than in the corresponding second stamp of the sheet of the second period, whilst that part of the stamp is bare on the sheets of the last period.

The same remark holds good for Mr. W.'s stamps. In the seventh of the sixth row the lines are more numerous and closer than in the same stamp on the three sheets of the last period, but their direction is different from those on the same stamp of our first sheet. Further, the finer lines of the pinion feathers, which are pretty well preserved on the violet stamp, are hardly visible on the same stamp of the three sheets of green. All the details of the violet stamp are easily recognisable on a stamp of this type belonging to the quarter of a sheet which we have classed as representing the *third* period. However, our *rôle* of exact reporter obliges us to say that we find a curved counter-line at the eagle's head which is wanting on *all* the green stamps.

As to the sixth stamp of the second row, all its lines are found among those of a retouched stamp of the third period, but there are fewer differences between this stamp and its correspondent on the three sheets of the last period, than there are between the three other stamps already noticed, and *their* equivalents on the said sheets. One fact, common to the four violet stamps which we have before us, is the *complete absence from the globe of the vertical lines* of the upper part, and of the *oblique lines* of the right, which are found on the sheet of the second period, and the fragment of the sheet of the third; the absence is also to be noticed of the *horizontal* counter-lines on the same side, which exist on the stamps of the fourth period.

It seems, then, rational to conclude that the 5 c. violet were printed about the end of the third period, and before those sheets which we consider to belong to the fourth, for it is evident that the last counter-lines and other details indicate a prior retouching of the place. This is our reason for transposing what Mr. Pemberton has termed the two last plates, but it will be observed that we agree with his view respecting the plate from which the 5 c. violet were impressed.

M. Albis says that the second series (5 centavos violet, 50 c. blue, 100 c. green) was not issued because of the appearance of counterfeits, but simply to meet the public

requirements pending the arrival of the new series engraved and printed at New York, which was daily expected. "The change of colour took place because the yellow (50 c.) had become too pale, and without other motive than a simple fancy."

It is difficult to admit that fancy was the sole cause of the change of colour of a series of stamps. It would be more sensible to acknowledge that the motives are unknown, than to form such futile conjectures. We should more willingly admit a change affecting the colours, instead of a change of type, conformably with the Spanish custom of changing the stamps each year. This has been followed with respect to the commercial stamps of Peru, Magdalena, &c., but we only give this as a simple hypothesis. What is certain is, that only a small number of stamps of this series was printed. We imagine that the impression, for some reason, not having answered its object, and awaiting the arrival of the 5 centavos (also green) of the American Bank Note Company, it became necessary to have recourse to the old 5 c. green to supply the immediate requirements of the public; and the supply of the stamps of this value of the fourth and last period was struck off. This would account for the relatively large number of "fourth period" sheets which exist.

To resume, the 5 centavos of Bolivia were obtained from one sole plate. That plate, after the workings of what we have termed the first two periods, was the object of an important retouch, which had reference principally to the body of the eagle, and not on the globe. At these three periods the stamp was printed in green. The 5 c. violet must have been impressed about the end of the third period; after its impression the plate was again retouched; partly the eagle and partly the globe being treated, and, thus altered, it furnished the sheets of the fourth period, or rather of the fifth, if the fourth be allotted to the violet stamps.

Thus all the varieties are found to be explained. If it were otherwise,—if it were necessary to admit, with Mr. Pemberton, the use of four successive plates,—one ought to find in the frames and the legend some differences; the incapacity of the engraver renders this certain, *à priori*, and which this writer has, in fact, proved do not exist.

II.—THE 10 CENTAVOS OF BOLIVIA.

BY M. ALBIS.

My dear M. Mahé.—I have just received an entire sheet of 10 c. brown, of the old eagle stamps of Bolivia. Instead of 72 stamps, as in the sheet of 5 c., it has 78 disposed in six rows of 13 stamps each. The 10 c. stamps are smaller than the 5 c. (1 millimetre more per stamp), and this has permitted the engraver to add one stamp extra per line on a copper plate of the same dimensions as those he employed for the other values. The length of the line of 13 stamps of 10 c. is 29 centimetres, 8 mill., whilst that of the line of 12 stamps of 5 c. is precisely 29 centimetres. The distances between the stamps are greater by half a mill. in the sheet of 5 c. than in that of the 10 c.

All the 78 stamps of the 10 centavos are different, and although the engraving of that plate may have been more carefully done, and the type of the eagle more uniform than in the 5 c., still the plate is far worse, in consequence of the employment of too great a quantity of acid.

I had forgotten to say that if the 10 centavos stamps are not so wide as the 5 c., they are, on the other hand, a little longer.

I have not yet seen entire sheets of the 50 and 100 c., and therefore cannot say how many stamps there are per sheet, but if one may put forth an opinion having some probabilities in its favour, I think that the sheets of 50 c. and 100 c. have 78 stamps, because the stamps are of the same shape as the 10 c., that is to say, they are not so wide as the 5 c., but longer.

A general difference, moreover, between the 5 c. stamps and those of all the other values, is, that the shield which contains the eagle and the legend, is separated from the frame, to the right and left, by a tolerably large space, whilst in the 10 c. that space is very much reduced, and some among these stamps even show the escutcheon touching the sides of the frame. In the 50 c. and 100 c. stamps the escutcheon nearly always touches one side or the other, and often both.

Lastly, in the sheet of 10 c., all the shields

are separated from the frame, above and below, by a well-marked space, which strikes the eye at first sight, whilst in the sheet of 5 c. the space is smaller, and in the fragments of sheets of 50 c. and 100 c. which I have in my hands, this space does not exist at all; with, perhaps, one or two exceptions, the escutcheon touches the frame above and below.—Yours faithfully, ALBIS.

POSTAL CHIT-CHAT.

A PEACEFUL CARGO OF HUMAN BEINGS.—The Pacific mails.

THE HALFPENNY POSTAL CARDS, which will shortly be issued, will be sold to the public in sheets.

SARCASTIC.—A letter was sent to one of the large towns in the United States directing the postmaster to deliver it "to any respectable attorney." After ten days it was returned with the significant endorsement: "None here."

THE POSTAL MONEY-ORDER SYSTEM has become so popular in the United States, that petitions are pouring in daily from every part of the country for the establishment of additional offices. In response to the most urgent of these petitions, three hundred and eighty-nine new offices in various states have been opened in a single day.

THE GENERAL POST-OFFICE of the German Confederation has granted the French prisoners of war the privilege of freedom of postage by means of the open correspondence cards lately introduced into this country; but they must pass the censorship of the commanding officer in charge of the depôt, and be signed by him.—*Daily News* "*Own Correspondent.*"

THE ROWLAND HILL STATUE.—The statue of Rowland Hill, which has been executed by Mr. Peter Hollins, is, by the consent of the Birmingham Exchange Committee, to be placed in the bay of the Exchange Building, until the new post-office is completed. The statue is of a marble which will not bear exposure to the open air. It stands 10 feet 9 inches in height, including the pedestal, upon which there is a bas-relief of a sick girl in bed, receiving a letter from a postman.

THE NUMBER OF POSTAGE STAMPS sold by the post-office during the year ending 31st December, 1869 (as given in a return lately issued), was 721,211,380 (of various prices), valued at £3,490,608. 8,267,280 envelopes, of the value of £37,461 were sold during the year. In the year 1859, the stamps sold were 336,562,000, value £1,584,745; envelopes, 8,730,960, value £39,562. The stamps sold by the Inland Revenue in 1869 amounted to £708,490 18s. 9d., as compared with £595,186 17s. 5d. in 1859.

DIGNITY OF A MAIL-CARRIER.—Passing over the Orange and Alexandria railroad, a short time since, as the mail was thrown off at one of the stations, it was picked up by a negro boy fifteen or sixteen years old, who took it on his shoulders, and started for the post-office. After proceeding a short distance, he was met by a gentleman followed by a dog. As the dog passed, the darkey gave him a kick, which the gentleman resented by seizing him by the coat collar, and giving him a thorough shaking. As soon as the boy recovered from this process, he turned upon the agitator, and said, "Look-a-here, massa, you'd better be keerful how you shakes dis chile, cos when you shakes me, you shakes de whole United States: *I carries de mail.*"—*Harper's Monthly.*

CORRESPONDENCE.

THE ENGLISH EMBOSSED TENPENNY STAMP.

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

DEAR SIR,—In your number for August, you say it would be interesting to know for what special purpose the English embossed 10d. stamp was first issued (in 1848).

I believe you will find it was to prepay letters to France, the postage to which country was certainly 10d. at that time.

Yours truly,

London. W. H. H.

AN OLD NATAL STAMP PERFORATED!

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

DEAR SIR,—I have just had given to me two of the old penny Natal—a blue, obliterated, and a yellow one. This latter does not quite answer to any description I have yet seen; it is from the same die as the blue, and on coarse yellow paper, which appears to be stained on *one side* only; but the most singular thing about it is, that it is perforated 12½, and is 1½ in. long by seven-eighths broad, being, therefore, a very long rectangle. Both stamps were given to me by a friend, who has a brother at Natal. All the reprints I have seen have been on thin paper, coloured through; my copies are on stout paper. Can you tell me what it is? Is it a reprint, or have some of the first issue been used for commercial purposes? I never saw or heard of any of the reprints of Natal being perforated before.

Believe me, yours faithfully,

Norwich. J. B. B.

THE ITALIAN AND ROMAN POSTAGE.

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

DEAR SIR,—Having furnished you with the information respecting the Segna Tassa stamps, the correctness of which is impugned by Mr. Steudel, in the letter published in your last number, I feel it necessary to justify my statement.

I lived in Italy thirteen years, and my residence there terminated about three years ago. Whilst there, in the course of my occupation, I received, and had to reply to, several hundred Roman letters, and I am, therefore, able to affirm positively that *in my time* they could only be prepaid to the frontier and *vice versa*. I can add that since 1862 (unless my recollection deceives me) I never received a letter from Rome which did not bear two or more Segna Tassa stamps according to weight, and this notwithstanding that they bore Roman stamps of the proper value. In very many instances these latter were covered by the Segna Tassa. Further: I still have a considerable number of Segna Tassa stamps which I myself took off letters from Rome, that bear on the back traces of the Roman stamps which they more or less covered, and the very fact that the Italian officials stuck the Segna Tassa stamps *over* the Roman proves in itself that the letters were not, in the ordinary sense of the phrase, insufficiently prepaid; had they been so, the Italian post-office would have been careful to leave uncovered the Roman stamps to show that the letters were short paid.

At the time when I was in Italy the Italian and the Roman governments had not entered into any postal treaty providing for a through postage, but preferred to hamper correspondence by permitting prepayment to the frontier only. Since then all may be, and indeed Mr.

Steudel's letter warrants me in assuming all has been, changed, and a convention having been entered into, the rate of 20 centesimi now covers the entire postage between the Italian kingdom and Rome. Thus may be reconciled my own statement, founded on thirteen years' residence in Italy, and Mr. Steudel's, based on a stay of fourteen months.

I am, dear Sir,
Yours truly,
Boulogne-sur-Mer. W. E. B.

MR. PEMBERTON ON THE STAMPS OF BOLIVIA.

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

DEAR SIR,—My letter to you, so quoted from by Dr. Magnus, was but the first crude recapitulation of the facts I had accumulated from ocular examination. Dr. Magnus starts on a false ground: the letter was not to be regarded as a final decision on my part, it was simply a calling of attention to certain differences, which want of leisure for some months past has prevented me from properly elucidating.

In my letter I erred in speaking of the plates in any numerical order, but I was obliged to use such a method of distinction, and this Dr. Magnus has naturally taken as my decided opinion of the existence of four distinctly engraved plates. When I wrote, I principally wished to show that *more* than the *two* plates—or the two periods of engraving—existed, so distinctly given by M. Albis. As there were differences which pointed to four states of the plate, I contend I was not inaccurate in dividing them from one another by numerical distinctions, yet I am willing to admit that my subsequent silence tended to show that I had no more to say, and that I believed in four distinctly and separately engraved plates. My silence however was enforced, for I have had little leisure this year.

It is perfectly clear that when I stated that there were three plates exactly similar in certain details, I meant it to be inferred that those plates had one common original, which, through transferring, &c., had been altered in the slight particulars I remarked to you, and which differing points seemed, at first sight, evidences of so many different plates. Irrespective of any inferences which may be drawn from my letter to you, I distinctly state that Dr. Magnus and I are of one mind, so far as for one basis for the three plates, which I had previously distinguished by the numbers 1, 2, and 3; and neither the doctor nor myself could have decided otherwise; but that my plate No 4 has a like basis I cannot agree. I have not had the time to write the article I had intended, as a sequel to the discoveries which I communicated to you; but as I gave all my leisure at one time to these stamps, I think my opinion is to be relied upon when I say that M. Albis was quite right in giving two plates distinctly and differently engraved, the one a copy of the other. There can be no doubt about this; M. Albis must have written this with official information to guide him, for had he written from personal inspection he *must* have found those other differences to which I called your attention.

When I wrote I wished to prove that M. Albis had not made the most of the specimens and information at his command; and, as there were differences which pointed, *at first sight*, to four different plates, I contend it was not inexact of me to divide them from one another by numerical distinctions. Since in entire sheets I found differences, I was obliged to define them by the divisional 1st, 2nd, 3rd, and 4th plates; for as each differed, I could not call them one, much less two, at that period of my investigations. I admit, as indeed could be gathered from my own notes, that my plates 1, 2, and 3, have one common basis, and are but one plate in three separate conditions or states; like our English penny, which was retouched in 1855, and the differences between which and the stamps of previous years are clearly marked, the first plate has, at sundry times, been retouched and deepened in parts, but the basis untouched. So far, Dr. Magnus and I are as brethren at unity, but no further, for I am quite certain that my 4th plate is a perfectly distinct matter. Of that I have not even a doubt, and no supposition founded on any supposed inaccuracies of mine will alter me. I have entire sheets of my two periods (Nos. 2 and 3) which differ; I have unsevered part-sheets of my plate 1; yet of No. 4 I have no specimens which agree in the smallest details with any one of the seventy-two types on each of my entire sheets, and they are not allied in style, colour, or paper, with my blocks of No. 1; and throughout the green and lilacs, which I have termed No. 4, there is an individuality of bad engraving, quite opposed to the higher finish which No. 1 shows. As Nos. 1, 2, and 3, are in basis alike, it is a self-evident fact, that if I cannot find any of my specimens of No. 4 which, even in the slightest details, agrees with any of the individuals on the entire sheets,—it is self evident, I say, that No. 4 is not from the same basis as those plates. I will write you some more on this subject next month.

Yours faithfully,
Birmingham. EDWARD L. PEMBERTON.

ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS.

SUSAN.- The new United States stamps exist as you state, both with, and without the raised quadrille at the back. We were under the impression that this had been mentioned.

L. X., Birmingham.—The old Buenos Ayres "ship" stamps have never been reprinted; the first issue of Sweden has been, and all the values can be had at a moderate price.

AN OLD COLLECTOR.—The one-cent Nicaragua is still *in nubibus!*—It appears doubtful now whether there will be a new series for Natal; the administration is said to be contented with its expedient for distinguishing postals from fiscals.

N. QUIRER.—Your 6½ cent. is not, as you suppose, a Cuban, but is, in fact, one of the current Philippine series.—The current English threepence, with a blue ground in the angles, is a sham: a little examination would have shown you that the blue had been put on with a crayon.—The green British Columbia, with "1 dollar" struck across the lower margin, is genuine enough; it is one of the existing permanent provisional set.

R. KYLE.—We have communicated your notes on Dr. Gray's Catalogue to the editor, who charges us to return you his best thanks for same. At the same time he wishes us to say that, on commencing the fifth edition, he was somewhat in doubt as to the propriety of noticing perforations and watermarks: from two motives, first, that by so doing, he might lessen the utility of the work as a popular guide by offending against the scruples of many English collectors; and secondly, that the inclusion of varieties might increase the bulk of the work to such an extent, as to bring down a remonstrance from the publishers; who, as it is, will gain nothing by the fifth edition, and were losers by the fourth. Hence it resulted that, in the attempt to compress the descriptions, and the limits of the work as a whole, some secondary varieties were lost sight of; but in the next edition (should another be required) the editor hopes to rectify these omissions.

THE SWISS STAMPS.

BY FENTONIA.

The stamps of Switzerland, from their first emanation by the smallest, though not the least important, of the Swiss cantons, down to the present time, comprise a greater variety of interesting detail than can be found in those of any other country. I intend making a running and consecutive comment on their peculiarities, touching only on forgeries when it suits my purpose, being sensible that there are already sufficient detectives in the field. In fact, so recently as last month, we had, in *The Philatelist*, a concise paper on the subject of Swiss forgeries, compiled, in the writer's own opinion, "with such perspicuity, that even the most youthful reader will experience no difficulty in detecting worthless imitations." Though I cannot hope to be equally perspicuous, I will, nevertheless, endeavour, as Lord Macaulay says, "so to express myself, that a clever boy of fourteen may easily understand my meaning."

Taking the earlier stamps in the chronological order set down by M. Moens, as translated in last year's magazine (page 10), Geneva first claims our attention. This diminutive canton of Geneva (a republic too, by-the-bye) is but little larger than Rutlandshire, the smallest of our English counties, and till the era of the Reformation was almost unknown to historic fame. Voltaire used to say, in allusion to its limited size, that if he only shook his periwig the powder would sprinkle the whole canton. Its early history seems involved in obscurity; but for centuries it belonged to the Emperor of Austria, who, if I mistake not, granted it, with other districts, called collectively the Genevois, to the counts or dukes of Savoy, who in their turn farmed its revenues, or permitted it to be governed by a prince-bishop, who was expelled when the reformed religion was introduced. Probably Geneva then became a republic. At all events, it did not form one of the original thirteen Helvetic cantons. From 1802 to 1814 it was, with Vaud and Neufchâtel, incorporated in the empire of France; but at the congress of Vienna it was again restored to independence, and became the 22nd canton of the Swiss Confederation, though still retaining its designation of a republic. It is, therefore, not surprising that this plucky little state should be the first to inaugurate postage stamps in Switzerland. Its armorial bearings I have nowhere found explained, but I think the eagle is intended either for the province of Maurienne, in Savoy—formerly of some importance, being on the frontiers of Piedmont—the blazoning of which is *or*, an eagle displayed *sable*, and which may still be seen in the centre of the armorial bearings of the kingdom of Sardinia before its union with the kingdom of Italy, the breast being charged with *gules*, a cross *argent* for the dukedom of Savoy; or else it may be the Austrian eagle, Geneva having formerly been an imperial dependency. If the latter, the eagle should be crowned, as on the "port-local" stamps; if, on the contrary, as is most probable, the St. Maurienne eagle be intended, it is more correctly blazoned on the 5 c. "port-cantonal" stamps without a crown. One or other must be wrong.

The key (*gules* a key *in pale argent*, the wards *in chief*, and turned to the *sinister*) is no doubt the device of the bishop-prince of Geneva, the wards of the key being in the form of a cross. For the motto I can find no authority whatever, and, moreover, it is placed, contrary to all heraldic rules, immediately above the shield. If it be meant for a motto or legend, it should have been beneath the shield. If for a war-cry or watch-word in time of battle or of siege, it should have been above the crest. *Post tenebras lux* is the motto of one or two English families; it seems to have no allusion to the Genevan arms. It may, however, mean that by the circulation of correspondence light is diffused, and it may also be a play on the word *post*, allusive mottos being often adopted in heraldry. I believe it to be a quotation from the Book of Job, chap. xvii., verse 12, which in the Latin vulgate is rendered "*Post tenebras spero lucem;*" but I have no doubt the words have been quoted from some older version, though not to be found verbatim in the two or three different ones which I have had the opportunity of consulting. Some few of my

readers may not be aware of the meaning of the words *port* and *poste*. *Port* means postage; *poste* means post-office. Thus the inscription on the stamps at present under discussion reads thus: "Geneva post-office," "Cantonal postage," "Local postage." The word *poste*, as meaning post-office, is familiar to English correspondents in directing their foreign letters, when they often write "*poste restante*," *i.e.*, to remain at the post-office (till called for).

Then as to the *I. H. S.*, surrounded by rays, has that any thing to do with heraldry, or did it originate with the stamp design at the *Poste de Genève?* It is generally supposed to represent the sacred monogram, and, though feeling somewhat doubtful, I am not prepared to contradict the assumption, more especially as the double stamp has *J. H. S.*, in which particular it differs from all the rest.

Perhaps Lord Macaulay's "clever boy" may be puzzled, on referring to foreign books of heraldry, to find the arms of *Genève* blazoned *checky or*, and *azure five* and *four*, and to find it so forming one of the quarterings in the escutcheon of the late kingdom of Sardinia; but this arises from the French name *Genève* being indiscriminately used for the canton of Geneva, and for the province now called the *Genevois*, in the duchy of Savoy, long since annexed to the kingdom of Sardinia. The arms of the canton of *Genève*, when mentioned at all, are always blazoned as on the postage stamps.

There are, besides the envelope stamp, four stamps belonging to the republic and canton of Geneva, viz., the once despised, but now highly prized, 10 c. "port cantonal," on light green; the 5 c. "port cantonal," *thin* figures, with eagle well feathered, on light green; the 5 c. "port cantonal," *thick* figures, and moulting-looking eagle, on light green; and, fourthly, exactly the same impression on dark green.

Does Mr. Pemberton still believe in three varieties of cantonal light green besides the double stamp, as enumerated in the *Stamp-Collector's Review*, page 26? For my own part, I have hitherto only met with the two above mentioned.

Taking leave of the Geneva stamps, and passing over the Basle local stamp, which I have already discussed in a former paper some years since (*Stamp-Collector's Magazine*, vol. ii., p. 181), we come to the period when Great Britain adopted perforation, and when France, Germany, and Spain almost simultaneously decreed that henceforth letters should be prepaid by stamps; when the first great industrial exhibition, which drew representatives of all nations to one focus of attraction was in preparation, and gave an impetus to trade, to inventions, and to civil and religious progress, which was felt even in the small matter of postage stamps, throughout the length and breadth of the civilized world.

(*To be continued.*)

ERRORS OF ENGRAVING AND PRINTING.—IV.

BY W. DUDLEY ATLEE.

MONTEVIDEO.—Among the earlier stamps of this country we find no errors to chronicle, but to the carelessness of the engraver of the present series, we are indebted for several varieties.

From an ocular inspection of the five centecimos labels we are able to present a full list of all the vagaries from the original design which are exhibited in that value; and also to give their exact positions upon the sheet. This last is of little importance as far as collecting is concerned, but it is certainly worth noting for future reference.

One of the most striking errors exists in the tenth stamp of the top row, which has the head of the numeral left blank, instead of being filled in, as in all the others. Exactly under this label we have the error, ENTECIMOS. Although not a very prominent variety we yet must mention the sixth stamp in the fifth row, upon which the final letter of centecimos is at some distance from the others.

In the seventh row we get two impressions (the fifth and seventh) the value in which reads as CENTECIMO.

Our concluding, and as yet unchronicled variety, is to be seen in the fifth stamp of the last row: at the left-hand lower corner of the shield, under the horse, is a blank

space, which in the other labels is always shaded.

Mahé, in his *Supplement* to the latest edition of his *Guide Manual*, names a *five* centecimos, inscribed CETRECIMOS. We greatly doubt the existence of such a stamp, as it certainly is not to be found on the sheets, and if not there, where can it be? It is a pity that compilers of catalogues should insert things upon mere hearsay.

In the ten centecimos we also come upon some articles for our error list. We have the label with its "I" out, or to put it more plainly, lettered CENTEC MOS, copies of which are not uncommon. Stamps also exist inscribed CENIECIMOS, and some with CENTRCIMOS. M. Mahé evidently heard of a stamp with the last-quoted lettering, and not knowing whether it was a 5 c. or a 10 c., placed it among the former, at the same time falling into the mistake of adding a second E, which is omitted altogether in this error.

In two instances the word DIEZ is misprinted: once it is given as DIIZ, and in another label it is termed DIFZ. The envelopes, as is pretty generally known, are inscribed both as centecimos and centesimos. All the adhesives have the C, except the lowest value.

We will note here that the correct mode of spelling the value is centesimos, and it is very probable that we shall soon see the remaining trio of adhesives with the lettering so given.

NAPLES.—In 1868 *Le Timbrophile* described an error of the 1 grano with the inscription, BOLLO DELLA POSTA BOLLO DELLA. In the usual stamps, instead of the two last words, we find NAPOLETANA. We have never seen this "curious variety."

Some eight years ago a *three* grano stamp was said to exist, but it seems to have been nothing better than an hallucination on the part of some collector possessing a heavily-postmarked five grano.

NEW SOUTH WALES.—It is difficult to understand how any one could commit such mistakes as are to be seen on the early emissions of this colony. So much has already been written about these stamps, and Mr. Pemberton has given such an extensive and complete list of them, that it seems almost a work of supererogation on our part to repeat what is, or should be, known to most collectors. However, we *must* do it, for, like the captain in the "Bab Ballads," who married the ship's laundress, "It is our duty, and we will."

Where each stamp differs in some degree from its fellow, we can only mention what may be termed "prominent varieties," for it would certainly be not only difficult but absurd to chronicle all the discrepancies that exist in these labels. We first have the

Views of Sydney, of which the penny has two plates; the twopenny, four; and the threepenny, three. Taking the lowest value, we find that in the first plate there are no clouds represented, but that they are given in the second plate, and that the hill is there shaded and has two trees upon it, which is in contradiction to the design on the first plate. In the last-mentioned plate there are no quotable varieties, but in the second we get a stamp without clouds, another with the hill unshaded, and a third with a shaded hill, but without trees.

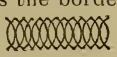
The earliest plate of the twopenny is finely engraved (which the others are not), has the fan ornament shaded on each side, and has vertical lines crossed by wavy oblique lines as its spandrels.  1
For varieties we get a stamp without trees, and one with waved oblique spandrels covered by lines running in the same direction. The second plate is distinguished by having the fan shaded inside, and by having dots in the stars at angles.  2 In this and the two following plates the bale is *sans* inscription. Among the varieties in the second plate we have the stamp with the word CREVIT left out of the motto, and another without any pick or shovel in the landscape. In one label the fan of the succeeding plate is anticipated by being represented in the second, but the inside is shaded; and in another stamp we have the same class of fan, but in addition each side of the circle containing that ornament is "lined," as in the first plate.  3 The fan in the third plate is innocent of all shading, and has seven segments. A variety exists having only six. Two other variations are found: one without clouds, and another with

an unshaded hill. In the fourth plate we have a somewhat similar fan to the last, but the seven segments are joined at the place from whence they radiate by a pearl. Here again we have a stamp with only six leaves to the fan, and one with the pick and shovel wanting, as in the second plate. The two remaining variations exist in the central device. The prevailing type of this last plate is a shaded hill and ground, but one is engraved with both unshaded, and one with only the ground in that state. There is said to be a twopenny without the legend, but to which plate it belongs we are unable to state.



In the threepenny labels there is only one striking variation which is common to all three plates. The usual stamps have borders which suggest the idea of upright marrow bones divided by small ellipses, whilst in the varieties the border is formed of ovals intersecting each other.





The Laureated.—For the penny only one plate was engraved; we therefore find the error WALE in both the unwatermarked and watermarked.

Many collectors have an idea that this error is due to the plate having become worn, but this, without doubt, is a delusion. We asked Mr. Pemberton his opinion on this matter, and he said that he entirely agreed with us; and that as the top, centre, and bottom of the S are represented, the engraver evidently forgot to finish his work, and so left it as it is found at present.

There are three plates of the twopenny, the first having a die with the well-known mistake, WAEES. The second plate is without fault, or as nearly as can be expected from a man who had such peculiar "ways" as shown in the last plate. In the third plate we have upon both the plain and watermarked paper a stamp which shows spiral lines going through WALES.

The threepenny are confined to a single plate, and have a variety with a flaw at the top of the L, causing the word to read like WACES. This is, of course, upon both the unwatermarked and "figured" papers.

Two plates were engraved for the sixpenny, the first having the celebrated WALLS error, and the second without any leading variation. The eightpenny is also minus any prominent differences. Mahé names a *rouge-carmin, au lieu de jaune*, evidently chemically changed.

OLDENBURG.—All the errors contained among the stamps of this country are pretty well known, therefore a bare description will be sufficient. In the 1861 series, colour on white, there is a $\frac{1}{3}$ groschen with the name of the duchy given as OLDCIBOURG, and in the same value we find both DRITTO and DRITTED, in place of DRITTEL.

In the first series there are two types of the $\frac{1}{30}$ thaler, one with, and one without, a stroke over the A of thaler. These are not errors, but it is well that they should be mentioned in this place for the guidance of young collectors, as they occur side by side on the sheets.

THE NEW HALFPENNY STAMPS.

THE following notices have appeared in the papers during the past month in reference to the above stamps. Though somewhat dry and verbose, from their nature, they yet contain facts which it might be difficult to ascertain hereafter, and this must be our apology for quoting them.

WRAPPERS for NEWSPAPERS and other PRINTED MATTER.

THE Board of Inland Revenue desire to give notice that SHEETS of PAPER for Wrappers for Newspapers, Book Packets, and Patterns or Sample Packets, can be IMPRESSED with the HALFPENNY POSTAGE STAMP, under the following regulations:—

1st.—The paper must be white, and must neither be folded nor creased.

2nd.—The size of the sheets must be double crown, double demy, or double royal.

3rd.—Each sheet must be prepared to receive eight, 12, or 16 stamps; no other numbers can be impressed, and the stamps can be impressed only in the positions and at the distances apart indicated upon pattern sheets, which may be seen at the Head Offices at London, Edinburgh, and Dublin.

4th.—The stamp will be impressed immediately above the place for the address, and near the right-hand edge of the wrapper. To give space for the stamp, any printing upon the sheets should be kept 1¼ inches clear of what is to be the right-hand edge of the wrapper.

5th.—Each lot sent in must be accompanied by a sheet marked, to show in accordance with which of the patterns it is desired that the stamps should be placed.

6th.—The paper must be delivered at the offices abovementioned, in reams of 480 sheets.

7th.—Not less than two reams for one description of wrapper can be received for stamping.

8th.—Any sheets found to have been injured in the process of stamping may be returned to this office, with an equal number of fresh sheets, on the next occasion of similar sheets being sent in, when the stamps will be transferred.

9th.—When the paper is brought for stamping, a person must attend at the Department of the Receiver-General, to fill up the necessary warrant, and to pay the amount of the stamps required. No discount is allowed.

10th.—Persons in the country must not send to the offices through the post or by carriers, but must send through an agent.

By order of the Board, T. SARGENT.

Inland Revenue, Somerset-house, London, 9th September, 1870.

Advertisement.

POST CARDS.—Pursuant to an Act passed in the last session of Parliament (33 and 34 Vic. cap. 79). POST CARDS have been prepared for correspondence by post in the United Kingdom after the 30th of the present month, stamped with the postage duty of one halfpenny.

These cards will be sold without any charge beyond the duty. A single card, or any number of cards may be purchased but they will be sent out from this office in packets, containing 24 cards, price 1s., and in parcels of 20 packets, price £1. They may be obtained at all post-offices and from licensed vendors of stamps.

The cards will also be supplied, when required, in sheets, containing 42 cards, and measuring about 29⅝ by 21½. Although the cards may thus be obtained in sheets, for the purpose of affording facility for printing upon them, each card must afterwards be separated from the sheet, as no combination of cards can pass through the post-office.

Such sheets will be issued only in half-reams, containing 240 sheets (10,080 cards), duty £21, and will be supplied to the public at the Inland Revenue Offices at London, Edinburgh, and Dublin, and at the offices of the distributors and sub-distributors of stamps in the country. A discount of 4s. per half-ream will be allowed to purchasers.

When a supply of cards, in sheets, is required, elsewhere than in London, Edinburgh, or Dublin, application, in writing, must be made to the Warehousekeeper at this office; or at the Inland Revenue-office, in Edinburgh or Dublin, as the case may be. Such application must specify the quantity required, and the town or place, having a stamp office, to which it is desired that the consignment should be made.

The applicants will have notice when they are to call at the Stamp office and pay the duty.

Post cards cannot be used before the 1st October.

Those made up in packets will not be sold before that date, but cards in sheets will be supplied by this office on and after 26th instant, to enable the public to print on them preparatory to their use next month.

It is desirable that persons requiring cards in sheets should make early application for them.

By order of the Board, T. SARGENT, Secretary.

Inland Revenue, Somerset-house, 9th September, 1870.

The following additional notice is published by the *Daily News;* it emanates from the General Post-Office, and is addressed to newspaper proprietors and news-agents.

In connection with the reduction in the rates of postage on inland newspapers, printed matter, and patterns or samples, which will take effect on and from the first of October, halfpenny postage labels, and newspaper wrappers bearing an impressed halfpenny stamp, will be introduced. A supply of each is in course of issue to head postmasters in the country, and to the district offices and receiving offices in London. Previously to the 1st of October, the sale of these labels and wrappers will be confined to newspaper proprietors and newsagents, who might possibly be inconvenienced were not time allowed for preparation; but as the reduction of postage does not commence before the 1st of October, anything bearing a halfpenny stamp, posted before that date, will be treated as unpaid. Newspaper proprietors and newsagents, by applying to a head postmaster, will be able to obtain at very short notice, any quantity of these labels or wrappers. The wrappers (the dimensions of which are 14in. by 5in.) will be sold at the following prices:—500 for £1 2s. 6d., 100 for 4s. 6d., 50 for 2s. 3d., 25 for 1s. 1½d., 10 for 5½d., 5 for 3d., 2 for 1½d., 1 for 0⅝d.; but a discount of 1 per cent will be allowed to persons purchasing at one time not less than £10 worth of either labels or wrappers. Newspaper proprietors and newsvenders who may desire to have their own wrappers or paper impressed with the halfpenny stamp, must make application, not to the post-office, but to the Commissioners of Inland Revenue. Wrappers must be of white paper.

From the above it will be seen that the stamping operations are directed by the Inland Revenue office, and it is worthy of note that the cost of the cards is throughout the second notice, termed the "duty"—an expression which appears odd at first sight, but is always used by the Somerset-house authorities with respect to impressed stamps of all kinds, as well postal as others.

The wrapper it is evidently expected will be bought chiefly by newspaper proprietors and agents, whilst, from the provision for the sale of the cards in sheets, it would seem that their wholesale employment by advertisers, has entered into the calculations of the authorities. A distinction, too, is made between the wrappers and the cards,—the former are sold at an eighth over the facial value, whilst no charge is made for the latter; on the contrary, a slight reduction is made to wholesale purchasers. As for the adhesive stamp, that is left to take care of itself; no special notice of its use is needed, and it will probably be the most employed of any by the great conservative public, which prefers to "do up" its papers and communications in the particular way which to it seemeth best. With regard to this last, a doubt has occurred to our minds, which it may be desirable to mention,—is it permissible to affix the adhesive to any unofficial card, not exceeding in size that issued by the government? In France, visiting cards are prepaid in a similar manner; and we should think, that, as printed matter, such cards would pass in England also.

NEWLY-ISSUED OR INEDITED STAMPS.

THE great and all-absorbing event of the time—the war—has its effect even on postage stamps. The coloured squares, ordinarily the symbols of peace and friendly communication, become for the nonce identified (or some at least) with the march of armies and the conquest of provinces. Thus we find that the Prussians have issued a series of stamps for their postal service in

ALSACE AND LORRAINE.—These stamps, issued under exceptional circumstances, which at once recal to the mind the occupation of Schleswig-Holstein, are in the highest degree interesting to philatelists, and whether their circulation be long or short, will ever remain instructive *souvenirs* of the great

Prussian invasion of 1870. The design of these stamps is of the simplest, and we may say, without reference to political sympathies, its simplicity is equalled by its good taste. There is nothing on the face of these stamps which might tend to disincline the unfortunate inhabitants of the conquered provinces to use them for their letters. There is no reference to Prussian authority; no inscription which, by hinting at the circumstances under which they are issued, might give pain to the people for whose benefit they are put in circulation; nothing, in fact, to indicate that projects of ultimate annexation have been formed by the powers which be. The colours and values of this provisional series (of which the annexed engraving represents the type) are as follows:—



1	centime	green.
2	,,	brown.
4	,,	grey.
10	,,	bistre.
20	,,	blue.

The paper is white, and, as will be seen from the engraving, is *burelé*—the *burelage* being, in fact, the only attempt at ornament; each stamp, however, is separated from its neighbours by a line of colour, up the middle of which runs the perforation, the line thus constituting a kind of frame.

It will not fail to strike the collector that the practical spirit we so much plume ourselves upon possessing, seems hardly foreign to the Germans. They have adopted the corresponding colours of the current French issue for this plain, business-like series, a matter of apparently small concern, until one has had some experience of the inner working of a post-office, when the use and habit of colours as an indication of value of the stamps used, which familiarity with an issue engenders, is known to be of the greatest service to the officials in saving time, and the Germans have not lost sight of this advantage, but have utilized it to the utmost.

Further proof of their practicability is found in the number of stamps forming a sheet. Our Belgian contemporary points out that there are 150 to the sheet, and that this number admits of easy reckoning, either in French or German money, and gives also an exact reduction. Thus:—

150	stamps of	1	centime	are worth	fr. 1.50,	or	12 gr.
150	,,	2	,,	,,	fr. 3,	,,	24 ,,
150	,,	4	,,	,,	fr. 6,	,,	1 th. 18 ,,
150	,,	10	,,	,,	fr. 15,	,,	4 ,,
150	,,	20	,,	,,	fr. 30,	,,	8 ,,

Prussia.—Besides the field-post envelope noticed last month, special post-cards have been also issued for correspondence with the army. These cards are identical in design with the envelopes, except in the inscriptions, from which latter it appears that the cards are delivered free to the soldiers, and are sold at the rate of five for 3 *pfennige* (about the third of a penny) to the public. Speaking of these cards, the *Echo du Parlement*, a Belgian paper, says:—

"It is known that the German soldiers are all provided with correspondence cards. They write their letters on them with a pencil or pen; and in the former case, a piece of cloth is applied, damped with a preparation which fixes the writing, and ensures its legibility at the end of the journey. The number of letters which are sent after each battle is immense, and one might say that on these occasions, at least, a sixth part of the soldiers write to their families or friends. After each battle, also, postilions go over the field, provided with cards, to collect the letters of the wounded, and, if needful, to write for them. A great many of the wounded, who are stretched on the ground, are seen making the greatest efforts to draw the attention of the postilions, even before they call to the attendants of the ambulances."

Baden.—This state has issued a special post-card for its army service. We may truly say it is cousin-*german* to the Prussian card in design, and dismiss it with the statement, that the impression is (like the Prussian) in black on chamois-coloured paper.

Wurtemburg likewise supplies its quota to the war emissions, in the shape of two post-cards and an envelope. The cards are thin, and of a bluish tint; the envelope,

grey or greenish; the inscription in all cases being in black.

France.—Quite recently M. Hulot, the well-known Parisian engraver, has had in hand a die bearing a likeness in profile of the ex-imperial prince, turned to the left. For what purpose the stamp was to serve is unknown, as there was no legend or other distinctive mark on the proofs which we saw. Early last month, before the proclamation of the new French republic, two proofs in black on plate paper, showing the same die at different stages, were submitted to our inspection. In the later and more complete state, only the head and bust had been engraved, and a rough outline border added. The likeness seemed to correspond with that on the current photographs, and the engraving, like all M. Hulot's work, was fine and artistic. In shape the die was an upright oblong. Probably the recent change of dynasty will prevent this from ever being more than a mere unfinished attempt or trial. The use of the die must remain speculative, and we merely chronicle the fact in our capacity of faithful historians.

For the present we fear our neighbours in France have other and more pressing matters to occupy them than changing their postal issue, but if the new state of things is at all permanent, we may in course of time look for some French timbrophilic indication that the Napoleonic empire is a thing of the past.

Belgium.—The subjoined neat and serviceable type has just been issued for use as an unpaid-letter stamp. There are two values:—

10 centimes green
20 „ blue
} on white paper,

and both are intended for insufficiently-prepaid letters, distributable within the district in which they are posted. M. Moens states that a uniform rate of 50 centimes is to be fixed for the postage of small parcels. This rate will be covered by what M. Moens terms a *timbre-addresse*, which, we presume, must be a large adhesive label, with a stamp in one corner, the remaining space being given up to the address. At present, the post-office gives a receipt for every package handed to it, and requires a similar receipt on delivery. In future, these formalities will only be observed at the sender's request, and in consideration, of course, of an extra fee; thus there will be registered and unregistered letters, and in respect of these latter, the state will not bear any responsibility.



The Belgian post-cards will bear the national arms, but no stamp.

Finland.—*Helsingfors.*—Our Brussels contemporary has come across the stamp here figured in a collection, and engraves it in the hope of obtaining information respecting it. It is obliterated, he states, "in blue by a semi-circular mark bearing on its lower edge the date, 1/2/60, and above an inscription, in the centre of which we can only distinguish what seem to be the letters HEL. (Helsingfors). The rest is illegible, the postmark having fallen half on the stamp and half on the letter."



It will be observed that the upper circle within the rectangle contains the arms of the town, but they are not very clear in our engraving, as the stamp from which it is copied was blurred; the lower circle bears the figure of value: both the arms and the figure are on a red ground, the remainder of the stamp is printed in green. The paper is white, but with a rather strong rose tint; the stamp being completely deprived of margin, we cannot say if it is denticulated. This stamp may turn out to have been an early emission for Helsingfors, though, in that case, it is strange ten years should have elapsed since its appearance before it is heard of; but it is yet too early to pronounce a decided opinion.

North German Confederation.—An old correspondent, who keeps a close watch on our chronicle of new issues, calls our attention to our omission to notice therein the kreuzer series of official stamps. The device is the same as for the groschen stamps, the value being the sole change; but the colour differs slightly, being a kind of pearl grey. The values are as follows:—

1, 2, 3, and 7 kreuzer.

Great Britain.—Our readers at home will perhaps say it is a work of supererogation to engrave the three new halfpenny stamps for this country, but when they remember that this magazine circulates in out-of-the-way parts of the globe, where the stamps may not be seen for some months, they will not judge the annexed illustrations to be unnecessary.





We have nothing to add to the detailed description of these stamps which appeared last month, but may refer our readers to a short paper in another portion of the present number for some particulars in reference to the regulations which govern their issue.

We have, however, a piece of news which will somewhat surprise our readers. The *Times* of the 23rd ult. contains the following notice: "On the first of October and thenceforth postage stamps of the value of *three-half-pence* will be issued for sale to the public." This statement forms a part of a lengthy reprint of further regulations connected with the new rates, and is unquestionably official. The idea of issuing a 1½d. stamp would seem to have been an after-thought, the authorities considering the probability of many triple-weight periodicals and packages being sent through the post, have decided to make use of the die which for the last nine years has lain unemployed, for we cannot suppose for a moment that with this die in stock the expense of a new type has been incurred. We may, then, expect in a day or two to see what has hitherto been a rare essay take its place by the side of the other adhesives on active service, and if it be issued in its original colour, we shall have three stamps in use of very similar tint.



Holland.—We learn from M. Moens' journal that additions to the existing series are to be made, in the shape of half-cent and 2½-cent. stamps, of the arms type. The colours will be—for the former, blue; for the latter, *pensee* (deep purple.) Post-cards are on the point of being issued, and some *chiffre-taxe* stamps have made their appearance unperforated.

United States.—We had intended waiting the arrival of the whole of the new series of envelopes before inserting our illustrations; as, however, the members of the series come forward very slowly, we now deem it best to



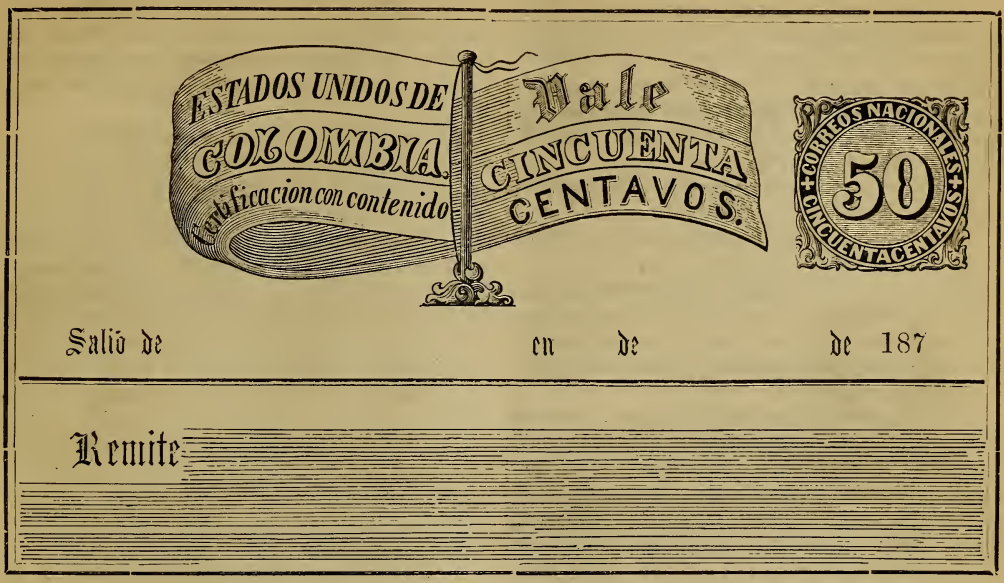


give engravings of the two values we have already described, and of the peculiar monogram watermark.



A third value has come to hand, the six cents, of which we shall give an engraving next month. The type is the same as for the above two; the portrait is that of Lincoln, and by no means a bad likeness; the colour is a kind of light brick-red. Our own copy is on white paper, size 5½ by 3¼ in., and we are informed the same size has been issued in lemon; and besides these, there are two large envelopes—9 by 4 in., buff and white.

The seven-cent adhesive, the emission of which, at a date already past, was expected, has been postponed. This value was intended to prepay the single rate on letters to Germany, but in consequence of the war the German mail-boats have stopped running,



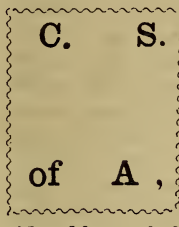
and as the rate only applied to letters carried by them, it is at present inoperative.

Prince Edward Island.—In our last number we described a new emission for this island. Now we have the pleasure to present our readers with a representation of the stamp itself. To the description already given of it we have nothing new to add.



New Granada.—The above engraving represents the last change in the type of the adhesive vignettes, termed cubiertas. It will be observed that it differs considerably from its predecessors; and perhaps the most striking change is in the arrangement of the flag, which is curved behind its staff. The flag is, as before, in the Confederation colours: yellow, blue, red; the remainder of the design is in black; and the whole is impressed on white paper.

Confederate States.—An American correspondent sends us a stamp which he informs us he received, together with a number of Confederate locals, from an uncle in Mobile, and which has certainly never yet been noticed—what its real value may be we hardly like to say. It is an ordinary ten-cent stamp of the 1851 issue for the United States, with the surcharge "C. S. of A." in black, as on the annexed diagram. Now, the addition of these letters is just such a device as a postmaster might, in an emergency, hit upon. It is a bold and simple expedient, and so far there are considerable probabilities in its favour. Moreover, the surcharged inscription, whilst fully indicating the change of government, is by no means conspicuous; indeed, so little is it visible, that not perceiving it at first, ourselves, we were half inclined to believe our correspondent an ignoramus, who looked on a 10 c. stamp as a rarity; and it was only on further and closer examination that we did justice to his observing eye. Even, however, assuming the stamp to be a genuine variety, which is more than we should like to positively assert, we dread the effect of giving it publicity, for nothing is easier than to fabricate copies by the aid of a simple hand-press, we therefore deem it right to



caution our readers against accepting any *soi-disant* varieties, which do not come from unquestionable sources.

Mexico: *Guadalajara.*—We received early last month a set of four stamps of this town, under the description of "1867 *issue, second type.*" They consisted of:—

Un real	grey-blue,
2 reales	white,
„	pale green,
„	pink,

and were all fresh, clean specimens, good margins cut square, and with the adhesive matter on their backs. The paper in all of them was plain wove, without lines or watermarks of any kind.

As this was the first intimation we had of such a thing as a *second type* of 1867, we somewhat carefully scrutinized them. The chief difference between it and those now so well known, appears in the lettering of value in the centre, but the surrounding words, FRANCO EN GUADALAJARA, are different. It has long been noticed that the F of the first word has, in the olden set, a defective piece at the bottom, giving the idea of an E altered since the letter was cast in the foundry, and that the alteration was clumsily done; so much so, that we have seen catalogues give these stamps with *Eranco*, for *Franco*, but in these new comers the defect seems exaggerated and very different—more fashioned, and (to borrow a French word, for which an equivalent is not at hand) *intentioné*, than in our older friend. The printing, too, seems to have been effected so as to leave marks of fine cloth or muslin intervening between the inking roller and the die, and in several other minute, yet indescribable particulars, there is strong dissimilarity.

No traces of the square pencil-markings, which are found on all old stamps with large margins like these, are to be met with. The gum is new looking, but yellowish, and altogether these stamps by no means fill us with confidence.

As at present advised, we are not disposed in their favour. Remembering, however, that we were equally guarded and cautious about the original Guadalajara, as to which there is no shadow of a doubt, we reserve to ourselves full right to place this second issue of 1867 in its proper position, when lapse of time and further information enable us to form our judgment with greater certainty.

Any of our friends who can tell us why a second type for 1867 should now appear, and be heard of for the first time, and whether any indubitably postmarked copies are known, will confer a service. The only postmarked copies we could accept as entirely satisfactory, would be those from private hands, which never could have been foisted on the market with a *griffe de complaisance*, given (*for a consideration*) by a post-office official to an enterprising dealer.

One of our correspondents sends us a specimen of the Mexican 100 cents *brown* on brown, instead of black on brown, as previously. The brown is of a dark-reddish tint. The stamp itself is perforated.

Spain.—The 10 mil., new type, is now in circulation. Our Brighton contemporary, in its August number, states that this stamp was issued before the three lower values; but we fancy it must have been misinformed, as Senor Pardo de Figueroa, writing us under date the 24th August, speaks of it as a stamp which had appeared only a few days previously. He adds, "The thirteen classes (stamps) authorised by the decree of the 24th December, 1869, are now in use. The 10 milesimas was *the last* to appear." The colour of this stamp is a bright rose; it does not differ in any respect from the other values.

THE SO-CALLED PORTLAND LOCAL, &c.

The last number of *The Philatelist* contains the following remarkable paragraph:—

In *The Stamp-Collector's Magazine* for June last an anonymous writer politely remarked that "a notorious American swindler has rewarded the editor of *The Philatelist* for his polite attentions, by 'selling' him with a fictitious brown one c. Canada, and also a Boston local, which he assures our *confrère* is in actual use at present." Respecting the former, better judges than ourselves failed in detecting any ungenuine character therein on actual inspection; and the critic above mentioned has never seen, but condemned it simply on suspicion of the sender, who declares he should have been much more likely to "sell" *The Stamp-Collector's Magazine*, which abuses him, than *The Philatelist*, which does not. Be that as it may, our present object is to prove the valid

nature of the vilified local. We wrote—not to the party whence the used specimen described in the April number came—but to the proprietor, J. H. Prince, from whom we received specimens the day before our departure for the Continent, whence we now write. The adhesive stamp in question we believe to be the sole local in actual use in the States. We are able to give particulars, as follows:—

The mail from Portland, Maine, to Boston, closes at 11 a.m. and at 3 p.m.; so that letters unwritten in time for the latter departure must wait till the following morning. To remedy this inconvenience, a box is placed in the Exchange, which is under the same roof as the Portland post-office, for the deposit of letters to be sent off by the night-boat for delivery in Boston at 6 the next morning. This box is closed at 7 p.m., and belongs to Mr. Prince, the issuer of the local under our notice. The letters must bear a 3 c. United States stamp, and one of Mr. Prince's, or be charged with an additional prepayment of 2 cents, for the accommodation. We conclude this explanation will satisfy both our own readers, and the captious caviller in *The Stamp-Collector's Magazine*, whose malevolence is not greater than his ignorance, the stamp in question having been well known to collectors for years past, and chronicled both in Oppen's catalogue and that of Berger-Levrault.

We cannot but express our sincere regret that our contemporary has thought fit to employ such unusual terms as those which appear in the above extract, in order to justify the prote tion he accords to two doubtful stamps introduced to his notice by a more than doubtful correspondent. Even after admitting that our use of the word "sell" (which in our own article was placed between inverted commas to indicate that it was employed in default of a politer term) was open to question on the score of politeness, it hardly justifies the editor of *The Philatelist* in replying with such epithets as "captious caviller," "malevolence," and "ignorance." Our contemporary has hitherto been noted for his courtesy and suavity, and in taunting a *confrère* with malevolence and ignorance, he has strangely departed from his usual habits. When we remember his recent declaration that if his satanic majesty himself were to favour him with a piece of philatelic intelligence, he should feel in duty bound to thank that dusky potentate, the conviction is forced upon us that we must have been guilty of most reprehensible incredulity in venturing to assert that he had been imposed on, or he would never have given utterance to an angry feeling so foreign to his disposition.

In order that his remarks might hit the author of the objectionable critique without seeming to affect the responsible editor of this magazine, he ascribes that critique to an anonymous writer—a "captious caviller,"—but he must well know himself who the writer is; his identity is as thinly veiled as that of the editor of *The Philatelist* himself, and that there may be no doubt about the matter, we beg our contemporary to understand that the article in which our strictures on his want of caution appeared was—in the fullest sense of the word—editorial.

It now becomes our duty to examine the grounds which the editor of *The Philatelist* has for maintaining his belief in the stamps in question.

And first, as to the three cents *brown* Canadian. We have to draw our readers' attention to the fact that it is one of the *smaller-sized stamps* lately issued (the writer *has* seen it, it was shown to him by the editor of *The Philatelist* himself), and secondly that the smaller six cents brown has not yet been issued. In order then to have faith in the genuineness of this three cents brown, one must suppose that the printers made such an egregious mistake as to use the colour of the *large* six cents brown for the *small* three cents red. But this is not all. We must suppose that after the emission of small-sized one and three cents, the authorities ordered a fresh supply of large six cents brown to be printed, but this would be contrary to reason. The large stamps are being superseded by the small, value by value, as the stock of each becomes successively exhausted, and there would, therefore, be no reason for printing off a fresh supply of the large *browns* at the last moment. Then again an entire sheet of these three-cent browns must have been printed, if the mistake were made, and yet Mr. S. A. Taylor is the only person who finds a copy. Mr. S. A. Taylor, it must be borne in mind, is the most adept of all present or past counterfeiters. His skill in changing the colours of stamps is as remarkable as his application of it is reprehensible. To him also are due the Guatemala and other swindles which have been exposed in these pages, and we contend that the editor of a respectable journal, if he cannot bring himself to pass in silence the attempts of such a man to force himself into notoriety, ought at least to use his best endeavours to verify

the information he sends before giving it to his readers, for it is of the utmost importance that the editor of such a publication should neither allow himself to be imposed on, nor incautiously lend the weight of his authority to an attempt to impose on his readers. Our contemporary will reply that he showed the stamp to better judges than himself; but that is not sufficient, for Mr. Allan Taylor's productions would deceive the best judges in the world. The one thing to be done in a case like this would be to inquire of the Ottawa post-office if by accident any sheets of the 3 cents had been printed in brown. Meanwhile, the unsupported assertions of Mr. Allan Taylor ought no more to be accepted as conclusive than is the unsupported testimony of a felon on any leading point in a court of justice.

With regard now to the Portland stamp, the editor of *The Philatelist* says he has written to Mr. Prince, the proprietor of the stamp, and has received copies thereof, accompanied by a history of its employment; but the first thing to be ascertained is whether Mr. Prince has any existence—he and Mr. S. A. Taylor are likely to be one and the same person (the identity of Lyford with Taylor has already been proved), and even if Mr. Prince has an existence apart from that of Mr. Taylor, the next thing to be discovered is whether he is not a confederate of this last-named gentleman. Mr. Taylor, it must be remembered, was the inventor of the famous Westervelt stamp, *and advertised under the name of Westervelt*,—what then is to prevent his assuming the name of Prince? The "Prince" stamp is still in use, and it would be worth Mr. Taylor's while to be attentive to the editor of *The Philatelist*, to secure for it, under his anspices, an exceptionally large circulation. He has sent only one copy of this stamp to *The Philatelist*, but as it is still in use, is in fact the *only* local which is still employed, there would be no difficulty in negociating the purchase of a few thousands (ready postmarked!) on advantageous terms.

As the "Portland," or "Prince," is the "sole local in actual use in the States," American collectors will, we hope, make much of it. It has been hitherto almost, if not altogether, unknown. Mr. Trifet does not mention it, nor can we trace any notice of it in *The American Journal of Philately*. Our Brighton contemporary, it is true, says that "the stamp has been well known to collectors for years past, and chronicled both in Oppen's catalogue and that of Berger-Levrault;" but notwithstanding this, the editor, when he received a copy from S. A. Taylor, chronicled it as a novelty or rarity, and it was only on subsequent search that he discovered it was mentioned in Oppen's catalogue—a list previously compiled by himself. It is, then, either an old or a new stamp; if it is old and has been in use *for years*, how is it no one was aware of its existence, and, further, why did the editor take the trouble to notice it on the strength of receiving a copy from Boston; if it is new, as we have good reason for believing it to be, we have only the assertion of the notorious Allan Taylor, backed by the recital of the fictitious Prince as guarantee for its genuineness. As to the stamp being noticed by Berger-Levrault, we think the editor of *The Philatelist* must have mistaken some other stamp for it, for we have ourselves gone through Berger-Levrault's catalogue without finding a trace of it. Even were it mentioned by Levrault, such mention would not prove much, as the list of locals given by him, though perhaps the best extant, does not profess to be perfectly reliable in its indications of the genuineness of stamps included in it, and as we remarked above, in calling Oppen's list in evidence, the editor of *The Philatelist* is bringing up a list of his own compilation.

We now leave our readers to judge of the proofs brought forward by our contemporary for his stamps, and will hasten to conclude a discussion upon which we have been reluctantly forced to enter.

We are not fond of captious cavilling, the editor of *The Philatelist's* alliterative assertion to the contrary notwithstanding; but we like to get at the truth in the matter, and if our views should turn out to be wrong, will acknowledge our errors. Meanwhile we protest against the complacent spirit which accepts anything and everything which may be termed a novelty, without

taking the trouble to find out whether such things are worth collecting or not. This easy way of filling the duties of a chronicler of new stamps leads to the admission of an untold amount of rubbish into albums, and eventually tells heavily, by the disgust these fictitious novelties excite, against the best interests of philately.

The charge of "malevolence," which our contemporary brings against us, it is really painful to have to refer to. We have never shown the least ill will to *The Philatelist*, but quite the reverse. Its editor — whom we respect as one of the oldest and most erudite of collectors,—if he will refer to our monthly reviews, will see that his magazine has always been spoken of in the highest terms. We have recognised willingly, and, notwithstanding this little passage of arms, shall continue to recognise, its value as a journal honestly and ably conducted; but we will not give up the right to free and outspoken criticism when we think it deserved. We do unto others as we are quite willing that others should do unto us, and we should not look upon an assertion that we had been mistaken as any proof of "malevolence" on the part of the journal by which it was made.

NOTES ON THE ENVELOPES OF GREAT BRITAIN.

BY AMATEUR.

In the extremely valuable series of "Papers for Beginners," by Mr. Overy Taylor, which has dealt with the stamps and envelopes of Great Britain, he acknowledges more indebtedness than he really is under to the present writer's incomplete sketch of the proofs and essays of Great Britain, a paper the completion of which it is hoped the readers of *The Stamp-Collector's Magazine* will witness this autumn.

Meanwhile, *par parenthèse*, the writer may be permitted to revert to the remarks of Mr. Taylor, at p. 130 of the present vol., upon the sheet and cover, value one penny, with silk threads—not with a view of qualifying what Mr. Taylor writes, but as an attempt at further elucidation of the moot point: "Was there a newspaper band issued distinct and independent of the stamped sheet of paper?"

In conjunction with his valued friend, Dr. Magnus, the writer saw and made some suggestions upon the proof sheets of M. Berger-Levrault's French catalogue, and the notice of the impressed sheet of paper there found is in part, if not wholly, due to the writer. M. Berger-Levrault has in his almost unique collection of entire envelopes, an example of this sheet, which, if the writer's memory be not at fault, is on *white* paper, or rather appears so, but the paper is yellow by age, and may well enough have originally been on slightly bluish paper.

Since the appearance of the catalogue, Dr. Magnus began his series of articles in *Le Timbrè-Poste* on envelopes, and submitted the MS. portion relating to Great Britain to the writer, who had in the meanwhile tried to procure examples of the half-sheet and band for his own collection. In this he had partially succeeded, and had obtained a cut copy, being the half of the sheet with the stamp and silk threads, which would form, if so used, a newspaper band. This specimen is quite fresh, clear, and perfect, as to paper and colour, and shows on its upper edge where the residue of the sheet has been removed. It is on slightly bluish paper, and has the two threads, as Dr. Magnus describes, placed horizontally above the Queen's head. There is no trace of any seal, shaping at the edges, or of adhesive matter having been applied; and the writer's conviction is, that *this copy* never was issued as a newspaper band. He also, through the kindness of Mr. Pearson Hill, acquired from a collector a perfect copy of the entire sheet, marked in red letters on the face—SPECIMEN. This copy was originally bluish, but now shows the paper slightly yellowed by age; in other respects it exactly corresponds with the description given by the doctor.

When the MS. came to the writer, he ventured to suggest the notice which now appears to Dr. Magnus, and further observation confirms the accuracy of what the doctor allowed to appear in print, and which Mr. Overy Taylor quotes.

Every effort has been made to trace if a newspaper band existed independently of the sheet, and without success. The writer has had the benefit of comparing almost all the

leading collections, and particularly of all information which Mr. Pearson Hill gave, and has never had authentic record or trace of such a band having existed, nor has any example of the same ever been brought to his notice. As he has made this an object of considerable inquiry, he feels warranted in expressing his belief that no such band ever was in issue, and that the only bands in use were merely halves of the impressed sheet, pressed into service in this manner. With respect to dates of issue of the various British envelopes, the writer believes that after the dies were approved, and the colours definitely selected, proofs were struck off as specimens for the various post-offices; and that this being done, the authorities through the country being thus instructed as to the legal nature and values of the envelopes, their currency was in fact established, though the issue may not have commenced till actual service required them to be put in use. The views propounded by Mr. Overy Taylor thus appear to have every reason in their favour. On one other topic, the writer would remark, he has never met with a *two pence* envelope of *official issue* with any seal or device on the flap.

The authorities at the stamp-office, Somerset House, will emboss envelope stamps on any *unfolded* paper, whether cut to envelope shapes, or in the form of plain note or letter paper, a matter which causes the writer to wonder that some of those enterprising dealers who manufacture so many varieties have not announced an issue on sheets or bands.

Mr. Overy Taylor is justifiably severe on the extreme folly of collecting such rubbish as the various compound envelopes on many-hued papers, as well as the ephemeral advertising rings which the government printers have, with questionable taste, permitted to be placed around the official dies.

THE FRENCH POST AND THE WAR.

Two rather interesting notices have just been issued by the postal administration of Paris, which, together with the Alsace stamps, will remain mementos of the war. They read as follows:—

1.—*Correspondence with the Departments occupied by the Enemy.*

Ordinary letters of French origin for the portions of French territory occupied by the enemy, may be forwarded *viâ* Belgium and Germany.

For such letters prepayment as far as the frontier is obligatory.

The rate is the same as for letters circulating in the interior from one post-office to another, *i.e.*, 20 centimes for a single-weight letter.

As to letters coming from those parts of the French territory occupied by the enemy, and which reach France by way of Germany and Belgium, prepayment is obligatory up to the French frontier over which they enter. These letters are re-forwarded, and postage is charged to the receiver as upon unpaid letters circulating in France from office to office, *i.e.*, 30 centimes, unless the charge from the frontier to destination has been paid by the sender in French postage stamps, conformably to our tariff for the interior, at the rate of 20 centimes.

2.—*Forwarding of Money Orders to French Prisoners of War in Germany.*

An understanding has been come to between Switzerland and France, for the purpose of forwarding to our soldiers, prisoners of war in Germany, the assistance which their families wish to send them, by means of international orders, delivered by the authorised post-offices in each department, in exchange for orders on Switzerland. In consequence the public will be permitted from to-day to employ this facility, and to effect the deposit of its funds.

The orders will not be delivered to the depositors, but will be forwarded direct to the Bâle office by the postmasters who shall receive the money, with a *bulletin* written at the dictation of the senders, which should indicate very accurately the name and residence of the person for whom the money is intended. The Bâle post-office, after receipt of the amount, will deliver in its turn international Swiss-German orders, payable at the *payee's* place of residence. Besides the charge already made in France, a further charge of 50 centimes, or of 75 centimes,

will be made upon the sums paid in, according as such sums do not amount to 92 f. 75 c. on the one hand, or exceed 195 f. 55 c. on the other.

REVIEWS OF POSTAL PUBLICATIONS.

The Quarterly Price Catalogue of Postage Stamps. Brighton: Stafford Smith & Co.

THE progress of philately is nowhere better exemplified than in the improvements which have taken place in price catalogues. At first, a rough fly-sheet was all that was thought necessary; then came roughly-printed paged lists, characteristic in their slovenliness and entire want of elegance; our own publishers brought a superior style of work in vogue, distinguished by neatness, and an attempt at ornamentation by means of cuts, and upon this style they have since so greatly improved, as to render their productions worthy of a place on the drawing-room table; and now the Messrs. Stafford Smith's new compilation comes to occupy an equal position, as a work of typographic art.

The cover is ornamented with the same design as figures on *The Philatelist*, with an altered inscription, BIEN ENTENDU, which inscription, being printed in red and black, has a very good appearance, and the corner illustrations being in red, add to the effect. There is but one thing necessary to render the design thoroughly praiseworthy, and that is the excision of the heavy portcullis-like ground behind the circle which contains Sir Rowland Hill's portrait.

The arrangements of the catalogue itself is all that could be wished. Nothing could exceed the neatness of the small "old-face" type, which, if we mistake not, is the same as that employed in the *Permanent Album*. The countries are separated into five divisions, and reference is further facilitated by a good index, an unusual feature in a price catalogue.

The subscription to this quarterly list is one shilling per annum, and this low figure, coupled with the advantage derived from a fixed date of emission, will, we feel sure, secure for it the support it deserves.

POSTAL CHIT-CHAT.

PIGEONS OUT OF WORK.—Rome, it is said, was saved by the cackling of geese; the French are determined that France shall not be lost through the flight of pigeons. In previous years, large international matches of carrier pigeons, flying against time, have taken place between Belgium and the south of France. Thousands of birds were let loose in the course of the season, and considerable sums have been won and lost over their arrival. This year these matches have been forbidden, the French authorities fearing that the pigeons might be made the medium of communicating information to the enemy.

HONOUR TO THE POSTAL OFFICIALS.—The funeral of every wounded Prussian soldier who dies in the hospitals at Stuttgart is attended by the ambassador in person, who allows no business to interfere with this duty. Take one illustration:—Private Johnnes had been in the Prussian post-office a letter carrier; he was brought here badly wounded, and died. The Prussian ambassador applied to the postmaster here, and all the officials connected with the post-office that could be spared from duty attended the funeral in uniform. The procession was headed by Herr von Rosenberg, Prussian ambassador, and Count Leutrum, of the Sanitäts Verein. A full account appeared in the newspapers, which were duly forwarded through the embassy to the widow.—*Daily News.*

CORRESPONDENCE.

THE SIXPENCE EMBOSSED STAMP.

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

DEAR SIR,—Notwithstanding Mr. Taylor's willingness to bow to Mr. Pearson Hill's authority in the matter of the date of the above stamp, there is one obstacle to the acceptance of the year 1854, which even he can hardly get over—I refer to the fact that, according to Mr. Pearson Hill, the sixpence lilac, an embossed stamp, was issued *unperforated* three or four years after the perforated penny had been in use. This seems to me to tell very much against Mr. Pearson Hill's date, and I think we need some further proof of it, which it may not be too much to hope that that gentleman will think fit to give.

I am, Sir, yours truly,

Leicester. INQUIRER.

PAPERS FOR BEGINNERS—THE ENGLISH ENVELOPES.

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

SIR,—In connection with Mr. Overy Taylor's useful and generally accurate article on the English envelopes, allow me to call attention to the variation of type existent in the current penny envelopes since 1865. Attention was called to this by a correspondent, and the discrepancy, after careful examination of numerous specimens of different dates, pointed out in the August number of *The Philatelist*. In the earlier emissions on Dickinson paper, and up to the date mentioned, Her Majesty's profile has the pendant curl behind much more corkscrew-shaped than in the current specimens; evidencing an alteration in the die employed. With regard to the continued permission of the Somerset-house authorities for having the several values impressed on paper otherwise than white, or very pale bluish, I succeeded in getting a large assortment struck off on pink, yellow, and lilac, in the early part of last year, only on the express understanding that such a favour was accorded for the last time.

I am, Sir, yours obediently,

Spa, Belgium. C. W. VINER.

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

Sir,—In Mr. Taylor's article in the September *Stamp-Collector's Magazine*, he speaks of the sheet of letter paper with embossed head as a thing he has never seen. I have several of them, both cut and uncut, and can give you the following information. The earliest I have bears post-mark, March 3, 1845, and is on white paper, with a blue and red thread; the blue at the top, and running across the stamp. The latest I have on white paper is 31 July, 1846. The earliest I have on blue paper is postmarked 17 Oct., 1847; and the latest, 15 Nov., 1847. Then I have two postmarked 22 and 24 Nov., 1847, upon a different paper, rather whiter than the last, but not so white as the first named. The white-paper sheets are 9 in. by 7¼ in.; the blue, 9½ by 7½. If folded down the middle and then into three, as note-paper is folded to put into an envelope, the embossed stamp would be exactly in the right place, but the contents of the letter would be open to partial examination. The threads are sometimes above, sometimes one is through the stamp, and sometimes both are so; but I shall be glad to send you the whole series for your examination, if you wish it. I have 25 uncut—all but two posted at Hastings,—and a large number cut.

Did you ever notice the consecutive numbers on the Mulreadys? I have a lot of penny covers just now, and find just above "postage" a number. I have Nos. 10, 16, 19, 68, 78, 238, 239, and 250; most of 16, 78, and 239, but probably the same number of each would be issued. If this could be ascertained, it would give us the full number issued.

I am, Sir, yours truly,

Hartlepool. JOHN E. ROBSON.

PERFORATED FIRST-ISSUE NATAL.

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

Dear Sir.—I notice that one of your correspondents—J. B. B., of Norwich—mentions in the last number of *The Stamp Collector's Magazine*, that he has received a blue and a yellow copy of the (*old*) penny Natal, *perforated*, and inquires if they are reprints, and used for commercial purposes.

Permit me, in reply, to state that these stamps are printed, issued, and used entirely for commercial purposes, and are not in any sense postage stamps. They are genuine impressions from the dies used for the first issue of Natal, but, as J. B. B. remarks, on paper coloured on *one* side only—*papier couché*. The first specimens of these stamps seen in England came about March last, through the medium of M. Moens, of Brussels, who had them direct as newly-issued from Pietermaritzburg, and who forwarded them to the writer It is an error to suppose that they are old; they were struck off in 1869, and have no business in a postage-stamp album; they are only admissible where fiscal stamps are collected.

As a very considerable number of entirely false and fraudulent stamps, purporting to be of the first issue of Natal, are in circulation, and freely offered to collectors, care is requisite to avoid the deceptions, and the stamps J. B. B. describes may, as they came from the genuine dies, serve as standards of comparison in cases of doubt. It is almost superfluous to add that perforation is of much more recent date than the old issue of Natal.

Despite the reprints from the genuine dies, which unhappily exist, *fine old* authentic copies of the earliest issue are as difficult to procure as ever—indeed some are almost hopeless. No one should discard his old specimens till perfectly assured he can replace them with undoubtedly old genuine copies. Some dealers quote the set of eight stamps, five values, *unused*, at between £4 and £5. If these are to be had not reprinted, they are cheap at the price, but as *used* copies are quoted at nearly as high a figure, one can hardly suppose the former to be *old* copies, though they may be from the genuine dies. It is, therefore, well to be on the alert, and remembering that the retail value of a fine postmarked copy of all values is (the 3d. pink excepted) half-a-guinea at least, and of the ninepence varies from three to four guineas, some idea may be formed of the degree of faith to be put in the specimens offered. A really good stamp is always sure of its market price, and the writer's experience induces him to think that market prices for choice genuine stamps are higher than they ever were.

Yours obediently,

London. AMATEUR.

ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS.

J. H. R., York.—The new 10 m. Spanish is noticed in present number. None of the Spanish stamps have ever borne the Y¼ surcharge,—you must be thinking of the Cuban 1855 two reales, which in fact has it.—Our reply to another correspondent respecting the carnival stamps will meet your just observations on our description of those stamps.

M. E., Liverpool.—We have never come across a Bavarian *drei* kr. envelope, and do not believe in its existence. When first the envelope came out, it was noticed as bearing the word three written drei, and at the time that the Bavarian list in Dr. Gray's catalogue was printed it was not known that the word was really spelt drey. All the envelopes we have ever seen bear the latter spelling, and we believe there are none others.

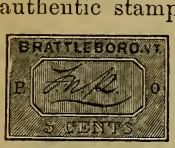
J. C., Manchester.—Our publishers occasionally succeed in obtaining copies of the first two volumes of *The Stamp-Collector's Magazine*. The price of the first volume is 21/; of the second, 10/6; all the others are on sale at the published price—6/6 per volume. You had better communicate with Messrs. Alfred Smith & Co., if you are a purchaser at these prices. — Our description of the Carnival stamps was erroneous; we should have said the designs were traced after those of the current Italian. The 20 c. *bar* Italian, without dots, is rarer than the others, but, used, it can be had for twopence.—Spain 1865, 12 c. rose and black, and 4 c. blue and rose, are fancy proofs. There is a 19 cuartos of the 1869 series.—A few coloured envelopes have been allowed, by favour, to be struck off, notwithstanding the prohibition in the postal guide. Our contributor doubtless wrote with a knowledge of this fact.

G. W. B., Manchester.—We notice your No. 1 (Mexican) in our article on new issues.—Nos. 2 to 6—You certainly can show five shades of the current 10 c. New Granada, though we almost think Nos. 5 and 6 must be merely faded; but in any case, the collection of all five can hardly be considered necessary, unless you are decided to show the stamp under every modification. — The same remark applies to your Russian (Nos. 7 to 9).—The Servian 2 p. dull brown (No. 10) is one of the latest impressions, and is unquestionably of a peculiar shade. Our own are much brighter, and more distinct.—Nos. 11 to 14 are all *blued-paper* Barbados. Nos. 15 to 17 are genuine originals, of which, in fact, there are no reprints; but 17 is faded. No. 18 (4d. blue Western Australia) is a proof, though some few did, to our own knowledge, pass the post. The white spaces between the letters seem to have been caused by the colour rubbing off. We cannot trace that the design is in relief.—Many thanks for the variety of the 3 kop. Russian, of which we were previously without a copy.

THE BRATTLEBORO STAMP.

BY L. H. B., WEST SPRINGFIELD, MASS., U.S.

THE detailed history of an undoubtedly authentic stamp, so rare that its very existence was for a long time questioned by the great majority of philatelists, cannot but be of interest at this present time, when so many disputed points in the science are being finally settled.



The first printed description of the Brattleboro stamp appeared as long ago as February 15th, 1865, in the third number of the *Stamp-Collector's Record*, then issued from the city of Albany, N. Y., and was as follows :—

BRATTLEBORO, VERMONT, P.O., 5 CENTS.—This is a stamp, which, as being ostensibly a government issue, is entitled to be placed with the stamps of the United States. In 1848, F. N. Palmer, postmaster of Brattleboro, Vermont (a place since immortalized in the celebrated play of "Our American Cousin," as being the place from which Mr. Asa Trenchard went forth to astonish the natives of the land of "Johnbool"), issued a stamp which done [*sic !*] duty in Brattleboro and vicinity in the place of the 5 c. Franklin, the then current issue, which could not at all times be readily obtained, and which was recognised by all postmasters as a voucher of the prepayment of the letter to which it was affixed. Mr. Palmer preferred the attaching of the stamp to branding the letter with PAID 5 CENTS in large red capitals, a practice which, thanks to the refinement of a civilized age, is now happily extinct. The stamp was a small oblong (copper-plate); at top, BRATTLEBORO, VT.; at bottom, 5 CENTS; at each side, respectively, P.O.; in centre, initials F.N.P., in *fac-simile;* black impression on brown paper.

To the best of my belief, the stamp was catalogued for the first time in Mr. A. C. Kline's *Stamp-Collector's Manual*, on page 75 of the third edition of which (issued at Philadelphia, Penn., in 1865) it is noted, among the "special despatch and express stamps," thus:

Brattleboro, Vt., Post-office, black imp. on white, 5 cents.

The same description (doubtless copied from this) is given in the fourth edition of Dr. Gray's *Illustrated Catalogue* (p. 133), and formed, I think, the first notice of the stamps given in any European list; at all events, it was not mentioned in the 1864 catalogues of Berger-Levrault and Mount Brown. No mention is made of this stamp by Mr. James Lesley in his "Second Chapter on U. S. Locals," published in this magazine for December, 1863 (vol. i., p. 171), when he describes the similar semi-official issues of the New York, Providence, R. I., and St. Louis, Mo., post-offices; and the editor, going over the ground again in April, 1867 (vol. v., p. 50), to describe the "Postage Stamps of the United States," says :—

Whilst on the subject of these preliminary stamps, we may note that one is said to have been prepared and issued by the postmaster of Brattleboro, Vermont, in 1848. The occasion for its emission being the exhaustion of the stock of government 5-cent stamps, and the postmaster's preference for an adhesive label, of some sort or other, over the handstamped words, PAID FIVE CENTS, as evidence of prepayment. As, however, this impression was but recently discovered, some further proof of its authenticity is requisite before it can take rank as a duly-accredited postage stamp.

The next public appearance of the stamp is in the *American Journal of Philately* of January, 1869 (vol. ii., p. 6), to which Dr. J. A. Petrie, of Elizabeth, N. J., sends a letter, written to him by Dr. Frederick N. Palmer, the former Brattleboro postmaster, in response to his previous inquiries. The letter is dated "Newton Center, Mass., Dec. 10, 1868," and opens with the statement that Dr. Petrie is "mistaken in saying that the stamp has never been described," because he (Dr. Palmer) "received, about two years ago, a little stamp paper, printed in Vermont, which mentioned the private stamp issued by him while postmaster at Brattleboro, and which was sent to him, in a letter, by a person who was *very* desirous of obtaining the original plate from which these stamps were printed." Dr. Palmer then goes on to state, with the air of a man trying hard to call to mind the trifles which had escaped it twenty years before,—that he was appointed sometime during the first year of Mr. Polk's administration, while the Hon. Cave Johnson was postmaster-general; that Mr. Polk was elected in 1845; that the stamps were issued, he thinks, during his first year as postmaster, and were, he supposes, the first post-office stamps issued in this country; that it was a strictly private thing, neither ordered nor repudiated by the post-office department; that his object in issuing it was to accommodate the people, and save himself labour in making and collecting quarterly bills, as almost everything at that time was either charged or forwarded without prepayment; that he

was disappointed in the effect, having still to charge the *stamps*, and collect the bills; that he retained the office during the balance of Mr. Polk's term, and used the stamps, more or less, during his connection with the office; that the cancelling with red ink was uniform, though much a matter of choice; that the number issued, he should say, was only 500 or 600, as an experiment; that they were engraved by Mr. Thomas Chubbuck, then of Brattleboro, now of Springfield, Mass., "who wrote me about a year since, inquiring about the original plate;" that this plate was laid aside, and has never since been found; and that he has none of the stamps, has not seen one for a great while, and thinks he could scarcely describe it correctly.

As evidence that some of the other statements in the above letter may be fairly subject to modification, it may here be noted that no stamp paper has ever been published in Vermont, and that the one referred to was undoubtedly No. 3 of the Albany *Record*, already quoted; also, that Mr. Polk was not elected in 1845, but in November, 1844, and was inaugurated as president of the United States, March 4, 1845. Commenting upon the letter, Dr. Petrie regards it as establishing the authenticity of the stamps, and adds, "They are, so far as I have been able to find, cancelled with a stroke of red ink, drawn in part across them; they are unperforated, and contain a single fine line of black, surrounding a single fine line of buff." In answer to this, the *American Journal of Philately* (vol. ii., p. 38) printed a note from a correspondent, who "enclosed, for the editor's inspection, one of these stamps, on the original letter, with the word PAID printed half across the stamp;" and to this note was attached this editorial remark: "The letter in question was received by L. B. Woodruff, of this city, in 1846. It is postmarked 'Brattleboro, Vt., Oct. 10,' in red ink, and is also stamped with the word PAID. The stamp is cancelled with the same word." In *The Stamp-Collector's Magazine* (vol. vii., p. 50), the editor, after quoting some of the other facts from Dr. Palmer's letter in the *Journal*, adds: "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."

So much for the public history of the stamp to the present date. Now for the results of my own investigations. On the 2nd of last September, I called upon Mr. Thomas Chubbuck, at his office in Springfield, stated to him the gist of the facts I have here detailed at length, and learned the full particulars of his own connection with the matter. He went to Boston in 1845, and remained there until June 13, 1848, and being something of a musical amateur, he formed the acquaintance of postmaster Palmer, who was then a music teacher; hence it came about that he was one day persuaded to engrave "the Brattleboro stamp." The chief object of the postmaster in issuing the stamp, as Mr. Chubbuck recollects it, was to turn an honest penny, in this wise: By Act of March 3, 1845, uniform rates of 5 cents and 10 cents, for letter postage under and over 3000 miles, respectively, were established, but prepayment was left at the option of the senders. Now, as his own official salary was proportionate to the cash receipts of his office, it was for each postmaster's interest to have as many as possible of the letters deposited at his office *prepaid;* and Mr. Palmer's idea was that the novelty of these stamps would induce many to prepay their letters with them who otherwise would not attend to that then rather uncommon duty. Especially as he sold his stamps on credit to those with whom he had private or official business accounts, did he expect that this would be likely to be the case.

As the correspondent of the *Journal* shows, the use of the stamp did not (as the *Record* claimed) abrogate the necessity of branding "Paid 5 cents" upon each letter prepaid with it, the same as upon each one prepaid with coin; and it was to this old-established "paid" mark, and not to the presence of the stamp itself, that the outside postmasters gave attention when taking account of letters received from Brattleboro. Regarding the length of time that the stamps were in

use, Mr. Chubbuck was quite confident that Dr. Palmer was in error in stating that he "employed them occasionally up to the end of his official term" (March 3, 1849), as he (Mr. C.) distinctly recollects that the postmaster burned all the unsold stamps in his possession immediately on the appearance of the 5 and 10 cent "U. S. post-office" stamps issued under authority of the Act of March 3, 1847. Thus on the one hand is shown the error of the *Record* in supposing the stamp to have been prepared and used as a temporary substitute for the current "Franklin 5," when the supply of the latter chanced to be exhausted; and on the other, the error of Dr. Petrie, in supposing it to have been used continuously until March, 1849. The latter writer, too, probably makes an erroneous inference in placing 1845 as the date of issue. Mr. Chubbuck had no memoranda by which he could recall the exact date of delivering the stamps to the postmaster, as his cash account showed that he collected the bill for his services ("seven and a half dollars, for engraving the plate; one dollar and a half, for printing 500 stamps; total, nine dollars") at the time of his leaving town, June, 1848. He is inclined to believe, however, that as he did not go to Brattleboro until May 30, 1845, and did not form the acquaintance of Dr. Palmer until sometime afterwards: he could not have engraved the stamps before the opening of 1846. Another indication in this direction is the fact, that as Dr. Palmer was not appointed until "sometime during the year" which began March 4, 1845—perhaps not till towards the end of the calendar year,—he would not be likely to think of doing so novel a thing as to issue a postage stamp until he had become well settled in office. I think, then, that it is reasonable to conclude that the life of the Brattleboro stamp was of less than twelve months' duration, divided pretty equally between the years 1846 and 1847.

Dr. Palmer states that but few were used, as would naturally be the case in so modest a village, in so short an interval; and Mr. Chubbuck adds, that the balance in stock of the original 500 impressions were burned in 1847. Hence, as the most persistent searching has failed to bring to light the original plate, it is no wonder that the very existence of the stamp has been called in question; and it is undoubted that the few impressions in existence are, and always will be, among the very rarest of authentic postal labels. The editor's hint may be counted for certain—that there will never be "an invasion of Brattleboros,"—for the "large portion of the issue hidden in some surprisingly out-of-the-way nook," for some "enterprising dealer to discover," does not exist.

A small portion of the issue, however, does exist, and that portion is now in my own possession. The copper-plate prepared by Mr. Chubbuck contained eight stamps, each intended to be identical with the other, but showing under the microscope minute differences in the lines and shadings. Besides the regular border of each stamp, a fine line was drawn on the plate on each side of the stamps where they met, in order to separate each one, much as the marks of perforation separate the stamps of a sheet now. Hence, by paying careful attention to these lines on a single detached stamp, one could decide the exact part of the plate of which it was the impression. The eight stamps of the plate were engraved quite closely together, and the outer margins, though not broad, were so much broader than the inner one as to be at once noticeable. Upon this narrow outer margin, at the bottom of the stamp next the left corner one, on the lower row, was the imprint, in minute characters, ENG^{D} BY THO^{S} CHUBBUCK, BRATT^{O}. The general appearance of each stamp was described with tolerable correctness in the notice quoted from the *Record*, and the cut which heads this article renders further notice of it unnecessary. It may be remarked, however, that the paper of the stamp was rather of a deep shade of buff than an actual brown.

Now, on the day when the engraver delivered these 500 stamps, together with the eight-faced plate, to the postmaster, he bethought himself that he should like to preserve a specimen copy of his work, and so, with the postmaster's consent, he laid aside a sheet of eight, and afterwards stuck the same, with red wafers, into his general

scrap-book. Before removing the stamps from the office, however, though his friend protested againt the formal security against fraud, he took the latter's pen and obliterated them, by drawing a red-ink stroke through the left upper corner of each stamp on the sheet. Seven of these stamps, on the afternoon of my visit to Mr. Chubbuck, were found lying loosely among his other scraps and specimens, and were quickly transferred to me. The fate of the eighth is uncertain, the engraver having the impression that he had laid it away by itself as a specimen.

The rank held by the stamp is fortunately not a matter of doubt. It is of exactly the same nature as the better-known provisional "post-office" issues of New York, Providence, and St. Louis. Like them, it was issued on the postmaster's private responsibility, to assist in the public, official duties of his office; and, like them, it was superseded by the 5-cent and 10-cent "U.S. post-office" issues of 1847. Dr. Palmer's supposition, that his was the first post-office stamp issued in America, is, very possibly, a mistaken one, as Mr. Chubbuck well remembered the "big-head" stamp of New York, and was under the impression that the idea of issuing the Brattleboro stamp was derived from the success of this.

In conclusion, it is worth noticing that the inscription POST-OFFICE, instead of POSTAGE, on the first regular issue of government stamps, was probably derived from that upon the provisional issues,—the idea being that the stamps of the "U. S.," or general "post-office," would serve alike for the "New York," "Providence," "St. Louis," "Brattleboro," and all other "post-offices" within the national domain.

[The specimen of this stamp in Mr. Philbrick's collection is on a buff-shaded paper, and is faintly obliterated by the word PAID in red ink, printed across the face of the stamp. It fully bears out the above description.—ED.]

THE LATE JULES PAUWELS, ESQ.

25th Sept., 1870. At St. Mary Church, near Torquay, Jules Pauwels, Esq., of London and Amsterdam, aged 58.

SUCH was the announcement which appeared in the daily papers as we were about going to press last month; and we cannot refrain from offering our tribute of respect to the memory of one of the leading and most accomplished philatelists of the day.

A Belgian by birth, by long residence and strong friendships among us almost an Englishman, Mr. Pauwels in his later years had devoted himself to the study of his favourite pursuit, for which his thorough acquaintance with both French and English, his great natural acumen, sharpened and perfected by his long connection with the house of Frederick Huth & Co., of London, and the leisure hours at his disposal, so eminently qualified him. In him the critical faculty was fully developed, and he had an almost unrivalled capacity for patient investigation and great sagacity in applying the results of his examinations. Probably there was no sounder opinion to be obtained on any disputed point of stamp lore than that of Mr. Pauwels': and no one was more willing to undertake the trouble of a laborious inquiry than he; his good nature in this respect rendered his advice constantly sought, both by English and foreign correspondents; and whether right or wrong in his conclusions, Mr. Pauwels abundantly justified all the confidence reposed in him, by the care and accuracy which he brought to his self-imposed task.

Under the Initials "J. P." appeared in *Le Timbre-Poste* the famous *Revue du Catalogue Berger-Levrault*, a translation of which has this year enriched our pages, and which amply exhibits the clearness, perspicuity and ability of the writer whose loss we have now to deplore. Mr. Pauwels was frequently urged to write more, and allow the public to participate in his varied knowledge; but his love of retirement prevailed, and he was unwilling to be tempted out of his privacy.

The state of his health, which for years was delicate, also combined to produce this result; but a more cheerful correspondent, a more keen controversialist, a more genial critic, and to the privileged few who enjoyed his private friendship, a truer or more sincere friend, or more hospitable host never existed.

He was a constant and valued correspondent of M. Moens, and most of the leading contributors to our stamp literature, and

many on the other, as on this, side of the Channel will greatly miss his letters.

Mr. Pauwels commenced collecting about 1862, and was chiefly indebted for his first great start to the collection of M. Lecherf, of Brussels, which, on its break up, passed through the hands of M. Moens. The collection was continued mainly by means of correspondence, until it reached its present proportions Its owner was peculiarly careful to select fine and perfect specimens; and on lately going most carefully through his albums, but few badly marked or badly perforated stamps were to be met with.

Almost every stamp was to be seen there in *original* and fine specimens. Mr. Pauwels was relentless in discarding reprints and all rubbish: in his eyes a fine postmarked *authentic* copy was preferable to all the reprints in the world. Essays and proofs were not collected; though one or two extremely fine ones which had been presented by friends, graced the books.

The stamps were mounted by a little piece of paper gummed along the upper edge of the specimen at the back, about an eighth of an inch wide, and so affixed as not to be visible when the stamp was presented right side to the beholder; the stamp thus prepared was fixed to the page by two minute particles of gum, one at each end of the paper band; thus by inserting the blade of a penknife underneath, any stamp could be raised for examination or removed with facility and without damage. Mr. Pauwels preferred to use for his strips behind the stamps, the edges of the sheets of the British stamps printed by De La Rue & Co.; these are on glazed paper, with a highly pressed surface, and this surface being placed next the page, adhered so slightly as to be easily removable.

We have been thus minute in describing the system, as it is one of infinite ease to adopt, and suited to every case where the trouble of jointing the specimen by a hinge or flap of tissue paper cannot be taken. Mr. Pauwels did not collect entire envelopes, a matter of never ceasing regret to him; but one which, having commenced on the old system, he did not alter; had his life been spared, and his stamps collated in new volumes as he contemplated, no doubt this serious defect would have been corrected.

The collection as it stood was one of the most complete and reliable in the kingdom; and we believe it will go abroad and remain in the hands of the family as a memorial of the patience, care, and accuracy of a much-beloved relative.

In concluding this brief and imperfect notice, we cannot but lament the loss which the true science of philately has sustained; a loss which will be acutely felt by those who were in personal communication with the deceased gentleman, and will be irreparable to his numerous personal friends, among whom the writer was proud of being numbered.

NOTES ON THE ENVELOPES OF GREAT BRITAIN.

BY AMATEUR.

When, in June, 1839, Mr. (now Sir) Rowland Hill published his paper *On the Collection of Postage by means of Stamps*, he proposed to the Lords of the Treasury four kinds of stamps and envelopes. The Treasury Minute of 23rd August, 1839, directed these four kinds to be prepared, viz.:—

1.—Labels, or adhesive stamps.
2.—Stamped covers, or half sheets of paper.
3.—Stamped envelopes, and
4.—Stamps struck on letter-paper itself.

The three first kinds were to be manufactured on some peculiar paper by the government; the last was to bear the government stamp, to be applied on any paper desired by the consumer.

Plans and suggestions for carrying out this scheme were invited from the public; all proposals were to be sent in by 15th October, 1839, which was fixed as the last day for receiving them. The response to the invitation was, that designs and proposals, to the number of close upon two thousand six hundred, were sent in, and these had to be submitted to the Treasury.

Into this competition Mr. Charles Whiting, the well-known printer of Beaufort House, Strand, who had, some years before Mr. Hill applied the stamp system to his invention of a uniform postage, himself printed a

proposal to the government of the day to issue stamped bands, or, as he termed them, "*Go-Frees*," intended to frank a certain weight of printed matter; Mr. Stead; Mr. Dickinson, the paper-maker; Mr. Sievier, the eminent sculptor; Mr. Cheverton, and a host of others, entered.

In the overwhelming majority of cases, the proposals were not accompanied by any design actually prepared; comparatively few were more than a pen-and-ink sketch, or a drawing, sent with the written proposal and description; while in some, a large number of specimens was laid before the authorities: this was peculiarly so in Mr. Whiting's instance; one may safely state that at least a hundred samples of the graphic art, as then in use at his establishment, or as embodying Mr. Whiting's own idea of carrying out Mr. Hill's plan of penny postage, were produced to those charged with the selection. Hence it will be readily understood that, except from the official records, and the documents themselves as submitted and now existing on the files of the office, no complete list or catalogue ever can be made.

From such sources as are available a compilation was commenced by the writer some time ago; this was laid before the readers of *The Stamp-Collector's Magazine* in 1868. It is purposed to carry out the plan of that paper, as far as may be, to completion; but there are one or two matters preliminary which it is proper now to clear up.

It cannot have been a light task for the officials to examine and discuss all the proposals sent in, many were obviously absurd and impracticable; and in the result "my Lords" obtained no other modes of applying the postage stamp than those before quoted as suggested by Mr. Hill in his pamphlet of June, 1839.

The selection being made of the kinds of stamps to be produced, the methods of making them had to be arranged, designs procured or adapted, engraving to be executed, machinery devised and made expressly for the purpose, experiments to be tried in paper-making, an immense number of details superintended, and an entirely new system organised and got ready to work. Anyone who looks at the office work at the present day can see at a glance that to initiate a system capable of the work it does, and the extensions made in modern days, was a matter of careful consideration, involving numberless details, and much labour. All honour to those who first grappled with the task, and achieved the success, which makes our post-office the best managed of our public departments.

The new stamps of the three first kinds above noticed were put in hand, and there appeared in due time:

1.—The black penny Queen's head label.

2.—The Mulready cover, and

3.—The Mulready envelope.

These three answered all the requirements of the public, the stamped paper being a matter intended in lieu of the government cover (No. 2) for those who preferred to obtain paper from private sources; and to obviate an objection raised by the paper-makers and stationers, that a gigantic government monopoly was about to be created by the whigs,—that it would be "tyrannical to compel retail stationers to sell stamped letter-paper, which they must purchase from a government office," &c., and other equally futile objections. On the 12th Nov. and 26th Dec. were issued the Treasury Minutes finally approving the designs which were afterwards issued to the public. The embossed Queen's head was put into the hands of W. Wyon; the engraved head for the adhesive label was confided to C. Heath; while W. Mulready designed, and J. Thompson engraved, the front of the envelope and cover, Nos. 2 and 3.

The issue of stamps was promised to the public by the end of March, 1840; it was in May, however, before the supply could be prepared; meanwhile, a not unnatural feeling of impatience pervaded the community, and certainly one, if not two, temporary expedients were tried.

With the Session of Parliament of 1840, an envelope, having on its face, printed in red ink, above the address, the inscription of which we give a fac-simile beneath, was issued in certain limited numbers, and to a few privileged persons.

(*Temporary.*)

To be posted at the HOUSE OF LORDS only.

Post paid.-ONE PENNY.-Weight not to exceed ½ oz.

The copy before us bears the postmark of 10th March, 1840, and is addressed to a solicitor in Bedford-row; the sender, probably from force of habit, and being used to franking, has put his initials, J. W. B., in the left-hand lower corner.

W. S., Cardiff, in *The Philatelist* for October, 1870, describes an envelope postmarked 28th January, 1840, with the following printed legend:

TO BE POSTED AT THE HOUSES OF PARLIAMENT ONLY.

POST PAID. ONE PENNY. WEIGHT NOT TO EXCEED ½ OZ.

It is not stated whether this is printed in red or black; but no doubt this, and the one we describe, are two temporary expedients or experiments, tried at the Houses of Parliament while the official dies were in course of preparation. These never formed the subject of a general issue to the public, and rather rank as curiosities in the history of the introduction and establishment of the penny postage system, than as objects for the general collector.

Before closing this paper, Mr. Robson has obligingly lent to the publishers the stamped sheets of letter-paper mentioned in his letter in the October number of this magazine, see p. 160, *antè*. The writer has, therefore, had an opportunity of examining them: they are 24 in number—14 on a clearly blue paper, and 10 on as distinct a white; all with the one penny Queen's head embossed, *without date*, and with two silk threads, a red and blue, in the make of the paper. The head is so placed that when folded in three, as a note, it is in the usual and proper position of a stamp. As Mr. Robson justly observes, there are two shades of the blue, one much less positive than the other. The white all appear postmarked in January to July, 1846; the blue in October and November, 1847; but all come from one firm, who had them in stock, and had a printed form of letter on the inside, which was filled up by dates, &c., as required.

In the instance of the Mulready cover, the writer knows it was thus adopted by the East of England Bank, which had its circular letter, covering cheques, printed inside; so that all to be done was—fill up date, figures, and number of cheques; a printed address, "To the East of England Bank," was on the outside; only the town had to be added. This was, of course, long before there was a country clearing-house, and had the great convenience of bearing the postal date on the letter itself, and thus was legal evidence in case of dishonour of any cheque, and a dispute as to the time of arrival for presentation.

It must be taken, therefore, as now established that there was an issue of this half sheet On white paper, and On blue paper, and these, probably, were successive and not simultaneous, and followed the epoch of the Mulready cover, ceasing to be sold at the post-offices. How long these half sheets continued to be vended is doubtful. Such cases as bankers or a mercantile firm having a stock in, and printing a letter inside, proves nothing more than currency when the supply was procured; and as no English stamp has ever been recalled, to this day they would frank as much as their facial value would cover. No trace of bands, *issued separately as such*, can be discovered.

The last subject to be here mentioned is one which naturally follows the above. In pursuing his inquiries into this matter, the writer has had the good fortune to secure, from a most undoubted source, a copy of the stamped half sheet, on blue paper, with threads, but with the one penny *dated stamp;* the date is 1-17-60—17 January, 1860. This was probably a trial, and but one or two impressions were ever struck; indeed, a duplicate of the example now under description is believed not to be known.

Mr. Pearson Hill, to whose kindness the writer is indebted for many most interesting particulars, is of opinion that this specimen is almost, if not quite, unique; and as it has not been noticed or described hitherto, it must now be chronicled as an indisputable item, to be added to the already long list of the essays of Great Britain.

NEWLY-ISSUED OR INEDITED STAMPS.

FRANCE.—Let us commence with that most popular thing at present—a rumour. It is rumoured, then, that, on and after this first day of November, the Imperial stamps will be deposed, and a new Republican series will take their place. It seems we are not to have the old design with head of Liberty; this time Freedom is to sit for a full-length portrait, and underneath will be written the words which the Mayor of Paris has been assiduously scrawling on the churches and public buildings of besieged Paris—*Liberté, Egalité, Fraternité.* The values will no doubt be the same, though probably only the 10 and 20 centimes will at first appear; these will be urgently required in Paris for the post cards, and letters forwarded by balloon, and will also be needed in the provinces, where the supplies of the Imperial stamps are beginning to run very short.

WURTEMBURG.—The annexed is a representation of a Wurtemburg army envelope—one of the numerous and uninteresting series to which the war has given rise on the Prussian side. One or two such envelopes might be accepted as of a certain value, but when they come in swarms they are not worth collecting.



PARAGUAY.—We have to announce, upon the authority of our Belgian contemporary, a series of three stamps. As an act of justice to our contemporary, and a protection to ourselves, we prefer to leave him all the honour and responsibility of the announcement, and shall therefore quote his description *verbatim:* "The new stamps of which we lately spoke were put in circulation on the 1st of August last, by the post-office department of Buenos Ayres, as we had stated. There are three values—1, 2, 3 reales—all of different types, which we shall reproduce next month. The 1 real represents, on a ground of horizontal lines, a lion erect, holding between his paws a staff, at the end of which is a Phrygian bonnet; surrounding the lion, in a circle, is the inscription, REPUBLICA DEL PARAGUAY—*un real;* above and below the circle, the word UNO, and on a small circle in each corner the figure 1. The 2 reales has the same arms, but in an oval, inscribed REPUBLICA DEL PARAGUAY; in the angles the word *dos.* The 3 reales likewise represents a lion erect, but in a lozenge, the inscription being the same as in the preceding two, except the value, *tres reales.* In the angles are large figures indicating the value, These lions considerably resemble learned dogs in the exercise of their functions. They seem to be also of different ages: the 3 reales has the youngest look, the 2 reales the oldest, and the 1 real is *middle*-aged. The impression of these stamps is in colour on thick white paper and unperforated."

1 real carmine-rose.
2 „ dark blue.
3 „ black blue.

UNITED STATES.—We described last month the envelope stamp of which this illustration is a copy. Since then there have been no fresh arrivals of the series; but, pursuant to the post-office advertisement, which we published in our September number, a new series has been prepared, and is, we believe, now in circulation. The *American Journal of Philately* stated, under date 1st October, that "A new set of envelope stamps are now ready for use, and will be furnished by postmasters on and after this date. The new set will be of the same designs and colours as the present, but will be *oblong instead of oval.*"



RUSSIA.—*Belozersk.*—We have just received from our St. Petersburg correspondent specimens of a new stamp which does duty for the Belozersk village post, and is of the value of 2 kopeks. It is an upright rectangle, the frame being formed of a double line; the figure 2 on a black disk appears in each corner, and the centre of the stamp is occupied with the inscription; the ground consists of lines forming a kind of fluted pattern, and these lines are in red; the rest of the stamp is in black, and the whole is on white paper. Our copy is obliterated with a pen-stroke.

CONFEDERATE STATES. — *Livingston.* — The increased activity of collectors in the United States is producing fruit in the discovery of several more Confederate locals. Among others, the Livingston stamp has just come to light, and has been described in the *American Stamp Mercury.* We now give a copy of the illustration which appeared therein, and need only add that the design is printed in blue, on white paper. The only known copy is postmarked.



NEW GRANADA.—M. Moens wittily remarks that the post-office department at Bogota is a regular stamp *mitrailleuse.* The annexed cut represents the first stamp of a new series, intended to supersede the set which began to appear in 1868, and has never been completed. The colour of this new arrival is pale yellow on white. As to the design,—we abstain from criticism.



CUNDINAMAICA.—Specimens of the 5 and 10 centavos for this state are before us: they are rectangular, on plain white paper, lithographed, and not perforated. The two designs slightly vary; but the chief features consist of the eagle surmounting the arms and a trophy, as in the stamps of New Granada, and in a fancy border, CORREOS CUNDINAMAICA. The values are:

5 centavos pale blue. 10 centavos red.

GREAT BRITAIN.—There are already two varieties of the post-card in existence. The one measures $4\frac{3}{4}$ in. by $3\frac{1}{2}$ in.; the other $4\frac{3}{4}$ in. by 3 in., and the former is uniformly found of a darker shade than the latter. We have it, on good authority, that no more of the former size will be made, because it is found that, when tied up with the ordinary letters, the large ones get cut by the string.

NEWFOUNDLAND.—We have just received two new stamps for this colony, each of which bears a portrait of her Majesty the Queen to right, in widow's weeds. They are very similar in design to the Canadian fiscal stamps emitted some time back. The word NEWFOUNDLAND, in curved label, appears immediately above the portrait; large figure of value in upper, and stars in lower corners. The values and colours are:

3 cents red. 6 cents carmine.

PAPERS FOR BEGINNERS.—No. VIII.

BY OVERY TAYLOR.

EUROPE.

Austria.

THERE are few stamps whose history has been so clearly ascertained as those of the Austrian empire—my youngest reader might pass an examination on them with credit—and my work in reviewing them will be too simple to permit of its being interesting.

The issue of stamps in Austria commenced at a tolerably early date, although not until ten years after the postal system had been in full work in this country. It was on the 10th of June, 1850, that the following series appeared:—

1 kreuzer yellow.	6 kreuzer brown.
2 „ black.	9 „ blue.
3 „ red.	

The design is prim, and not remarkable for beauty—few first emissions indeed are—but on the brighter-coloured stamps it shows up clearly. The paper is strong, and of a slightly yellowish tint; the gum also is remarkable for its thickness.

In colour, the following are the only varieties:—1 kr. orange, 3 kr. brick-red, 6 kr. light brown, 9 kr. indigo. None of these are of the slightest rarity, and all may be set down as mere accidental variations. As to the orange, there is a doubt whether it should not be considered the standard shade; however, this is a question of little importance, and in point of fact, the 1 kr. may be met with of all shades—from the lightest yellow to the deepest orange. In Moens' album place is given for two shades of this value, and for one shade only of the others, and this is quite sufficient. Reprints of this —as of the succeeding series—exist, and are distinguishable from the originals by the thinness and dull white tint of the paper. My readers have no need, however, to content themselves with these reproductions, as they can have the originals for a penny a

piece, and a used original is worth three unused reprints any day.

The first series continued in use until the 1st of November, 1858, when its place was taken by what one might term, if irreverently disposed, the "doll's-head," or "milliner's-block" set. It bore, in reality, the emperor's head to left, but on so small a scale, as to be worse than ineffective. The original values and colours were:—

2	kreuzer,	yellow.
3	„	black.
5	„	red.
10	„	brown.
15	„	blue.

In March, 1859, the 3 kr. was issued in green, and in 1860 the 2 kr. was printed orange-yellow. The short currency of the black 3 kr., and the orange 2 kr., renders them a trifle rarer than the other stamps, but the whole series can be had for very little.

The framework, which is conceived in better taste than the portrait itself, differs in each value, and it is worthy of note that the band on the 10 kr. contains seven armorial shields; that of the empire figures in the centre; the side shields I take to contain those of the subordinate possessions, and perhaps those of the house of Hapsburg. This, however, is a point I must leave to students of heraldry.

Of the reprints the following critique was written in 1868.* "The 1858 series is equally distinguished by thinner paper and white gum, but the latter is, in this instance, as heavily laid on as in the originals. All the stamps have a bright new look about them; a freshness such as even a well-preserved old stamp seldom shows. The colours are brighter, but not so rich and deep as in the originals, in evidence of which may be adduced the fact that the 2 kr. orange has not been reproduced, whilst its companion, the 2 kr. pale yellow, is represented by a somewhat brighter shade. But the most effective check consists in the number of the dents, which count but twelve to the two-centimetre guage, in lieu of fifteen. On placing a reprint by the side of an original, this difference is plainly observable."

* See *Stamp-Collector's Magazine*, vol. vi., p. 187.

It will be observed, that a difference in the number of dents is made one of the chief points of comparison with regard to the above. Now, though I do not counsel the collection, as a rule, of stamps merely varying from each other in the size of the perforations, yet such variations deserve a certain attention, from their value as detective agents, and I therefore take the opportunity to mention that the two-centimetre guage, which is that generally adopted, equals roughly four-fifths of an inch. The following scale, however, will perhaps be more serviceable, and more exact, than mere description:—

Hence it will be understood that, instead of counting the number of dents down the whole side of a stamp, it is only necessary to apply the guage, and count those which are comprised within its limits.

To return from this digression: the succeeding series saw the light on the 15th of January, 1861, and comprise the following values:—

2	kreuzer,	yellow.
3	„	green.
5	„	red.
10	„	brown.
15	„	light blue.

The 5 kr. is also catalogued as bright green, and the 15 kr. as Prussian blue.

This series is generally known as the "head to right." In so far as the portrait is concerned, it is an improvement on its predecessor, and we may suppose that the increase in size was specially ordered by the authorities. The oval frame is very simple, and the design altogether pleases the eye—a row of these stamps having a very good effect. The paper, furthermore, is substantial, and the perforation neat. The reprints are distinguishable by the same characteristics as those of the 1858 series, except as regard paper: this, though whiter, is as thick as the originals; perforation, however, comes in again as an effective means of detection. The originals have fourteen, the reprints twelve dents within the two-centimetre guage.

(To be continued.)

THE RUSSIAN LOCALS.

Our St. Petersburg correspondent, to whom we have been frequently indebted for early information, sends us the translation of a recently published article which throws new light on the uses of the little-known Russian Locals. The article in question appeared in the *St. Petersburg Exchange News*, of the $\frac{15}{27}$th Sept. last, a paper which is the organ of the Russian post-office, and publishes all its regulations. It reads as follows:—

"It is known that the repeal of the free carriage of the local courts' correspondence in its time created a good deal of trouble and annoyance, and was almost the cause of the opening of special village posts. Thus, for instance, the Voronej Government Land Assembly, in December, 1869, resolved to establish a village post in the government of Voronej, and to have special carriers at the local courts, for carrying the correspondence between each other, not limited to post roads; but this act, being disapproved of by the Voronej governor, was annulled last August by the senate, on the ground of it not being in accordance with, in the first place, the 1114th clause of the Code, which directly prohibits the opening of any private establishment over and above the post-office department, for carrying letters or light packages; and, in the second place, with the imperial statute of 1st May, 1870, regarding the manner of conveying the correspondence of local courts. Nevertheless, the unsuccessful and premature reform in conveying the local courts' correspondence, as if in justification of the truth of the proverb, "There is no evil without good," has occasioned the granting of conveniences in written intercourse between the inhabitants of the by-corners of our extensive country, which they had not up to the present enjoyed, either on account of their geographical position, which has deprived them of postal communication, or through their lying at some distance from a post-office establishment. Drawn to the idea by the Voronej Land Assembly, we hear that the Ministry of Interior Affairs has found it possible to allow such of the local courts as may desire it to establish their own local posts, on the following conditions:—1. The local post has the right to receive from the post-offices, for delivery throughout the circuits, common letters, as also newspapers, magazines, and declarations for money, registered and book-package correspondence; to receive all sorts of correspondence from places at a distance, for transmission to the nearest post-office, and to convey all sorts of correspondence between villages of circuit which are deprived of postal communication. 2. Persons wishing to receive correspondence from the post-office in the aforesaid manner (*i. e.*, through the village post) are obliged to present, at the post-offices, separate written declarations, or formal decisions on same, of village courts to which they may belong. 3. The course of the village post can only be along the by-roads, not on post roads. Therefore, all correspondence of local courts or private individuals along post roads can only be executed through the post-offices. 4. The local posts are not prohibited from having their own *postage stamps*, but on the condition that the stamps have nothing in common in their design with the postage stamps of the government post; and, 5. The carriers of the local post may have, on the bags used by them, the representation of the government or circuit coat of arms, without the posthorns."

It is indeed satisfactory to find the authentic character of the Russian locals so well and thoroughly established. In spite of what had already been stated respecting these stamps, a doubt existed in the minds of many collectors as to their genuineness, and our own correspondent had his belief in them staggered a few days before the above article appeared. He had written to the postmasters of two or three of the towns where the locals were supposed to be in use, and they had replied to him that no such stamps were in existence. Determined to arrive at the truth, he himself went down to Schluesselburg, but even his own inquiries on the spot produced no result. He communicated these facts to us, but could not explain them; he himself had taken the stamps of Borowitz and others from letters, and after this it was indeed astonish-

ing to be told that there were not any such stamps known. This new article, however, changes the face of affairs; the village postmasters are not the persons to apply to; the officials of the local courts alone control the circulation of these stamps, and it is to them that application must be made.

This just shows how necessary it is to use great circumspection in deciding upon the value of little-known stamps. The fact that the postmasters were unacquainted with them, seemed unequivocally to condemn them, but later information fully explains their ignorance, and justifies the stamps.

That the local emissions are but very little used at present is evident, and the reason is not far to seek. Any correspondent who desires his letters to come forward by the rural post must first obtain the permission of the local powers that be, to receive them thereby, and as letter writers, and business men are probably few and far between, the number of authorisations granted is not likely to have been very large as yet. Still the system is slowly spreading, and if worked without these restrictions, may greatly aid in the circulation of knowledge, and in the increase of trade in the country districts.

Our correspondent forwards us a copy of another new local, of which a description will be found in our article on New Issues.

THE STAMPS OF MOLDAVIA AND ROUMANIA.

TRANSLATED FROM "LE TIMBRE-POSTE."

THE actual existence of the stamps of the first emission is always placed in doubt by a few disciples of St. Thomas; the reason is, that information on that series is completely wanting, a fact which even Dr. Magnus could only testify to in his excellent *brochure* on the stamps of these countries, without being able to throw any light on the mystery which envelopes that emission.

These doubts we are now able to dissipate, in assigning an exact date to the emission, which, we may add, we have not obtained without some trouble. In fact, it is not so very easy to get information down in Roumania; when we addressed ourselves to Jassy, we were referred, six months afterwards, to Bucharest. At Bucharest, when the decision to reply to us was taken, we were politely requested to apply to Jassy. In short, we found ourselves obliged to renounce the project we had formed of convincing the incredulous, documents in hand.

M. N. Rondot, whose position would have enabled him to succeed where we could not hope to, was not more fortunate than us, and contented himself by informing us in the *Magasin Pittoresque* (1864 p. 183), that the first stamps saw the light, according to all appearances, about 1854, during the Crimean war. In a moment of sweet unbending, an official at Jassy wrote to us that it was in 1859. These two dates are erroneous, as we shall show.

The obliging correspondent from whom, at last, we obtained our information, states that it was the Moldavian Minister of Finances who, by an order of the 11th July, 1858, No. 6313, announced that the Prince Caïmacan, or Caïm-Mékam,* Vogoridi had approved (order 2663) the use of postage stamps and their emission on the 15th July, 1858. The stamps, it was said, would be struck by hand, and would be of four values: 27, 54, 81, and 108 paras.

The 27 paras would prepay a *small*† letter and for a distance of 1—8 posts ($7\frac{1}{2}$—$8\frac{3}{4}$ miles).

The 54 paras, a *small* letter, for a distance of upwards of 8 posts.

The 81 paras, a *large* letter.

The 108 paras, a letter with receipt [doubtless meaning a registered letter].

From these facts, we think the existence of the first emission is sufficiently established; nevertheless, if, as we hope, our correspondent should send us a copy of the decree, we shall not neglect to publish it *in extenso*; in the first place, because these precious documents are curious to read, and further more, that we may not have to return again to this question.

We will just remark, as the occasion now presents itself, that the 27 paras, which we

* Caïm-Mékam means literally, he who fills another's place, and really designates the lieutenant of and substitute for the Grand Vizier.

† We know not what distinguished a small letter from a large one, our correspondent not having given us any information on this point.—[ED. *Timbre-Poste.*]

discovered a little time back, and of which only one copy is known, is perfectly authentic, *notwithstanding* its rarity, as, indeed, Dr. Magnus has very sensibly presumed, in his *brochure*, wherein he gives at the same time, all the reasons which militate in favour of the stamp.

There exists no doubt whatever concerning the second and succeeding series of stamps, but possessing the authenticated dates of their emission we will here recapitulate them.

The report No. 8823 of the Minister of Finances, dated 18th September, 1858, calls for an alteration of the stamps. The Prince Caïmacan approves the request by an order, No. 4288, and decides that the emission shall take place on the 1st November, 1858, as follows:

40 paras for a single-rate letter.
80 „ „ „ „ registered.
5 „ for journals

These stamps were withdrawn on the 31st December, 1861.

On the 1st January, 1862, the stamps with the arms of the two United provinces—Moldavia and Wallachia—were put in circulation. There were 3 values: 3, 6, and 30 paras; suppressed the 31st December, 1864.

In January, 1865, there arrived the stamps with Prince Couza's effigy—2, 5, 20 paras; they gave place in June, 1866, to those with portrait of Prince Charles—2, 5, 20 parale. These latter were superseded on the 1st January, 1868, by stamps with the same effigy, but with the value in bani—2, 4, 18 bani. On the 1st April, 1869, the 5, 10, 15, 25, and 50 bani, appeared; and lastly, the 3 bani, on the 22nd May, 1870, all with effigy of Prince Charles.

The 18 bani no longer exists, and to cover the postage on letters which would require that value, the 3 and 15 bani stamps are used.

REVIEWS OF POSTAL PUBLICATIONS.

The Curiosity Cabinet. New York: W. P. Brown.

THIS is a new venture by an old and well-known collector. Its dimensions are modest, but its get-up is excellent; whether, however, it will be able to compete with the formidable rivals already in the field remains to be seen. Its first page is printed in phonetic characters: it contains an article, "TU OUR RIDURZ," on curiosities, and is a curiosity in itself. The three other pages (it forms altogether a single sheet) are occupied with short notices of stamps and advertisements. The prospectus states that the "Cabinet" has been issued for the purpose of bringing the proprietor's stock into public notice. We trust it will have this effect, and have no doubt it will also do good in its day and generation to the interests of philately.

The American Stamp Mercury and Numismatist.

Descriptive Catalogue of American and Foreign Postage Stamps. Sixth Edition. F. Trifet & Co., Boston, United States.

THE second volume of *The American Stamp Mercury*, which now lies before us, is a plain but tastefully-bound book, which we trust will meet with a ready sale. There is good reading in its pages, and inasmuch as Mr. Trifet has exerted himself to systematise the study of philately in the States, he deserves the fullest support. It is pleasant, on looking through this volume, to find that there is so much sound information scattered through it. Let us hope that the era of recrimination between respectable American journalists has passed away, and that we shall not again find the space which should be occupied with more interesting matter, filled up with the details of petty personal squabbles. With the *Mercury* one has now no such cause of dissatisfaction; the only regret that a stamp collector can have is that it is not wholly devoted to the support of philately, though numismatists probably have a similar objection to make in the opposite direction.*

Mr. Trifet's Price Catalogue, in some re-

* Since this has been in type, we have received the April number of *The Mercury*, in which the publishers of *Mason's Magazine* are roughly dealt with. Mr. Trifet, it is true, is replying to an unpleasant accusation, but still, if mutual respect were the rule between the publishers of American papers, there would be an end to the system of abusive writing, and its natural results—hasty charges and bitter recriminations.—ED.

spects a more sober publication than the one issued by Messrs. Scott, and recently noticed, will yet compare favourably with it in point of general neatness and accuracy. However, "comparisons are odorous," as Mrs. Malaprop says, so we will not pursue them farther, but we may fairly recommend this work with equal force to American collectors, and those who like to see plenty of illustrations will find special pleasure in perusing Mr. Trifet's list, as it contains no fewer than 140 of them.

[Both the above reviews have been crowded out of preceding numbers.]

CORRESPONDENCE.

ENGLISH ENVELOPES ON COLOURED PAPER, &c.

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

SIR,—Thanks for your attention to my communication last month. I have bought volumes 2 to 5 from your publishers, and got the promise of the first vol. I they get hold of.

English Envelopes.—I note your remarks on these, and also those in other parts of the number. As it appears to be the general impression that these *can* now be obtained on coloured paper *by favour only*, notwithstanding the prohibition which I pointed out, it may perhaps be of interest to you to see the enclosed penny on buff paper which has been impressed less than three weeks since for a business firm, who would hardly have any motive for getting it done as a favour. I may add, the envelope bore Waterlow's name.

Confederate States.—I have a copy of the small 10 cents, which is a most decided light *green*. It was sent me by a friend of mine in the States. He got it from an acquaintance who had had a relative in the Southern army, so that it has not passed through many hands. It is unused, but has a thoroughly old look, and I have no doubt it was bought when these stamps were actually in circulation. I have not the slightest doubt it is a bona-fide specimen, which has not been tampered with in any way; but as I have never seen any mention of such a variety, I conclude that the action of time must have produced the change of colour. Have you ever met with a similar variety?

I am, yours truly,

Manchester. J. C.

THE SO-CALLED PORTLAND LOCAL STAMP.

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

DEAR SIR,—Will you allow me space enough for a few remarks in reply to your diatribe on my notification of the United States local adhesive you persist in ignoring? The genuine character of the Canadian must remain a moot question, there seeming no means of testing the same; but the Portland local was catalogued in the earliest editions of Oppen, long before I became its editor. You rather misapprehend my description in the April number of *The Philatelist*. I meant to imply, not that the stamp was newly issued, but that it was a local still in active use; and fully explained that use in the September number. The first specimen I received from Boston had been used; those which I afterwards procured direct from Mr. Prince's office at Portland are uncancelled. They are not sold to the public, and an application from a party in the town for some was refused; on learning which I wrote expressly to the proprietor, explaining the circumstances, and requesting specimens to contradict the assertions against their character. For further proof, I may instance the possession of an individual by the Secretary of the Philatelic Society, affixed side by side with an United States adhesive, the postmark equally marking the two. Finally, M. Moens, to whom I showed some, acknowledges their genuineness; as also does an authority against whom you yourself will not appeal, viz, Mr. Pemberton. I must conclude with an apology for "unparliamentary" language, writing under some natural irritation, and beg you to believe I did not apply the objectionable word to your sentiments towards myself, but towards my Boston correspondent.

I remain, dear Sir, yours faithfully,

THE EDITOR OF "THE PHILATELIST."

[We accept with pleasure the explanation of our contemporary, but though he may think we err on the side of incredulity, we cannot refrain from pointing out that nothing is easier than to affix a label, of no matter what kind, by the side of a government stamp, in such a manner as to insure the falling of the postmark on both.—ED.]

THE ENGLISH SIXPENCE EMBOSSED STAMP.

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

DEAR SIR,—"Inquirer," in your last number, gives it as his opinion that the date assigned by Mr. Pearson Hill, and accepted by Mr. Overy Taylor, as the natal one of the sixpence embossed, is a mistake.

"Inquirer" bases his conclusions upon the fact, that the sixpenny was issued imperforate some few years after the perforating system had been adopted for the penny. Although the argument is a tenable one, still I think it can be reasoned away, particularly after Mr. Hill's positive statement that the stamp in question was not emitted until 1854.

In the first place, we must consider that the cost of a perforating machine, of such workmanship as would be required by the post-office, would be great, and that the machine that was used for the penny could not be adapted to the larger stamps. If it was thought requisite to perforate the higher values, the authorities would doubtless have caused a machine to have been constructed, and would have used it, not only for the sixpenny, but for the shilling and tenpenny also.

As denticulation was introduced in 1850, and the embossed shilling was current until 1856, it seems, according to "Inquirer's" theory, somewhat strange that the department never adopted the improvement for the higher value which they gave to the two lowest.

Again, several thousands of the tenpenny were re issued in 1866; how is it they were not perforated?

I do not think (with all due deference to your correspondent) that we can approximate the date of issue of the embossed sixpence by taking into consideration the perforation of the penny.

Yours faithfully,

Birmingham. W. DUDLEY ATLEE.

THE ENGLISH NEWSPAPER BAND AND ENVELOPE.

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

SIR,—I have in my collection one of the specimen sheets of the three embossed stamps mentioned in Mr.

Overy Taylor's article, "Papers for Beginners," in *The Stamp-Collector's Magazine* for September.

Mr. Taylor gives the dates on the fourpenny, sixpenny, and shilling, respectively, as 8-12-55, 5-12-55, and 7-12-55, whereas my sixpenny and shilling are *both* dated 7-12-55.

Also, in addition to the inscription he mentions, I have, printed at the bottom, 26th Nov., 1855.

I am, perhaps, fortunate in the possession of several of the early specimen stamps and envelopes of Great Britain. Amongst them is what I have hitherto considered the very rare half-sheet of letter paper, but since reading Mr. Taylor's article, I am very doubtful whether it be the "half sheet," or the "newspaper band" described by him. It is on white paper. It is folded as a note, and, contrary to the assertion, the stamp does come in the proper place, but the paper has only two threads,—a blue and a red,—and they run horizontally, just over, but without touching, the stamp. The word SPECIMEN is below the stamp.

I have another envelope, about which I shall be glad of information. The stamp itself is obliterated with the Maltese cross in black. By its side is a postmark, the *facsimile* of which I send, and above is written, SUNDAY STAMP.

Mr. Taylor says the first penny stamp was the only one obliterated with the Maltese cross in red. I possess several of the first twopence so marked. The red shows with great brilliancy on the peculiar tint of the blue used at that time. Many years ago I placed in my album a stamp in every respect identical with the more recent twopence, with letters in all four corners, and the small 8 at the sides, but it is quite black. It has not undergone any change whatever. Only in one spot can I trace a blue tint. The white parts are quite distinct, although not as perfectly white as in the black stamps. Pray pardon my trespassing so long on your valuable space.

I remain, yours obediently,

Teignmouth. E. C.

[The stamp, of which our correspondent sends a tracing, consists of a circle with a scalloped border. The inscription is in three lines, and reads, SUN—DE: 12-1841. It is struck in red.—ED.]

THE SOUTH AFRICAN REPUBLIC STAMPS—AN AMERICAN MARE'S NEST.

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

DEAR SIR,—A correspondent of the *American Journal of Philately*, signing himself F. K. W., denounces the adhesives and envelopes of the South African Republic as a "batch of humbugs," "surpassing even the Hamburg locals." I give the writer of that wonderful epistle the credit of acting with the very best intentions, but would remind him that barefaced assertion is not argument, and that it is more seemly to have proof of a statement before giving publicity to it.

As my name has been intimately associated with these stamps, I feel that I owe it as a duty, not only to myself, but to your readers, to prove their genuineness. To do so it will be necessary for me to give the history of the introduction of postage stamps into the Transvaal; and I think I shall be able to convince you that the stamps were *not* made to sell, as stated by the semi-anonymous correspondent, who hides himself under the flimsy mask of a transposition of initials.

F. K. W. is very severe upon the mental culture attained by the Transvaalians, and hits off some very sarcastic flippancies in relation thereto; but he shows a great lack of physiological knowledge when he terms the inhabitants "half civilized."

As one of these "half-civilized" beings is a cousin of mine, and another an old friend, I may say that I am pretty well mixed up with these poor semi-savages; and it was through having these friends in the Republic that I tried to improve their postal arrangements, by suggesting the emission of stamps.

In the autumn of 1867 I wrote out to my cousin, asking him to see the postmaster-general, but some six months previous to that, I had had a conversation with the consul-general, in London, upon the subject; and in the following November I heard that a member of the legislature was on his way to England, with full powers as to the issue of postage stamps. Upon the strength of this, I wrote the few lines which appeared in your journal for December, 1867. The gentleman above alluded to was detained in the Transvaal through pressure of business, so the matter sunk, for a short time, into abeyance.

In February, 1868, the consul sent out the estimate of a London house for printing and perforating a million stamps upon tinted paper; but in the meanwhile, the contract had been given to a firm in Mecklenburg; and early last year I received a letter from Mr. Jeppe (the postmaster-general), dated 2nd December, informing me that it was decided to issue stamps upon New-Year's day, 1869. I was also favoured with a sketch of the design (which was afterwards altered), and other particulars, all of which I embodied in an article on the South African Republic, in *The Stamp-Collector's Magazine* for March, 1869.

In reply to a letter of mine, Mr. Jeppe wrote, under date May 19th, to the effect that, "owing to some delay in the shipment of the press and plates, the stamps are not yet issued." At the same time, I was informed that only three values were to be emitted at first, and that another type was soon to be adopted, having the head of the President in lieu of the arms. I also received a copy of the *Staats Courant* of 28th April, 1869, containing the government notice and regulations concerning the stamps. A translation of the leading rules will be found in your number for September, 1869.

In November, the trio of 1d., 6d., and 1s. arrived, perforated by roulette, and early this year the set was completed by an unperforated threepenny. These stamps were all struck off in Germany, but lately some home-printed copies of the earlier values have come over imperforated, and these, I must confess, are far from fine in their execution.

Now, I ask any rational person if it is at all likely that a wholesale fraud would be practised by the postmaster of a flourishing colony, and if such a fraud would be, not only winked at by the government, but even promulgated in the official gazette, under the hand, and with the authority, of different members of the council?

F. K. W. says, that he particularly wishes to call attention "to a batch of humbugs, that have been forced upon collectors by parties who have, to say the least of it, been very easily duped, if, indeed, they were not the devisers of the swindle; and," adds F. K. W., "I think I shall be able to prove to your satisfaction, and that of my fellow collectors, that the stamps of the South African Republic are the greatest humbugs that have ever been got-up in the philatelic line, surpassing even the Hamburg locals."

F. K. W. must have been fully aware, from the articles that have appeared in your magazine, that the Transvaal stamps were introduced to philatelists by myself; I therefore think it a most scandalous accusation to imply, as he does in his letter, that I am "the deviser of the swindle." If F. K. W. has any proofs wherewith to

substantiate his assertions, let him cast off his disguise, and appear unveiled as *W. K. Freeman*, and I will then answer him. When I tell you, that I have not made, or in fact, even tried to make, a single shilling out of these abused labels, you must admit that I could have but little interest in "devising such a swindle."

As the "enterprising young man" referred to (Mr. Jeppe) is about fifty, the remarks of F. K. W. show how very little he knows concerning the subject he has taken in hand. A writer must be badly off for an argument when he is obliged to sacrifice truth for the sake of "clap-trap" effect.

If it is any consolation to F. K. W., I can inform him that Mr. Jeppe *is* a stamp collector, and that it was I who proposed him as a member of the Philatelic Society. He only became a member in December last, and the stamps were ordered at least a year before then; so how Mr. Jeppe obtained the idea of issuing stamps from his connection with the society I am at a loss to conceive,—it is a "deep and bitter mystery," and one which I present to the amateur detective, F. K. W., for elucidation.

Now for the envelopes. It was entirely at my suggestion that these were issued. In one of my letters to the postmaster I observed, that if the adhesives were not ready, it would be as well to issue provisionals, either in the shape of type-set adhesives, or handstamped envelopes. The latter plan was adopted; and I have now in my possession an affidavit, wherein the deponents testify upon oath that envelopes have been prepared, and *have been used*, bearing the design figured in the margin, which design was a copy of the stamp described in *The Stamp-Collector's Magazine*, page 58 of the present volume. I myself have an envelope which has been franked with that handstamped impression.

As is well known, the emission of labels was, through various causes, considerably delayed, and although they were advertised for the 1st January, 1870, they were not really sold at Potchefstroom until about March, as only a few pounds' worth arrived there in 1869, and *all* those were forwarded to this country. Therefore, the first handstamp being worn-out and destroyed, another was prepared on a smaller scale, and a few impressions placed upon envelopes, and issued as provisionals, after the manner of the first type. Both these types are of great rarity, and copies are only in the hands of a very few.

As regards the proofs of the adhesives, I have nothing to say, except that they were obtained from the printers in Germany, and are, in my estimation, quite worthless.

I should recommend F. K. W. not to be so liberal in future with his positive assertions, but to "first make sure he is right, and then go a-head."

I cannot conclude without expressing my approval of the few impartial remarks with which F. K. W.'s letter is introduced by the editor. He judiciously says, that he awaits further information before endorsing the statements of his correspondent.

Yours truly,

Birmingham. W. DUDLEY ATLEE.

ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS.

R. N. P.—The stamp you send is the new 48 sk. Denmark. It is perfectly genuine.

R. K., and P. C. H. O. F., London.—We are obliged to you for noticing the difference in size of post-cards, and we notice them in our current chronicle.

ALICE, Chichester.—You are quite right in supposing that the design for a new Roman series, which appeared in our August number, will not be adopted by the new government at Rome. Probably, a new series of Italian stamps will appear, if the finances will admit of it, in order to commemorate the acquisition of Rome.

C. O. W., Uttoxeter.—This correspondent, in proof of the authenticity of the Honduras stamps, sends us one which he took off a letter, sent by a friend in Honduras to one of his relatives. The question of their authenticity may now be considered settled, but a doubt is raised as to the date of their emission. A letter is published in an American journal, purporting to be from R. H. Rosseau, U. S., Minister resident, Honduras; in which he says that the stamps were made at his suggestion; and in a footnote to the letter, it is stated that Mr. Rosseau was appointed on the 14th May, 1866; so that, allowing time for him to get to his post, and to make the suggestion, and for the printing off of the stamps, they could hardly, according to this account, have appeared before 1867; but the stamps, whose genuine character is now proved, were known in this country as early as the spring of 1865; and were sold here to collectors by a firm, who, through its relations with the Honduras consul at Liverpool, had been able to get a considerable supply, several months before they were in circulation in Honduras itself. Seeing, then, that the stamps were known here in '65, we cannot quite understand how it is they were made at the suggestion of Mr. Rosseau in '66-7.

G. W. B. (M.).—*Natal:* To this correspondent we are indebted for calling our attention to the present 6d. Natal, watermarked CC. and crown. The shade is an intense bright violet. This shade, it will be seen, corresponds to the current 4d. Trinidad, which is printed by the same firm.—*North German Confederation:* We had noticed that the colour of the ½ groschen machine-perforated, now current, was a fine *mauve*.—*Mexico:* The current set of all the values has minute differences between each specimen on the plate. These are very conspicuous in the countenances and expressions of some of the portraits, and the figures and lettering of others are equally clear. Our correspondent sends us a 6 c. with a dot after the figure 6. Some copies have no dot, and our correspondent asks, with reason, may not this be considered a variety.—*East Indies:* The 4 and 8 annas perforated are on blue paper. They were printed on paper having a distinct shade of blue in it, and their present appearance is not due to any doctoring or accident.—*Victoria:* Sixpence blue, perforated, present issue, watermarked double-lined figure 1. This is not given in Mr. Pemberton's list, and our correspondent submits a copy showing the watermark very distinctly. This variety must find a place, therefore, in the catalogue of errors of watermark of this *erroneous* colony.—*Two Sicilies:* Our correspondent sends us a postmark handstamped in blue ink; legend—*Regia Posta di Napoli*—in a plain ring, about the size of a halfpenny, with a *fleur de lys* where the legend ends and begins. This we believe to be a handstamp of the Naples city-post, and not a frank stamp or its equivalent: a mere post-office mark; but we have no certain knowledge, and shall be glad if any of our numerous readers can assist us by elucidating the fact.—Your stamps are all genuine, except the Austrian Mercuries, which are both forged. Compare them against a blue copy and you will see the difference at once.—The Van Diemen's Land were drawn by a person named Coard, and they all vary: there are not two of the one penny and fourpence alike on the plate.—*Sardinia*, first issue; These were lithographed. Your No. xv. is from a comparatively new stone (see the shading of the hair over the brow), while No. xvi. is from a worn stone.—The Swedish 4 sk. bco. are both authentic, the difference is merely that arising in the printing.

POSTAGE STAMPS FROM THE SEAT OF WAR.

Partly from *Le Timbre-Poste*, and partly from private sources, we are enabled to furnish early information respecting the new stamps of the French Republic.

We referred last month to the rumour, that on the 1st of November stamps, bearing a full-length figure of the Republic (or Liberty), and inscribed with the words LIBERTE, EGALITE, FRATERNITE, were to be issued; and it now appears that an announcement to that effect was made in the Paris *Journal Officiel;* but though they are probably in preparation, they have not yet appeared. In their stead we have the old Republic stamps back again! Strange mutation which brings them once more into currency. Advocates of the advantages of philately, when urging the historical value of a collection, have been apt to point their argument, by reference to the stamps of 1848 and their successors; but none dreamed that the old finely-engraved designs which have contributed so much to ornament our French page, would one day be in circulation again; that the laurel-crowned emperor would be a prisoner; and a republican government occupy his place. Still less could they anticipate that supplies of the recalled stamps would be issued whilst Paris was in a state of siege, and leave the capital by balloon. How much stronger the case for stamp collectors will now become, when for years hence they may point, in justification of their pursuit, to the stamps which, thus resuscitated, are connected, and that in the most direct manner, with one of the most important events in the world's history.

From a very interesting letter written by Dr. Magnus, forwarded from Paris *par ballon monté*, and published in the current number of our Belgian contemporary, we learn that the following notice appeared in the *Petit Moniteur Universel* of the 14th October (published the previous evening). "Yesterday the new stamps of the Republic were put on sale at the central office of the *Hôtel des Postes*. The offices of the *arrondissements* will be successively supplied with them; and in a few days M. Rampont (the postmaster-general) will have satisfied the sharp complaints on the subject, which have been addressed to him by certain republicans."

Up to the present time only two values have been issued; they are the two which we suggested last month as likely to appear the first:—

10 centimes bistre.
20 „ blue.

The stamps which are used in the capital are *perforated;* this in itself sufficiently distinguishes them from the original emission. Of the 20 c. we have now a copy before us, and find that, as Dr. Magnus states, the number of dents is the same as in the imperial 20 c., resulting from the employment of the same perforating machine. The colour of the stamp also is, we may say, identical with that of the 20 c. blue of the empire, but the tint of the paper is much lighter, being in fact hardly discernible. The 10 centimes is described by Dr. Magnus as not resembling in colour either the 1850 stamp, which was dark yellowish bistre, nor that of 1862, which is a paler shade of yellow; it is, in fact, a *reddish* brown.

Thus far the learned doctor. From a contributor residing in France we have information that both the 10 and 20 centimes exist *unperforated*. As the supply of imperial stamps is now nearly exhausted, the provincial offices are beginning to receive from Tours a stock of the republican stamps of the two values. Our correspondent, who dates from Boulogne, says that the 10 centimes is already in use there, and that the 20 c., of which a stock has been received, will be issued as soon as the imperial stamps are used up. At Amiens* the 20 c. is in circulation.

Now as to the perforation: the 10 centime stamps sold at Boulogne and the 20 c. of Amiens are unperforated; whilst the Boulogne officials affirm that their 20 c. stamps are perforated. If this statement be correct, then we get both varieties among the provincial supplies, but it becomes difficult then to say where the stamps were manufactured. To admit that the stock was sent out from Paris by balloon is rather difficult, for the

* Just after this was written, Amiens was, and continues to be, occupied by the Germans.

weight of such a quantity of paper as it would be composed of would be considerable, and further, if the stamps had been made in Paris, they would certainly have been perforated, and would most probably have been of the same colour; whilst, in fact, the blue is darker, and the 10 centimes is of a *very pale yellowish bistre*. It is far more probable that they were made at Tours, and there being no perforating machine there, the supplies had to be despatched unperforated; and only the alleged possession of a perforated supply at the Boulogne offices militates against this hypothesis.

In a few days we shall know the truth about the Boulogne 20 c., but, meanwhile, we can affirm, after a most careful examination, that whilst the stamps used in Paris are from the original dies, *the provincial supplies have been printed either from new or retouched dies*, and we strongly incline to believe that the design has been entirely re-engraved. Comparison of a Tours stamp (as we will term it) with either a Parisian current reprint, or an original will show fifty differences in detail; hardly a single line in the Tours stamp is *identical* in position with its representative in the original; the head is rounder, there is less space at the top between it and the edge of the pearled circle, the curve of the eyebrow is continued to the temple; all the lettering is smaller; on the right upper corner the last bar of the Greek border is carried clean up to the corner square; the disposition of the hair is not the same, and —most easy point in distinguishing—the shading of the neck is formed of thick straight continuous lines instead of fine curved dotted ones. The general resemblance, however, is so great, that one can hardly imagine it possible for any engraver, and particularly a provincial one, to follow the original with such scrupulous accuracy. If, however, as is pretty evident, supplies of stamps are being printed independently and simultaneously at Tours and Paris, there must be two sets of dies at work, and unless there were sent out from Paris casts from the original dies, there must have been new dies made at Tours. We hope we may be able to solve these interesting points in our next number. As to date of emission, we may accept the 12th of October as that of the Paris-printed pair, but we feel certain that the provincial supplies could not have appeared earlier than the middle of November. The Boulogne postmaster had made repeated applications for stamps to the Tours office, but he only received his supplies about the 20th ult., and the first letter from Amiens, bearing a 20 c. republic, is dated the 26th ult. Had any been used before, our contributor could hardly have failed to obtain information of the fact.

THE FEDERAL STAMPS OF SWITZERLAND.

BY W. DUDLEY ATLEE.

We have often wondered how it is that although the stamps of most countries have been catalogued, with all their varieties of perforation, shade, and watermark, the labels of Switzerland have been so long neglected. Artemus Ward says a man told him that he once had a barrel of pork, both the head and bottom of which being gone, the pork fell out, but the brine remained. "The man said it was a mystery." This is all the explanation we get of this wonderful phenomenon, and the remark that "it is a mystery," is the only one we think applicable to the non-existence of more published information concerning the Federal Swiss.

What we have to contend is this: if variations in the watermark are to be collected, surely we cannot conscientiously do otherwise than notice stamps which may have two colours of thread in the same value.

With the view of making a complete catalogue of all stamps issued in Switzerland since the new constitution of the states in 1848, we have gone carefully through hundreds of specimens, and, our labours being ended, we feel confidence in offering the following as an authentic list.

It is now acknowledged, both here and abroad, that the pair of labels at one time supposed to be used solely in Vaud and Neufchatel, were, in fact, common to all the French cantons, so we must insert them in our present paper.

Our greatest trouble has been how to describe the colours, as with so many contrary ideas on the subject it is a matter of

great difficulty to explain the shades so as to be generally understood; for what one person would call lilac, another would term mauve. In this state of uncertainty we have done our best to be explicit; and may mention here that what we give as a "deep" shade is always more intense than one simply termed "dark." V. means varying.

The colour of the shield in the first six types varies considerably, but as it is unnecessary to chronicle each distinct shade, we will merely mention that they begin at a pale rosy orange, and go through numerous gradations, until they reach a deep orange, and even lake.

TYPE I.

1849.—On a lined ground, a fancy ornamented device, containing a post-horn surmounted by a red circular shield, charged with a white cross. Inscription, POSTE LOCALE, above; value beneath. Black imp. on white wove paper; oblong.

4 centime black.
5 „ black.

TYPE II.

1850.—On a plain ground, a fancy red shield, with white cross in centre, post-horn above, the whole contained in a border of filagree work. Inscription in label above, ORTS-POST; value in lower angles.

15 c. rose, v.

Black imp. on thin wove paper; rect.

2½ rap. greyish black.
black.

TYPE III.

1850.—Same device, but inscribed POSTE-LOCALE.

2½ rap. greyish black.
black.

TYPE IV.

1850.—Same design as last, only inscribed RAYON I. Black imp. on colour.

5 rap. light blue, v. to
dark blue.
violet-blue.

1852.—Col imp. on white.

5 rap. pale blue, v. to
darker blue.
lilac-blue.

TYPE V.

1850.—Same device as last. RAYON II. Black imp. on colour.

10 rap. pale brownish yellow, v. to
deeper brownish yellow.
pale yellow, v. to
deeper yellow.
chrome yellow.
golden yellow.

TYPE VI.

In a fancy frame, a red shield bearing a white cross; label above, inscribed POSTE LOCALE, and another label with value below. Black imp. on white wove paper.

5 c. black.

TYPE VII.

1852.—Similar to type IV., but uni-coloured, with cross in shield lined to represent *gules*. RAYON III. Col imp. on wove paper; rect.

a.—Numeral of value small.

15 rap. pale rose.
darker rose.
vermilion-rose.

b.—Numeral of value larger.

15 rap. pale rose.
darker rose.
vermilion-rose.

c.—Value expressed in *centimes*.

15 c. rose, v.

TYPE VIII.

1854-62.—Figure of goddess seated, with shield charged with the Swiss arms. FRANCO above, value at sides in French, German, and Italian. Col. imp., embossed upon wove paper, varying in thickness. Rect. Coloured thread of silk running across each stamp.

2 rap. pale grey; green thread.
slate-grey. „
5 rap. bay-brown „
light cocoa „
dark cocoa „
bistre „
light brown „
dark brown „
deep brown „
violet-brown „

5 rap. pale chocolate; green thread.
dark chocolate ,,
burnt umber ,,
10 rap. sky-blue; rose thread.
pale blue, v. to
dark blue. ,,
washy blue ,,
dark blue; green thread.
deep blue ,,
15 rap. pale rose, v. to
dark rose ,,
pale rose; blue thread.
dark rose ,,
deep pink ,,
20 rap. lemon; green thread.
yellow ochre ,,
light orange ,,
dark orange ,,
brick-orange ,,
40 rap. pale yellow-green; green thread.
sap-green ,,
pale green, v. to
dark green ,,
deep green ,,
pale washy green; maroon thread.
yellow-green ,,
green. ,,
1 franc grey; black thread.
pale lilac ,,
deep lilac ,,
pale grey; yellow thread.
lavender ,,
lilac ,,

TYPE IX.

1862.—Similar device, but smaller; with inscription HELVETIA FRANCO, and figures in angles. Col. imp., on wove paper; Rect. Perforated by machine.

1862.—2 rap. light grey.
darker grey.
3 rap. black.
5 rap. brown, v.
chocolate.
10 rap. pale blue.
dark blue.
sky-blue.
20 rap. pale orange.
dark orange.
30 rap. vermilion, v.
40 rap. green.
dark green.
60 rap. dull bronze.
bright bronze.
1 franc gold.
1868.—5 rap. light bistre, v. to
darker bistre.
10 rap rose, v.
25 rap. green, v.
30 rap. dark blue.
pale blue.
50 rap. mauve.

ENVELOPES.

Embossed arms in circle, value at foot, eleven stars on each side of shield; envelope $5\frac{3}{4}$ by $3\frac{5}{16}$ in., on thin wove paper, with dove watermarked in centre. Device struck at right hand corner.

5 rap. light bistre.
dark bistre.
10 rap. light rose.
dark rose.
25 rap. light green.
dark green.
30 rap. deep blue.
pale blue.

II.

Same envelope, but design stamped to left.

5 rap. bistre.
10 rap. rose.
25 rap. green.
30 rap. pale blue.
dark blue.

THE BROWN CANADIAN THREE CENTS.

Whether or not there exists a brown variety of the current three-cents Canadian, is not a great point in itself, but as its decision must largely affect the value of other such varieties, derived or derivable from the same source, we think it advisable to present to our readers some important evidence which has just reached us, against the genuineness of the stamp.

The following letters will speak for themselves:—

"Dear Sir,—On reading over your number for October, and seeing your remarks on the Canadian three-cent *brown*, I followed your advice and wrote to our deputy postmaster-general, who, with his customary courtesy, kindly made the following reply to

my question, whether there were ever any three-cent stamps printed in brown, by accident or otherwise, and my inquiry for any information he could give about the expected 8 cents.

Post Office Department, Canada.
Ottawa, 19th October, 1870.

Dear Sir,—In reply to your inquiry of yesterday, I beg to say that I am not aware that any sheets of the three-cent Canada postage stamps have ever been printed in brown; and I should like, if not putting you to inconvenience, to hear why you ask the question.

No eight-cent stamp has as yet been put in preparation, but it is probable that such a stamp will be provided before long. I regret that I cannot inform you what the tint of colour may be.

I am, dear Sir,
Yours faithfully,
W. H. GRIFFIN.

"After I had received his letter, I remembered that in 1867 S. Allan Taylor sent, among other stamps, to a friend of mine, a 3 c. U. S., coloured *black*, like the enclosed, and I afterwards ascertained that its colour was changed by means of *hydro-sulphate of ammonia*. Procuring some, and dipping a 3 c. Canada in it, it produced, as I had expected, the valuable brown variety, a specimen of which I now forward; as to the postmark, that makes no difference.

"The same chemical will also change any of the *one*-cent Canadas, and a host of others, to a good brown; while the English twopence, and Confederate 10 c. dark blue, it will change to black; some greens it will change to brown, and others to a lighter coloured green.

"I answered Mr. Griffin by forwarding the numbers of *The Philatelist* and *The Stamp-Collector's Magazine* that made mention of the stamp in question. I enclose some of the stamps which I experimented on, and hope this will satisfy yourself, your readers, and the editor of *The Philatelist*.

"I remain, dear Sir,
"Yours truly,
"W. R. BALCH.

"*Montreal.*"

We have now before us the copy of the 3 cent brown sent us by our correspondent (to whom, by the way, the best thanks of the philatelic community are, in our opinion, due), and we can confidently affirm that it is of precisely the same shade as the specimen noticed by the editor of *The Philatelist;* at whose disposal we hold our copy, should he still be unconvinced.

Our correspondent sends us the following "varieties:" 2d. English *black*, 1 cent Canada large, and 1 c. small,—both *brown;* 3 cents United States, adhesive and envelope—both *black;* Confederate States 10 c. *black;* Wurtemburg, 3 kr. *light brown*—all most successful imitations, which few collectors, if the stamps were put before them without comment, would be disposed to reject. The chemical acts on the colour of the impression, without changing in the least the appearance of the paper; and as to the probabilities of the existence of such varieties as are thus produced, they are all in their favour.

The moral of this little episode is clearly, that no new colour varieties must be accepted (and none ought to be chronicled), unless they come from an *unquestionable* source. We should reject even such as might be sent us by honest, well meaning collectors, unless we had means of verifying their genuineness; for the most scrupulous collector might be deceived by such imitations, and *so, too, might postal officials;* therefore postmarked copies alone would be but poor proof. An admission on the part of the chief postal authorities of a country, that an *erreur d'impression* has occurred, or the exhibition by a postmaster of the entire *sheet* of stamps, showing the error, will alone give us sufficient confidence in colour varieties to permit of our introducing them to our readers.

A NEW POSTAL SCHEME FOR PARIS.

One of the correspondents in Paris of the *Pall Mall Gazette*, writing on the 12th of October, sent the following story by balloon post:—

In the midst of the uncertainty of all communication with the world without, brought upon us by winds unfavourable to the balloon post, the *Figaro* came out one morning with a notice from its editor, M. Villemessant, headed, "A thousand francs to be gained per week." This article set forth that there were a considerable number of persons of the editor's acquaintance in a state of utter desolation, owing to the absence of news from

their families, and that he believed he had found a simple and practicable means of communication, for which an intelligent man who could furnish good references was required: any such person would find him at the offices of the paper between nine and ten in the morning. The prospect of a thousand francs a week, when fifteenpence a day is all that can be earned by shouldering a gun morning and night, brought a crowd round the offices of the *Figaro* far greater than is to be found at any butcher's; and it is only round butchers' shops, and at the Hôtel de Ville when Major Flourens threatens a demonstration, that Parisian crowds are to be seen at all in these times.

But, unfortunately, there was not a single eligible individual among the mass who presented themselves. The *Figaro* thereupon announced that a retired poacher, accustomed to double when tracked by gardes champêtres and gardes-forestiers, who was up to all manner of roundabout ways of arriving at an object straight before him, who could recognize the track of a Prussian as readily as the track of a deer, and, above all, who could write, was precisely the individual sought after. The right man seems to have been found at last; and it was declared in the *Figaro* that any one who sent a very light unsealed letter to the office, accompanied by a remittance of five francs, might calculate upon its delivery and a reply in about a week or ten days' time after the approaching departure of the courier. The plan was to send him with a couple of hundred tiny letters which would go into a very small compass—which could, in fact, be stowed in one of his pockets in his hat, or, if necessary, in his boots. In the event of his getting through the Prussian lines he was to post these letters, after inserting in each of them a slip of paper naming the town at which he would await a reply by return of post; these replies he was to convey to Paris. To provide for his arrest by Prussian sentinels, he was furnished with a large card to display in front of him; and on this card was displayed a statement in German that the courier desired to be taken before an officer. On the back of the card the following pathetic appeal was printed also in the German language:—

The bearer has upon him a few open letters, which, though small, contain all the hearts of those who from the other side of the walls of Paris send a sigh, a word of consolation or of hope, to their wives and children, separated from them by the war, and who await these letters far away from them, as in Germany your mothers, your sisters, your wives, and your children long for yours. All these loved ones—who in Germany, as in France, dream of peace—weep for the absent and pray every night in each others arms that they may still see the sun of the morrow shine. If these suffering women knew that in your hands you held the consolation of so many families, all would stretch their suppliant arms towards you, and say, "You do not war with women and children; let the messenger pass."

The *Siècle* and the *Cloche*, which the *Figaro* had recently been attacking, denounced the scheme at once, and its originator particularly. It would be, said they, a grand means of instructing the Prussians respecting everything that went on in Paris, and they even insinuated that Villemessant must be a paid agent of Bismarck's. In consequence of these attacks the scheme was abandoned; but a M. Itasse, an architect who had proposed to profit by it to obtain news from his own family, was unwilling to let the matter drop, and announced in the columns of the *Figaro* that he was prepared to carry out the plan on his own responsibility. But in Paris man proposes and the National Guard disposes. On Sunday M. Itasse had his house invaded by a detachment of that body, who in his absence arrested and searched his servant, placed armed sentinels in various parts of his house, sought for him unsuccessfully in a neighbouring café, and finally arrested him on his return home, together with a friend who was in his company. These gentlemen were detained prisoners for several hours; but presently a commissary of police arrived and set them at liberty. The post-office authorities have intimated that they are not opposed to M. Villemessant's plan, as the letters, on their arrival at some town beyond the limits of the Prussian lines, have to be despatched by post to their destinations, and consequently require to be stamped. This declaration has caused the scheme to be taken up in other quarters, but up to the present moment it has not been put in actual operation.

Interesting to Lady Collectors.—There is now in circulation a brown-holland stamp; needless to mention the name of the issuing country.

POSTAL REFORM IN THE UNITED STATES.

While the bill to abolish the franking privilege was pending, Mr. Sumner took an advantage of the opportunity to give reasons for a reduction of letter postage to one cent for all distances, in connection with which all franking should be dispensed with, and all business through the post-office be done by stamps. The argument is unanswerable, and when the public mind does come to the serious consideration of cheap postage—as England came to it twenty-five years ago—Mr. Sumner's speech, though made to an indifferent senate and to a country not yet specially interested in the subject, will be referred to as one of the most striking and effective in the course of this debate.

Fortunately the efficacy of cheap postage has been vindicated by the most striking of examples. The experiment has been tried, and in the face of predictions of failure, the most sweeping and the most despondent, it has proved successful, both as a measure of economy, and of general public beneficence. Nobody would now return to the old rates, and no rising man with prospects of advancement would dare to suggest it. If any descendant of the sceptics who, at the outset, submitted unwillingly to the change, were now to propose a return to the old rates with any hope of carrying it, it would create a revolution in Great Britain strong enough to sweep every advocate of the change from power for ever.

But cheap postage was a plant of slow growth in Great Britain, and it will be of slower growth amongst us. It took three years after Rowland Hill got his Commission of Inquiry to make the change there. It would take a longer time here. The field is larger, and the interests to be consulted much more diverse and complicated. The present rates are not felt to be peculiarly oppressive, and the need of a sweeping reduction has not yet taken a very strong hold upon public opinion. Are we to wait for public opinion to be aroused, and public men to be convinced of the wisdom of this whole scheme of reform, before correcting the confessed abuses which have fastened themselves upon our postal system? The franking privilege as it is now used is a burden for which the country gets no adequate return. It is a costly luxury which through one channel or another helps to swell the tax levy where all currents of expenditure and waste meet at last. The old theory that it was compensated for by the advantage of having free intercourse between constituents and their representatives, is a fanciful one in these later times when the means of communication have been multiplied a thousand fold, and when it is impossible for a representative to take an important step affecting the special interests of his constituents, or the general welfare of the country, and conceal it from them for a single hour.

The new avenues for the diffusion of intelligence and sound information have conveyed the substance of all important intelligence to and from the capital, while the public printing-office is pouring its waste of printed paper to be scattered abroad at the public charge. The people are no longer infants to be nursed and coddled in this way. Leave them to their own devices, and they will get what they want, and, in the long run, all that will be of use to them. Mr. Sumner argues that the post-office should not be made a source of revenue. It should not be, and there is very little danger of its becoming so while our mail routes have such vast distances to traverse, and while tracts of newly-settled country, large enough for empires, are waiting to be developed. But the service should be made self-supporting. The first step is to take off the leeches. Reform the abuses first, and correct the system as rapidly as possible.—*Boston Advertiser.*

NEWLY-ISSUED OR INEDITED STAMPS.

"Late, late, so late," the wood-blocks have been forwarded by our engraver, that we had almost given up hope of receiving them in time for the present number; however, here they are, and we are happy to be able to supersede a manuscript which we had prepared for the emergency, by the following descriptions.

Of novelties the past month has been singularly barren, and the one bright particular star which has recently arisen in the philatelic horizon, the resuscitated French republic 20 centimes, is described at length, in an article entitled "Postage Stamps from the Seat of War," which appears in another part of the present number. We are, however, in duty bound in these "official" columns to draw attention to the issue of the stamp in question.

Roumania.—It was reported a little time back, that a new series of adhesives for this state was being prepared in Paris, but unless (which is very improbable) the stock has been "ballooned" out of the capital, we may assume that existing *forces majeures* prevent the emission of the series, and to these circumstances may probably be ascribed the appearance of another stamp of a type similar to that of the 1866-69 series, and like it—home made. This stamp introduces a fresh value, 1½ parale, and we gain from the portrait of Prince Charles, with which it is adorned, an interesting fact connected with that ruler's private habits—*he has let his beard grow!* The annual changes in ex-Queen Isabella's *coiffure* were once referred to in a foreign journal, and why should we hesitate to note an alteration in what writers of the circumlocution school would term—Prince Charles' "hirsute appendage." Let it be known, then, that the Roumanian sovereign now allows his beard to completely encircle his chin. The change, to judge from the portrait, is not to be regretted, the prince thereby looks a little older, but his really finely-cut features are as pleasing as ever. Prince Charles is, to our idea, in appearance the *beau-idéal* of a frank, clever, and courteous English gentleman.



The new stamp which has given occasion for this digression is printed in black on a green band. It is in shape a large rectangle, the prince's profile to left is placed in the centre on a solid disk with circular border. In this border, on either side of the portrait, are placed the words POSTA ROMANA; the upper and lower portions are filled in with a pearl ornament; the figures (1½) are in each upper corner, the space between them being occupied by a Greek pattern, which also runs down the sides. The spandrels are filled in with a ground of perpendicular lines, and the lower margin contains the inscription DIARE PERIODICE. It needs no great skill to translate this "Daily Periodicals." Such is our interpretation. Our *confrère* of Brussels gives it, however, as *periodical journals*, and as his statement is probably founded on something more than mere supposition, we willingly accept it.

New Granada.—The industrious administration of New Granada has just issued the 5 peso stamp, of which the annexed cut is a copy. It forms a companion to the lately-issued 10 pesos. Like its predecessor, it is struck in black on green glazed paper.


CORREOS
5
5
5

notice it in our last impression. The stamp and inscriptions are enclosed in an ornamental border. In the upper right corner is a circle intended to contain the postmark of the receiving office; opposite, in the left corner, is the stamp, the design of which is a copy of the envelope stamp; but, unlike the latter, is not in relief. At the top of the card is the inscription CARTE CORRESPONDANCE, followed by a notice in three languages—German, French, and Italian:—THE BACK OF THIS CARD IS RESERVED FOR WRITTEN COMMUNICATION. Below this again are the words ADDRESSE.—INDIRIZZO. The colours are pale and bright vermilion, and pale and bright carmine. The vermilion colour, says our Belgian contemporary was accidentally produced; it has now been used up, and, we presume, will not be renewed.

GREAT BRITAIN.—Following our usual practice, we give, for the benefit of our readers abroad, a representation of the current three halfpenny stamp, which, as bearing a design resolved on and perfected ten years ago, will always have a special interest for collectors. In our former notice of this stamp, we omitted to mention that it has the same crown watermark as the penny and twopence.



An interesting variety of the current shilling adhesive was recently noticed by the *American Journal of Philately*. It is a specimen "with large letters in the upper and small ones in the lower corners. The stamp is cancelled. The letters are I.—B. B.—I." Our contemporary suggests that, "perhaps," there never was another specimen issued, but we think the probabilities are in favour of there being others in existence.

A correspondent solves a doubt which we expressed last month, as to the passage of unofficial cards, franked with the adhesive halfpenny, by sending us, through the post, a trade announcement, printed on the back of a card, which card, prepaid by a halfpenny adhesive stamp, had passed through the post.

A variety of the halfpenny wrapper stamp exists, with the three disks below the portrait filled in with a florid ornament, instead of the usual date-indicating figures.

PARAGUAY.—Annexed we give illustrations of the three stamps, which it appears to be





now generally admitted have been issued for this country. M. Moens announces that he has received his specimens direct from M. de Posadas, the postmaster-general of the Argentine republic, and from this it would seem that the series has been issued by, or, at least, "under the auspices" of this latter state. Comment on the grotesque pole-hugging lion is needless; the frames seem to have been copied from the current Argentines.



DENMARK—*Holte*.—The stamp here figured is a veritable local; so says our friend of Brussels; and as he obtained his information direct from the Holte authorities, we may accept the statement as conclusive. It appears that it has been in circulation for the last two years, and is used for the prepayment of letters delivered in the rural district surrounding the town of Holte; in fact, it represents an extra charge to cover the expenses of rural delivery, or of transport from the country to the town, as the case may be. There is need of some further information before we can decide whether it is a stamp put on by the postal officials or the public. The rural postmen, we are told, carry a supply with them, and instead of cancelling the stamp in the usual way, they strike out a little disk from the paper with a punch. At Holte, however, they obliterated all the stamps, whether local or government, which



pass through the office, with a mark consisting of three concentric rings. From this we may suppose that the rural postmen affix the stamp to the letters they have to deliver, and collect the amount they represent; and that these are the stamps which they punch. For letters from the country to the town they also affix the necessary stamp, and collect their value, but leave the duty of obliterating them to the town post-office; perhaps M. Moens can settle these little points.

The design needs no comment; it remains to say only that the impression is red-brown on white. The town of Holte is only five or six miles from the capital, but its stamp is only discovered after it had been two years in use.

Of the new government series of adhesives inaugurated by the 48 skilling, a second value has now appeared—the 4 sk.—which is of the same type as the 48 sk., but has the centre printed in carmine, and the frame in grey-green, giving a very pleasing result.

Post cards and a series of official stamps are reported to be in preparation.

Spanish Colonies.—The existing type ("decapitated head") is to be superseded on New Year's Day by a design which reminds us forcibly of our own colonials with the figure of Britannia. The framework is narrow and petty, and, as a necessity, the inscriptions are wanting in boldness. The colours have not yet been chosen, but if they are bright and contrast well, the result may not be bad. We hope to give an illustration and full particulars next month.

Spain.—The mother country, as we learn from *Le Timbre-Poste*, is also to be blessed with a new series of stamps, and a fresh change in the monetary denominations. There are, in the first place, to be 1, 2, and 10 *centesimos de peseta*, "printed like those of 1870," which we understand to indicate of the same design as the current series. They are to be used for printed matter, and also to make up the rates for foreign letters. Then there are to be 6, 12, 25, 40, and 50 *centesimos de peseta*, engraved on steel, and ornamented with a full-face bust of Spain. Lastly, there will be stamps of 1, 4, and 10 pesetas for the high rates, and for telegraphic despatches, these to bear a profile bust of Spain. It is easy to learn from these projected changes, that the present series, with its one single design for all values, and its similarities of colour between different values, is causing inconvenience and confusion in the post-office; and the new set is planned with a view to remove these disadvantages by at least giving a different design to each group of values. The forthcoming emission will be remarkable as breaking the rule which has been in vogue for ten years past—that there must always be a stamp of 12 and 19 cuartos; neither of these values are now represented. This new series is almost certain not to last more than a year; it was no doubt prepared in August or September, before the Duke of Aosta's candidature had been put forward.

Egypt.—We also learn from *Le Timbre-Poste* that the National Bank Note Company has prepared three essays for Egyptian stamps, but M. Moens is unable to say whether they are the result of a recent project or not, but he adds, "Let us hope so, for the stamps are really magnificent;" and we know M. Moens never errs on the side of admiring too much or too readily. The design, it appears, represents, like the existing series, a pyramid, with sphinx at foot; but this central piece is differently framed; the same inscriptions as on the present stamps are repeated on the essays, and in the lower corners, *à la mode Americaine*, are large figures indicating the value. The colours are not mentioned.

Peru.—In the current number of *Le Timbre Poste* it is stated that the rather grotesque five centavos stamp, inscribed LIMA CHORILLOS CALLAO, of which we gave an engraving in our September number, is really a government emission, and in use. It supersedes the 5 c. llama, which during its period of currency was specially "affected" to the use of the three above named towns. Our contemporary also states that the 1 peseta brown, arms in relief, has been recalled into circulation, and promises soon to give further particulars of the recent Peruvian emissions in a separate article.

The North German Confederation.—The *American Journal of Philately*, in June last, published a letter, in which it was stated that "the well-known 3 kreuzer stamp of the

'Nord Deutscher Bund' is now being printed on a sort of paper (which is, by the way, much thinner than that of the other stamps of the same issue) covered with a grey network, somewhat like the old Hanover stamps." We have not met with any stamps answering to this description, unless, indeed, the series with "mottled ground" is meant; but the "ground" is a peculiarity in the paper, noticeable only on the back, and at first taken to be a watermark.

United States.—Still quoting from our New York *confrère*, we find the following information published in its weekly edition of 29th October. It is reported that frauds to the amount of 200,000 dollars have been discovered in the manufacture of the patent envelopes; if this is the case, we shall most likely have a new lot, after all, of United States envelope essays. We have lately seen a beautiful design for an envelope stamp, prepared by the National Bank Note Company. It is printed from a steel plate, and is not embossed. The design consists of head of Washington in oval, with UNITED STATES above, and THREE CENTS below, numeral in oval at each side; the colour is carmine, and the stamp has a very beautiful appearance. To what manufacture of envelopes does our contemporary allude? A new contract was entered into on 1st October, or rather it was to run from that date; surely £40,000 worth of cheating could hardly be got through within twenty-eight days after.

Austria, following the example of Prussia, has begun to use up her old envelopes. The 15 kr. (eagle) envelope of 1863 has made its appearance, with the embossed stamp covered by the current adhesive 5 kr. rose.

THE LATE EDWARD A. CRAIG.

On August the 26th, at San Francisco, Cal., Edward Allison Craig, aged 25 years.

Another name must be inscribed upon the tablet of departed philatelists: that of Edward Allison Craig, who, after five years of suffering, died suddenly, as chronicled in the above extract.

Mr. Craig, the eldest son of a large shipbuilder, was born at St. John, New Brunswick, on October 5th, 1845. After applying himself for four years to the study of law, he was in 1866 admitted as an attorney, in which profession he was making rapid progress, when in the following May he was afflicted by a severe attack of rheumatism in the knee, and for some time his life was despaired of. In the succeeding year he came over to this country, buoyed up with the hope that change of scene and climate would bring him back to health and strength; but although he was in the hand of a physician of great eminence, and had every advice that could be obtained, his recovery was said to be impossible, as the disease had taken the form of pyœmia, or surgical fever. After staying in Liverpool for more than a year he returned to his native city, and in April last went to San Francisco, in the forlorn hope that in that genial clime he might recover his lost health, were such a thing possible. His life was like a frail bark tossed upon the waves, and at last on one autumn day, the soul of Edward Allison Craig "went out with the tide."

> "Withdrawing slow from those he loved so well,
> Autumn's pale morning saw him pass away."

Mr. Craig turned his attention to philately in 1864, and with Mr. Stewart was one of the earliest collectors in the North American colonies. As a dealer, Mr. Craig always stood high, and it has never been laid to his charge that he did anything in the way of trade that was not strictly upright and honourable. He entered into partnership in 1865 with a Mr. Melvin, but that gentleman soon retiring from the firm, it was carried on by Mr. Craig alone. Shortly afterwards he traded as "The Excelsior Stamp Association," which title was continued until his removal to California.

Mr. Craig early made his name known as a writer upon philatelic subjects; his essay being made when he started the *Stamp Argus*, in July, 1865. This magazine compares favourably with very many later productions, both in the style of its articles, and in its general "get up;" it was discontinued with the close of the year, and in the following May the well known *Postman's Knock* was first published, and was given away monthly, until its editor and author came to England. He issued three numbers on his return home,

greatly enlarged in size, and containing various interesting papers.

Mr. Craig was always a warm but consistent opponent of the so-called French School of collecting, and was, in fact, a second "Pendragon," without that unfortunate propensity for antiloquism so rampant in the English writer. Although Mr. Craig's views were latterly considerably modified, still our lamented friend never could be fully brought to see the advantage of taking perforated stamps, as distinguished from imperforate; or of collecting shades of colour, unless very strongly marked, such as the light and dark green 5 c. New Brunswick, for instance.

Mr. Craig was an agreeable and lucid writer, and notwithstanding his being sometimes severe and cutting in his remarks, he never overstepped the right bounds of true journalism, to return abuse by abuse, as some of his brother authors were foolish or ignorant enough to do. Although he had not contributed so much to philatelic literature during the last two years as he had done before, still his loss will make itself felt, more particularly to those who, like the writer, have had the pleasure of corresponding and exchanging ideas with him for some time.

HOW TO WORK THE HALFPENNY POST.

(Scene, General Post-office, St. Martin's-le-Grand. Time, ten, a.m. The great Panjandrum and his clerks seated at an official table. Enter procession of sorters, bearing some tons of remonstrances about the halfpenny post.

Foremost porter: "Please your ludship, these is complaints about the ha'penny post."

Great P.: "Eh? eh? what? Oh, ah! yes, I see! These are complaints, are they?"

Clerk: "Yes m'lud."

Great P.: "Oh, but I won't have it! The public musn't complain; it's really—um—um——"

Clerk: "But the public say, your lordship, the halfpenny post is dearer than the penny one, because, when they send anything out with a halfpenny stamp on it, somebody else has to pay a penny for it."

Great P. (up his sleeve): "Just as if I didn't know that. Why, that's our dodge to make it pay!" (Chuckles).

Clerk: "One gentleman wants to know, your lordship, when he sends out circulars, whether leaving 'em open at the ends, and fastening 'em in the corner with a wafer won't do?"

Great P.: "Certainly not."

Clerk: "Or putting the stamp on so as to keep the enclosure from falling out of the cover?"

Great P.: "Of course it won't."

Clerk: "Or cutting off the sides of an envelope, and leaving a little bit at each corner to hold it in?"

Great P.: "Oh, dear, no!"

Clerk: "Or rolling it up tight, and pasting a bit of paper round it?"

Great P.: "Tisn't likely!"

Clerk: "But if it is'nt fastened in somehow, it 'll fall out and get lost."

Great P.: "Ah! that's awkward. (Considering). Well, there's one way in which the advantages of the halfpenny post can always be secured. (Clerks all attention.) Any one wanting to send a halfpenny despatch can——"

Clerks (together): "Can——?"

Great P.: "Can fold it up, put it in an envelope, fasten it, cut off the ends, and ——"

Clerks (eagerly): "And——?"

Great P. (in a muddle): "And—then—then—then——."

Clerks (anxiously): "Then——."

Great P. (jumping up and running away) "Oh, confound 'em! Why, stick a penny stamp on it!" (Scene closes in.)—*Judy.*

REVIEWS OF POSTAL PUBLICATIONS.

Cassell's Household Guide. Part XIII. November, 1870. London: Cassell, Petter, & Galpin.

The current number of this excellent work contains a well-written little article on the advantages of postage-stamp collecting. The article (which, by the way, is well illustrated), has evidently been written by some one who is well up in philatelic matters; and we trust it will give a fillip to our favourite pursuit. Its opening paragraph is well worth quoting.

"Anyone who has ever fairly entered on the collection of postage stamps, will not require to be informed as to the charms it possesses as an amusement. But we have known it occasionally to be discouraged in a household, as an idle occupation, and have heard the question asked, What can possibly be the use of it? We should wish to induce all parents to countenance the young in this pursuit, believing, that in addition to its place as an innocent pastime, it serves some very useful ends, which we will here explain for the benefit of the sceptical."

The writer then points out that no inconsiderable amount of valuable information in geography and history, coupled with a knowledge of the currencies of different nations, is insensibly acquired by stamp-collectors; and he winds up with the hope that "he may induce some of his readers who have never tried it, to take it up."

Our readers, we are certain, will fully appreciate the commendation which philately thus receives, and we trust its open and repeated advocacy by the editor of one of the most useful works lately published, will have some effect on its detractors.

The American Journal of Philately, Weekly Edition. New York: J. W. Scott & Co.

The publishers of the *American Journal of Philately* have become favourably known for their efforts on behalf of the science: this weekly edition of the journal is a further evidence of a determination to push and popularise stamp-collecting, and the mere fact that it has been undertaken may be taken as some proof of the existence of a considerable number of philatelists. We most cordially wish the new journal success, and feel certain it will do its best to deserve it.

The first number is set up in a very creditable manner. It consists of 8 pages and a wrapper, and is well and carefully printed. The contents do not call for close criticism—first numbers are generally either far superior or far inferior to their successors. This one is no exception to our remark; its articles are not quite up to the level, and we have no doubt the second number will show considerable improvement. Its contents may be summarised as, first, an introductory article, written in a somewhat exaggerated style of self-commendation; a reprint from the monthly "Journal," and a letter throwing doubt on the Transvaal stamps. This letter is given by the editors for what it is worth, and that is not much. The expression of an unreasoning suspicion, combined with a large amount of that heavy sarcasm in which Americans strangely delight, does not tell much against stamps whose genuineness is unquestioned. As to the essays or proofs, that is another matter. The period of indiscriminate acceptance of such things has passed; those already in existence have been tried, and for the most part found wanting; and we should be the last to encourage the collection of these fanciful exercises of the printer's art.

Concluding our notice of this new and promising paper, we have only to mention that its pages are ornamented with illustrations, and to wish it once more a successful existence.

Catalogue of an exceedingly Choice and Select Collection of Postage Stamps Sold by Auction on Monday Evening, October 3rd, 1870. New York: James Scott & Co.

Mason & Co.'s first Postage Stamp Sale. Philadelphia: Mason & Co.

Our American cousins are noted for their go-ahead faculty, and they show it even in matters philatelic. A short time since we noted the first auction sale in New York; the above *brochures* contain notices of two more which lately came off in that city. These sales are *bonâ-fide* and novel procedures, and they indicate the extent to which philately is being carried.

Of these two sales, that of Messrs. Scott is the more interesting. Messrs. Mason's list comprises a number of what might be termed, in technical language, "job lots." The great bulk of the stamps are very common, and not a few of the lots are composed of 25 or 50 mixed used stamps. We even find 10 English, 1841, penny red on blue, used, offered separately, and a Guatemala 5 c. brown "essay" is mentioned, without any comment on its spurious character. Among the few varieties offered may be mentioned a Mobile 5 c. blue, "taken from a letter

found at Gettysburg," and three Buenos Ayres "gaucho," warranted genuine, for which, it is stated, the owner had paid the very high price of 40 dol. (£8). A 3 soldi green Austrian Italy, of 1861, is mentioned as "very rare, and found in but few catalogues,"—it is, however, a very well-known stamp: one of those which were prepared for issue but never circulated.

Messrs. Scott's sale is of a higher character, and among the stamps offered are a considerable number of veritable rarities: thus, we find the Austrian Mercuries, the complete set first-issue Spain, the United States "carrier" stamp, several first-issue Mauritius, and a host of uncancelled stamps of value. These stamps all come from one collection, and there are no duplicates. Among its specialities may be mentioned:

Lot 1.—Specimen sheet, prepared by the American Bank-Note Company, containing 20 specimens of stamps of their engraving, introducing very rare United States essays, Mexican, New Brunswick, Nicaragua proofs, &c.

9.—Set 1853 U. S. envelopes, buff and white paper, uncancelled, fine condition; 8 stamps. [It would be interesting if all these are original and uncut.]

41.—Set Canada envelopes, struck in relief, without colour, on very thick card, having a very fine and cameo-like appearance; unique.

We notice also an exceptional and highly-praiseworthy candour in reference to the American locals. They are thus catalogued:

Lot 13.—41 U. S. locals, *counterfeits* and reprints.
14.—37 ditto, ditto, 7 genuine.
16.—32 ditto, reprints, genuine, and counterfeits.

We feel sure that everyone will respect the scrupulous honesty shown in these announcements, and we have no doubt the vendors will find it their best policy.

POSTAL CHIT-CHAT.

An Open Question.—On a post-card.—*Punch*.

The Halfpenny Postage in Liverpool.—At the Liverpool post-office the coming into operation of the halfpenny postage made the officials exceedingly busy. They were quite sold out of postal cards at an early hour in the afternoon, having sold no less than £500's worth, or 240,000, There are eight collections during the day, and when the fourth collection was completed, about 25,000 of the cards had passed through the central office. One firm of stationers and printers sent in about 15,000 trade circulars with the halfpenny stamps attached. A well-known coal-dealer had bought several thousands of the postal cards, and printed his list of prices at the back, which he distributed by thousands through the post-office on Saturday.

The Anglo-French Carrier-Pigeon Post.—The following remarks, which we extract from *The Daily Telegraph* of the 18th November, will, in a few years, be interesting as a memento of the postal inconveniencies which had to be endured in war time:—"The postmaster-general has received intimation from the Director-general of the French post-office, that a special dispatch, by means of carrier-pigeons, of correspondence addressed to Paris, has been established at Tours, and that such despatch may be made use of for short letters or notes written in the United Kingdom, and forwarded by post to Tours. The conditions of this mode of transmission are, that every letter must be posted without cover or seal, and must be registered; that no letter shall consist of more than twenty words, including the address and signature of the sender; but that his signature, and the name of the person whom he addresses, and that person's abode fully described, shall each be treated as one word—that is to say, three words in all; albeit the actual number of words in addition to the despatch may be many; that no numerical figures shall be used, the number of the house being written at length, thus, "one hundred and one," instead of "101;" that words joined by a hyphen or apostrophe shall be counted according to the number of words making up the whole; that the letters must be written entirely in French, clearly and intelligibly; must relate solely to private affairs, and must consequently extrude all political allusion to the war; and that the charge for these letters shall be fivepence for every word, prepaid, in addition to the regular postage of sixpence for a single registered letter sent to France. It must be fully understood that the safe conduct of correspondence is not assured, the French post-office repudiating all responsibility.

CORRESPONDENCE.

NATAL AND CAPE VARIETIES.

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

Dear Sir,—The 1d. Natal with imprint has the word "Postage" in thick type, and also in thin type, but nearly twice the length of the thick. I have also received from the Cape specimens of the 4d. triangular (*double* specimens), distinctly perforated on one side, and a 1d. triangular, with the words "C. P. D." and "Cancelled" printed on it. I take this for "Cape Post Paid," &c.

Yours faithfully,
Clifton, Yorks. W. E. COOPER.

[More probably the letters C. P. D. mean Cape Postal Department.]

AN EARLY ENGLISH VARIETY.

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

Sir,—I have in my possession an envelope somewhat similar to those described by "Amateur" in the November number.

The envelope is 5½ in. by 3¾ in., and has printed on the top, in black ink,

To be posted at the House of Commons only.

Post paid.—ONE PENNY.—Weight not to exceed ½-oz.

It is addressed to a relative of mine, and in the left-hand bottom corner is franked "R. Ingham." It bears the postmark of the 3rd of April, 1840, and is sealed with the seal of the House of Commons.

I am, Sir,
Yours obediently,
London. W. C. H.

THE PORTLAND AND WESTERVELT LOCALS.

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

Dear Sir,—Your foot-note to my communication last month still implying some incredulity with regard to Prince's stamp, I beg to assure you, that the specimen to which I alluded, in the possession of the secretary to the Philatelic Society, is affixed so carelessly, and at such a distance from the government impression, that the cancelling hand-die must have been expressly guided in order to postmark both. Since writing I have received additional confirmation from New York on the validity, both of the issue in question and those of Westervelt, equally called in question in your pages. The writer, well known to yourself, adds that I was mistaken in pronouncing the Portland the sole local in present use in the States; those of Hussey's and Boyd's still being employed; and that Taylor and Lyford are two distinct individuals, one being nearly double the age of the other. In Trifet's *Stamp Mercury*, for October, 1868, a column is devoted to the Portland stamp: in Mount Brown's Catalogue for 1864, in Berger Levrault's of same date, in your own for 1867, and in Hussey and Kline's of 1863, the Westervelt local is chronicled as genuine.

I remain, dear Sir,
Yours faithfully,
THE EDITOR OF "THE PHILATELIST."

THE PHILATELIST'S PRIZE ESSAY ON THE DETECTION OF SWISS FORGERIES.

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

Dear Sir,—It may not seem good taste on my part to criticise the writings of another on this subject, but since this prize essay meets none of the requirements of such a composition, and as there is such an egotistical air of conscious infallibility about the writer's opening remarks, I *cannot* refrain from a few words on some of his more unfortunate statements.

The first requirements of a prize essay are perfect completeness, combined with that precise "perspicuity" which the essayist (Mr. Stourton) threatens, but does not practise. As to its completeness, it is implied; but when so lengthy a subject is thought to be exhausted in the space of three pages, and when the attempt at information respecting the stamps of Vaud is dismissed in four lines of type, because it "would take up too great a space to describe at any length," it can easily be inferred that the omissions are numerous. *The Philatelist* stated, in December last, of this writer's essay, that "his remarks are pertinent, judicious, and correct;" so it would be naturally supposed that the shortness of the paper would be counterbalanced by its clearness and perfect accuracy; but all our expectations are so belied by the facts, that it is due to the interests of philately that such a mass of incompetency should be exposed. It is not my province, intention, or desire, to criticise this essayist's work *in extenso*, so I will confine myself to his descriptions of Geneva. They prove to such perfection his ability for masterly muddling, and his utter incapacity to grasp his subject, that one feels absolutely provoked to have to criticise such an absurd burlesque upon critical essaying. Mainly copied from his own pamphlet,—which, like my own, is long out of date, and simply useless for modern requirements,—it copies all his half-elucidated facts, and adds a few bare assertions in a dogmatic manner. This conglomeration is *The Philatelist's* prize essay!

Before criticising the page devoted to Geneva, I wish to state that I write without the slightest *animus*, and that had it not been for the unfortunate expressions used by the essayist at commencement, this criticism might never have been written, and even if written, would, but for those expressions, have been far less severe. These are the essayist's pretensions: he proposes to give "the salient points" only of the forgeries, and these salient points are to be pointed out "with such perspicuity, that even the most youthful reader will experience no difficulty in detecting from the descriptions." This is just what it ought to be, but, unhappily, just what it is not; therefore, these pretensions are simply egotistical in the extreme, and their woeful failure calls for more than criticism– it calls for rebuke. When an "essay" opens in this manner, and gains a prize, all the essayist's dogmatic assertions will become law to those who have no knowledge of their own by which to guage them. As no one has criticised yet, I think it my duty to enter a protest against such loose writing being admitted into our magazines. I simply do this as a matter of duty. On the same principle I criticised Pendragon; and was not deterred then by a torrent of false motives being imputed to me, neither shall I now.

In order that a complete essay should be given to the world, on the curious subject of Swiss Forgeries, I have handed all my notes and specimens to Mr. Atlee, from whose pen we shall soon see something better than the subject of this criticism.

To come at last to Geneva: Mr. Stourton does not attempt to point out the differences between the right and left-hand side stamps in the double cantonal, but devotes a paragraph to a port-local, which is but a component part of the double stamp—*i. e.*, he gives 1st, port-local, 2nd, double stamp, composed of two 5 c. local, quite oblivious of the fact, that all port-locals are cut out of the double stamp, and have no separate existence. Blunder number one, and supplemented by a curious bit of information. Speaking of the double stamp, he says, "Every characteristic of the genuine, as given by *myself and M. Berger-Levrault in his Catalogue*." This makes Levrault's catalogue appear a joint production; but as my means of communicating with him are stopped through the war, I have no means of getting to the facts of the case.

In that fearfully and wonderfully constructed paragraph, headed "Port-Cantonal," it is a regular puzzle to know which mistake to take first, or which inexactitude to explain first, they are so many. I really thought everyone knew that genuine cantonal were of three types:

1.—On yellow-green paper, small eagle.
2.—On ditto and dark green, large eagle.
3.—Green on white, different to others.

Perhaps my readers will like to compare the above facts with the description in Mr. Stourton's prize essay: here it is:—

Black impression on light and dark green paper. 5 c. square, 5 c. on white paper; design slightly different in each.

Of the forgeries, of which there are at least *five or six* distinct and separate ones, he says:—

The top wing of the eagle, in the forgery, touches the interior frame of the shield; in the genuine, it does not.

This is his manner of "seizing on the salient points only;" and this sentence, of less than four lines of *The Philatelist's* type, in which he summarily dismisses the difficult and important varieties of the genuine and forged, is his idea of "such perspicuity, that even the most youthful reader will experience *no* difficulty," &c. May we long be protected from *such* perspicuity.

Now for criticism: Firstly, three dies of Cantonal

exist, as I really thought even Mr. Stourton knew; secondly, they are black on green, and green on white; thirdly, they are rectangular. Now for the prize essayist's *design slightly different in each.* What can he mean? Each *what?*—each stamp, or each die? A beginner would construe this sentence variously. Either all on green are square (which they never are), and from one die; those on white are black impressions, and of no particular shape (this, of course, may explain *design slightly different in each*); or else it means no two Geneva cantonals are alike. Goodness knows what the essayist thought he knew, but it is very evident that as a seizer "of salient points" he is not successful. The green on white is omitted, but a black on white, *which only exists as a proof*, is prodigally foisted in,—a practical proof of his incompetency to instruct those needing instruction—a case of the blind leading the blind! One cannot expect three clear types to be distinctly described for all future purposes of identification in less than two lines; neither can one expect to find much compressed knowledge—a kind of literary "extract of meat"—in the same space, when devoted to five or six forgeries. Still, when one finds that "the *top* wing touches" somewhere, the beginner will naturally infer that the eagle which has a *top* wing will have one other below it, if not more; but on examining a forgery or genuine, he will discover no redundancy of wings, neither anything particularly marvellous in that section of an eagle which is to be seen.

Need I criticise further? *The Philatelist* for December last said of Mr. Stourton's *Guide to the Detection of Swiss Forgeries*, that "his remarks are pertinent, judicious, and correct." After that, one trembles to contemplate what the rejected *Guides* could have been. Simply from Geneva, I have shown that this prize essay is written in a manner which makes the egotistical and self-satisfied opening look most ridiculous. I do not wish to say too much, or to make myself too obnoxious to Mr. Stourton, but I would advise him to take to heart the concluding sentence of the first column of p. 178, vol. vi., of *The Stamp-Collector's Magazine.* Should he reply to this letter, I will next promise him a criticism on his rules for the detection of Zurich forgeries, and also give him the precise points of each of the five types of genuine, of which he appears never to have heard; or, if he prefers it, I will put him right respecting Vaud or Winterthur, for neither of which has he true tests.

Yours faithfully,

Birmingham. EDWARD L. PEMBERTON.

ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS.

W. M., Rotterdam.—We do not see our way to insert the communication you have been good enough to send us, relative to the manner in which an English stamp firm of standing has acted towards you. We are always willing to expose any dealings in forged stamps, but we cannot assume to judge of the good or bad faith shown in ordinary commercial transactions.

J. Carrick.—There cannot be much doubt that the one-cent Confederate has been reprinted; but although the reprints are rougher than the originals, we can hardly think they are lithographs.—All the provisional Tuscanys exist in several varieties of shade, and we should not consider your light slate 20 c. a rarity.—The engraving of the British Columbian threepence which appears in Dr. Gray's catalogue was copied from a proof of the accepted design, but that design was afterwards modified; hence the difference you observe.

Mr. Robson kindly sends us for inspection several cut undated stamped sheets of paper, of the lighter blue tint, which are marked by the senders as having been used in 1849-1850. Also a sheet of ordinary cream laid letter paper, with a dated one penny stamp on it so placed as to be in the usual place of a stamp when the entire half sheet is used as a band; for which purpose it has evidently served, for covering a sample of an advertising firm of felt makers. This confirms the supposition of "Amateur," appearing in our columns lately, that the stamp-office authorities at Somerset House will emboss stamps on any plain paper submitted to them, according to the office regulations.

J. B. B.—*Natal:* The penny revenue stamp, perforated, we have only seen in yellow, and *not* in any of the colours in which it was issued as a postage stamp. We are unable to explain how or why it was the penny Natal was printed on three differently-coloured papers, or when these colours were issued; indeed, it is not clear that they were not simultaneous. No list, catalogue, or paper we have ever seen mentions these colours as those of separate issues. Can our readers assist in the explanation?—*Argentine Republic:* The 5 c. pale red on *thin paper*, imperforate, and watermarked A.R., is the only one of the series we have seen, and we do not believe either the 10 or 15 c. were ever issued.

G. W. B., M.—This gentleman sends us a 6d. Bahamas, current issue, deep purple, of the same hue as the 6d. Natal and 4d. Trinidad now in use. All purple stamps for all the crown colonies now printed by Messrs. De La Rue, are of this shade of purple,—very full and warm.—*Jamaica:* 3d. current issue, watermarked C.C. beneath crown; the pine apple seems to be disappearing, and the colony taking its mark as the rest of the crown colonies.—*Victoria:* 1d. green, present issue, head with laurel wreath; 2d. mauve of the same. Our correspondent submits varieties; some with the letters in the words of value surrounded with a light line; some devoid of any line below the words of value; and others with double and treble lines beneath. These all seem to show that the frame and border vary in the stamps more or less; while the head seems stereotyped and constant.—*Austria:* The current series is perforated 9½, except the 50 kreuzer and soldi, which are 12½.—We are much indebted to our correspondent for his communication.

J. C., Manchester, sends us for inspection a Mexican 2 reales, black on pink paper, Hidalgo, postmarked, without name of town imprinted on the stamp. This is not at all a rare case, as these stamps have been used both with and without the issuing post town marking its name on the stamp before delivery to the public.—He also sends a 10 cents Confederate States, head of President Davis to the right, which he calls *green;* it certainly is a greenish blue, and all collectors are aware of a printing from this die, in a light blue shade on a creamy paper, which has a tendency to make the blue assume a greenish hue: we cannot recognise this specimen as printed in green; or as any thing except what is very commonly known and seen in almost every collection.—Also a copy of the present halfpenny English band, impressed on a coarse yellowish paper, which gives the green a rather apple tint. The peculiarity of the specimen that our correspondent submits is, that the little circles where the date is inserted, in the copies we have hitherto seen, are filled up with a floriated ornament. This is quite new to us; the copy sent is used; it passed through the post in November; it bears the Newcastle-on-Tyne postmark, and the imprint of *The Iron and Coal Trades Review.* We shall watch to see if this is peculiar, or indicates a discontinuance at Somerset House of the date on these bands.