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THE

STAMP-COLLECTOR'S MAGAZINE.

NUMBER NINE.

We beg to introduce to our readers the first page of our ninth volume,—rect., black imp. on white, and differing only in detail from the previous emission. We trust, however, that, plain and devoid of ornament though it may be, our readers will be pleased with it, and that those amongst them who are not subscribers will become so, in order that they may possess an *unused* copy. We had thought of making some change in the outward appearance of *The Stamp-Collector's Magazine* on this occasion; but after-consideration decided us not to put a new face to what we trust has become to many collectors an old friend. Perhaps, in a year or two, such change may become a necessity, in which case we should invite our subscribers to favour us with designs for a title-page to supersede Mulready's familiar groups of figures; and render our acknowledgments to the author of the most suitable device by the aid of some rare old stamps; but meanwhile, our readers, with whom, as befits the time, we are having a confidential chat, will not, we think, object to the maintenance of the "old original" frontispiece.

So much for externals; now as to the inside of the magazine, which after all is the part most read; we will not attempt much in the way of promises; such things have always been classed with pie-crusts; which it would be derogatory to couple in any way with philately; neither do we feel inclined to imitate the example of some of our American friends, and, reviewing our last volume, declare that every member of our staff has written wonderfully erudite articles, and intends to write still more erudite ones in the coming year. We should like some one else to do the patting on the back, which, if pressed, we might admit to be deserved. All that we have to say is, that we shall do our utmost to assist our readers in their study of philately, by giving them the best and earliest information we can obtain respecting new stamps, and the fullest and most accurate analysis of old ones, together with such lighter jottings as we may gather or receive.

Taking a glance at the past twelve months' labour, we find much on which to congratulate those who have at heart the interests of stamp-collecting and collectors. The year has not, perhaps, been marked with any one specially noteworthy incident, but steady progress has been made in the work of elucidating such points as still remain unsettled. The Philatelic Society has, however, hardly justified the anticipations which were formed of its usefulness. Its meetings have been lately held at irregular intervals; and we have not ourselves received reports of any since the one held in June. We fear the Society is in a languishing state; it has not taken root, nor been pushed as it might have been; and our hope of seeing branches established in the country is now very faint. Its operations and its range of study have been too limited; it has worked too exclusively in the groove of the "high school," and has shown too little sympathy with the great body of English collectors. It has failed to give any great impulse to stamp-collecting, and, so failing, has demonstrated its incapacity; we are left, then, to suppose that the experiment lacks the elements of success, and that it is solely through the magazines that the science can be explained and advocated. So long as they exist, collectors will prefer to make known their discoveries, and the results of their investigations, rather through them to the public

at large, than to submit them to the decision of a small committee of philatelists.

The year has been tolerably fruitful in periodicals, among which, of course, though there are many ephemerals, there are still no inconsiderable number of valuable additions to the literary stock. Collecting seems to be spreading in the United States, and the leading dealers are gaining in importance. The two or three principal journals are acquiring tone and value. Some excellent articles on the Confederate locals, and other stamps, have appeared in *The American Journal of Philately*. The weekly edition of this magazine has, however, only secondary interest, as it is made up chiefly of reprints; and much as we feel honoured by even unacknowledged borrowings from these pages, we should prefer to see the columns of our new contemporary filled with new matter.

Of permanent works, the only one which has been issued is the fifth edition of Dr. Gray's catalogue, which, though it is not without its faults and omissions, is still on the whole a trustworthy production. Its appearance was hailed with satisfaction, and the very keenness of the criticism to which it was subjected, proved the interest felt in it by collectors.

The war has had some effect both on stamps and on those who collect them. M. Berger-Levrault, about whom an old correspondent inquires this month, has in all probability been shut up in Strasbourg, and no news of him has reached us since the war broke out. Dr. Magnus is shut up in Paris, and in another part of the present number will be found an extract from an interesting letter received from him. Mons. Mahé is no doubt serving in the ranks of the National Guard of Paris, and his journal, *Le Timbrophile*, is in abeyance.

The war has caused the issue of provisional stamps for the provinces occupied by the Germans, and the issue of the design of the old republic stamps. Furthermore, the siege of Paris has necessitated the lithographing of that design at Bordeaux, and the emission of an unperforated set of Republican stamps. Balloon posts and carrier pigeons are also among the things which the force of circumstances has brought into use, and the innovation of post cards has been adopted at Paris.

The occupation of Rome has not yet brought about any increase in the number of Italian stamps, though probably the event will be commemorated, sooner or later, by the issue of a fresh series. The entire abolition of the Roman stamps proper is by no means certain, the king of Italy having proposed to allow the Pope to maintain a special postal series of his own.

In this country, happily, we have not to consider the effect which any great change of its condition or government has had, or may have, upon its postage stamps, but the year will be memorable in the annals of the postal service as that in which the halfpenny rate was brought into operation.

LIST OF NEWLY-ISSUED OR INEDITED STAMPS, NOTICED IN *THE STAMP-COLLECTOR'S MAGAZINE* FOR 1870.

Alsace and Lorraine.

Figure of value on netted ground, thick rectangular border. [POSTES.] Col. imp.; rect., perf.

1 centime green.
2 „ brown.
4 „ gray.
10 „ bistre.
20 „ blue.

Angola.

Crown in circular Greek border, inscription in upper margin. Col. imp.; rect., perf.

5 reis black.
10 „ orange.
20 „ stone.
25 „ rose.
50 „ green.
100 „ bright violet.

Antioquia.

(See New Granada.)

Austria.

ENVELOPES.

1863 series. The 15 kreuzer covered by an adhesive 5 kr. rose.

Azores.

Provisional series, surcharged inscription in smaller type, and more compressed.

25 reis rose.

Baden.

Field-post envelope. Black on chamois paper.

Bavaria.

RETURNED LETTER STAMPS.

Spires.

Same type as for Munich, &c., with the name SPEYER beneath the arms. Blk. imp.; rect.

Black [no value].

Regensburg.

Inscription COMMISSION FUR RETOURBRIEFE REGENSBURG disposed in four lines in an oblong single-lined frame. Blk. imp.; obl.

Black.

Belgium.

Profile of Leopold II., to left in oval, in frame of different design for each value. Col. imp.; rect., perf.

10 centimes [BELGIQUE] green, 20 c. blue.
30 „ [POSTES BELGIQUE] amber.
40 „ [POSTES DE BELGIQUE] carmine.
1 franc [BELGIQUE] violet.

NEWSPAPER STAMPS.

Figure of value in oval above a lion *couchant*, Belgian arms and motto above the oval, frame differing in each value. [BELGIQUE.] Col. imp.; rect., perf.

1 centime green.
2 „ blue.
5 „ amber.
8 „ lilac.

UNPAID LETTER STAMPS.

Figure of value in an oval inscribed A PERCEVOIR—CENTIMES, and surmounted by crown, circular disk in upper corners, one containing a hand, the other a lion *rampant*, the Belgian motto below the oval. Col. imp.; rect., perf.

10 centimes green.
20 „ blue.

Belozersk.

(See Russian locals.)

Bergen.

(See Norway.)

Brattleboro'.

(See United States.)

Canada.

Similar design to that of 1868 series, but stamps one-third smaller, no figures in upper corners, value expressed in lower margin by the word CENTS, flanked by a large numeral.

1 cent orange.
3 „ red.

Ceylon.

Issue 1857-63. Col. imp. Watermarked CC. and crown. Rect., perf.

One-shilling deep mauve.

Cuba.

Female head, with mural crown and star above, symbolizing Spain, in oval, CORREOS above, value followed by date, 1870, below. Col. imp.; rect., perf.

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

Cundinamarca.

(See New Granada.)

Derrah (The).

Inscription in Hindostanee on an irregular arabesque ground, the remainder of the ground being composed of lattice-work. Col. imp.; rect. perf.

Olive-green [$\frac{3}{4}$ anna].

Denmark.

Numeral of value in circle surmounted by crown, and supported by wreath and post-horn in inscribed oval. [DANMARK POSTFRM.] Imp. in two colours; rect. perf.

4 sk., centre carmine, frame grey-green.
48 „ „ mauve, „ red-brown.

LOCAL.

Holte.

Denomination of value in inscribed oval, post-horns in angles. [HOLTE LAND-POST.] Col. imp.; rect.
2 sk. red-brown.

Dutch Indies.

Profile of King to right in circle, caduceus and anchor in lateral margins. [NED INDIE.] Col. imp.; rect. perf.
5 cents green.
10 „ bistre.
20 „ ultramarine.
50 „ bright carmine.

Egypt.

Series of 1868. Col. imp.; rect. perf.
10 paras bright mauve.

Finland.

(See Russia.)

France.

EMPIRE.

Series of 1863. Col imp.; rect. perf.
1 centime olive-green.

1867. Profile of Emperor on ground of horizontal lines (variety.) Col. imp.; rect. perf.
30 centimes brown.

THIRD REPUBLIC.

Type of 1848 reprinted. Col. imp.; rect. perf. and unperf.

Issued in Paris.

10 c. reddish bistre } perf.
20 „ blue }

Issued in Bordeaux.

10 c. pale bistre, reddish bistre } unperf.
20 „ pale and deep blue }

German Confederation (North.)

OFFICIAL STAMPS.

Black inscription in octagonal frame, and value and inscription in centre, on stone coloured ground formed of repetitions of the words NORDD POST-BEZIRK. [NORD-DEUTSCHE-POST. DIENST SACH.] Col. imp.; obl. perf.
$\frac{1}{4}$, $\frac{1}{3}$, $\frac{1}{2}$, 1, and 2 groschen, black and grey.

Same design, ground of pearl-grey; black inscriptions. Col. imp.; obl. perf.
1, 2, 3, 7 kreuzer, black and grey.

POST CARD.

Black inscriptions on chamois card (no stamp impressed). Blk. on chamois.

FIELD-POST ENVELOPES AND CARDS.

Black inscriptions on brownish white paper. No value.

Great Britain.

1868 series. Col. imp.; rect. *unperf* (variety).
Sixpence lilac.

1868 type, but white lines at top and bottom, separating the portrait from the margin, much *thinner* (variety). Col. imp.; rect. perf.
Twopence blue.

Profile of Queen to left in curvilinear triangle, letters in four corners. [POSTAGE.] Col. imp.; rect. perf.
Threehalfpence deep carmine-red.

STAMPS AND WRAPPERS FOR PRINTED MATTER.

Profile of Queen to left in uncoloured oval, value in figures at sides, letters in four corners. Col. imp.; obl. perf.
Halfpenny rose-carmine.

Bust of Queen to left in circle, arched band above, containing the value, three disks below containing figures indicating the date of emission. Col. imp.; upright rect. with rounded corners; impressed on wrapper.
Halfpenny green.

Variety, with disks filled in with florets.
Halfpenny green.

POST CARD.

Impressed stamp in upper right corner, bust of Queen to left in circle, spandrels ornamented, value in straight line below; to left of stamp the royal arms, with the words POST CARD above, and THE ADDRESS ONLY TO BE WRITTEN ON THIS SIDE, below; the whole enclosed in a Greek-patterned border. Col. imp. on buff cards of two sizes.
Halfpenny mauve.

(*To be concluded in our next.*)

PAPERS FOR BEGINNERS.—No. IX.

BY OVERY TAYLOR.

EUROPE.

Austria, continued.

[NOTE.—By an oversight in correcting the proofs for October, a rather ridiculous printer's error was allowed to pass unnoticed. The two-centimetre guage was represented by a line extending from one side of the column (p. 170) to the other, the real length is about four-fifths of an inch.

|----------|----------|

The above line is exactly two centimetres in length.]

THE 1863 series is probably about the best known of any series of foreign stamps. It came into use just when collecting was at its height, and so soon became plentiful, that, so to speak, it never was a novelty. Even to the youngest tyro it hardly needs description, and it will suffice to refer to it as the "arms" series, oval. Perhaps it may be simply because "familiarity breeds contempt," but the writer can hardly speak respectfully of the design; to him it appears a masterpiece of mediocrity; there is absolutely nothing of the grotesque or the picturesque to redeem it; the whole arrangement is strictly correct and commonplace; it would be a relief if it were ugly. The one sole thing to be remarked in connection with this series, is its existence with small and large perforations; so marked is the difference between the two editions, that both are worth collecting. Of the two, the earlier, distinguished by small fine dents, is the rarer, but specimens can always be obtained for the merest trifle. No varieties or reprints exist of any of the values.

The current series, issued in June, 1867, is not without historical interest, if we may believe the reports current at the time, that it was intended to some extent to commemorate the establishment of an *entente cordiale* between the emperor and his Hungarian subjects; but it is to be feared that this report must be set down as a pleasing fiction, and that, in fact, the emission of the series was due to some more prosaic reason, such for instance, as the exhaustion of the stock of the previous type. At all events, the fact may be noted that it did make its appearance just after the resuscitation of the Hungarian parliament, and, whatever its motive cause, it was a welcome improvement on its predecessor.

The list of values and colours of recently issued sets is generally rather a work of supererogation; it will suffice in the present instance to state that about eighteen months since, all the stamps were issued in deeper shades than those which distinguished them on their first appearance; the large 50 kr. exists in salmon, and also in a kind of reddish brown. The design, though it has been abused by *nil admirari* critics, is by no means devoid of merit; the highest value is positively commendable.

JOURNAL STAMPS.

These must be divided into two kinds: 1, those which really prepay postage; 2, those which represent a duty collected by the government on foreign newspapers entering Austria.

1.—*Stamps which prepay postage.*

The first issue took place on New-Year's Day, 1851, and consisted of three stamps, all bearing the effigy of Mercury, in a square frame, and all without indication of value, the sole distinction being in the colours, which are, respectively, blue, yellow, and rose. The blue was worth one kreuzer, the yellow ten, and the rose fifty; and as the rate of postage was one kreuzer per newspaper, it follows that these stamps severally franked one, ten, and fifty papers. The highest value was, however, but slightly employed, and was therefore withdrawn on the 9th October, 1852. Having been in use for such a short period, and so long before collecting came in vogue, but few specimens are now to be had, and its particular employment reduced the chance of preservation; it was attached to the wrapper which enveloped a bundle of fifty newspapers, and with the wrapper was destroyed when the packet was opened; had it been used for letters, or even for single papers, like the blue, it might not have become so rare, but as it is, there is no European stamp more difficult to obtain than this rose Mercury, unless, indeed, it be its *confrère*, the yellow. The yellow stamp, as it prepaid only ten journals, was more extensively used, but the reasons above given for

the rarity of the rose, apply to it equally. The blue is, on the other hand, extremely common, and no collector need be without it.

The supply of the yellow stamp having run short, a poppy-red (*ponceau*), of the same value, was substituted for it. Information as to the circumstances attendant on the emission of the red was first given in 1866, by *Der Briefmarken Sammler*, a German magazine of some authority; its statements, were, however, called in question by Mr. Pemberton, who in the early months of 1867 avowed his conviction that the red Mercuries from the original die were all reprints, and those from another die were forgeries. Subsequently the emission of the *red* stamp was confirmed in *Le Timbrophile* (May, 1867) by the Chevalier de Latour, who wrote from documents furnished to him by the Austrian minister of finance, and as Mr. Pemberton has not since reiterated his opinion, it may be assumed that he was convinced by the details given in the Parisian journal. It must, however, be remarked that there is nothing in the latter to countenance the supposition that a new die was engraved for the red stamp, and, in fact, as the reprint Mercuries—the red, equally with the rose and yellow—are from the first dies, the assertion of the German paper to the effect that the red was from a new die, may be considered as disproved.

The Chevalier de Latour supports his statement that the red stamp was really issued by the following official notice:—

"Vienna, 21 March, 1856.
"*From the Royal and Imperial Ministry of Commerce.*

"The yellow stamps still remaining are left to the proprietors of journals to be employed in sending their papers in the same manner and for the same price as the blue journal-stamps, that is to say, a sheet of 100 for the value of a florin, therefore the yellow journal-stamps which still exist will be considered as of the same value as the blue, and as representing only the charge on one single copy of a newspaper. In place of the yellow journal-stamps, there have been prepared deep red stamps, of which one will represent the value of ten blue or yellow (as long as the latter last). The heads of post-offices should give notice of the alteration to the newspaper proprietors."

The date of this circular is also that of the emission of the red stamp, which, together with the blue, continued in use until the 14th of October, 1858, when they gave place to an embossed stamp, which, like the series of adhesives for letters, bore the emperor's head to left. Its value was 1 kr., and it was printed in blue. On the 12th of March, 1860, pursuant to a ministerial decree of that date, it was issued in lilac, and the type remained current in the latter colour, until the 21st of December of the same year, or rather until the 15th of January, 1861. It will be noticed that the postal authorities, guided doubtless by their experience of the Mercuries, refrained from issuing any high-value newspaper stamps.

The stamp of the 15th of January, 1861, authorised by the decree of the 21st of December, 1860, which suppressed its predecessor, is distinguished by its having the profile turned to right, and by the greater size of the head. The flatness of the framework, and the dullness of the colour, combine to render it one of the most ineffective stamps known.



On the 15th of May, 1863, the issue of the "arms" stamps was decreed, and the stamp itself was emitted on the 1st of December of the same year. This stamp is exceedingly common, and it would seem that it was not always cancelled on its passage through the post, as I have met with many specimens, and sometimes portions of sheets, which had evidently been used, but were quite clean.



In June, 1867, the still current rectangular Mercury was issued, and is found in two shades, lilac and warm violet; the latter is comparatively rare.

2.—*Stamps representing a duty collected by the government on foreign newspapers entering Austria.*

The design common to this class of stamps

is the large type-printed rectangle, containing the double-headed eagle, and the inscription KAIS. KON. ZEITUNGS STAMPEL (Imperial Royal Journal Stamp).



The first stamp issued was the 2 kr. green, which exists in three shades, and also shows a variety in design, the angles being occupied by a kind of four-cornered star; from two sides of the stars in the upper corners, and from one side of those in the lower, there starts a trefoil; the inside square is also rather larger.

The issuing of this stamp was authorised by a decree of the 22nd April, 1850, and its emission took place on the 1st of October of the same year. The stamp was put on in the post-office, and its amount was collected on delivery. The charge of 2 kr. applied to all foreign papers indiscriminately, and the stamp remained in use as long as the tax itself was maintained.

In 1857-8 a change, which in some respects was a retrograde one, was made. A postal convention was entered into between Austria and certain German states, pursuant to which papers coming from these states were to be taxed 2 kreuzers each on their entry, and those of all other states were to pay 4 kreuzers. A new die was then engraved, the 2 kr. green was withdrawn, and the 2 kr. and 4 kr., both brown, were issued. These rates were, however, revised on 23rd November, 1858, and the tax was reduced for German papers to 1 kr., and for all others to 2 krs. The 4 kr. brown was then withdrawn, after a circulation of only eight months; the 2 kr. brown was continued in use for foreign papers other than those arriving from the "favoured nations," and for the benefit of these latter a 1 kr. blue was issued, which is still in use. Similar variations took place in the Austro-Italian stamps, and these will be noticed in due course.

ENVELOPES.

There have been three emissions of envelopes respectively accompanying, and of the same design as, the adhesives of 1861, 1863, and 1867. The first issue has, however, four values, which are not represented among the adhesives, viz., 20, 25, 30, and 35 kreuzers. Of these high denominations, three appear to have been comparatively little used, as in the 1863 emission, only one—the 25 kr.—reappears; the third emission, that of 1867, has one value less than its companion set of labels—the 50 kr. is wanting.

To give a list of all the values and colours would be a waste of space, the mere enumeration, except where necessary for reference, being useless. Suffice it to say, that original, and particularly uncut impressions of the first series, are difficult to obtain, and a young beginner will find even the reprints rather difficult to get, and expensive into the bargain. Of the second series, cut copies of all, except the 25 kr., can easily be had, and even the latter cannot by any means be termed rare. Uncut copies, which are always to be preferred, are rather scarce. The acquirement of the stamps of the current series offers no difficulty.

LOCALS.

The only locals meriting the name, are the stamps of the Danubian Steam Navigation Company, which it has always been understood are in *bonâ fide* use, and represent the tax claimed of right by the company for its own benefit on letters posted on board its boats, which, I should add, perform the Danubian mail service. The 17 soldi vermilion, and 10 s. lilac, were issued in 1866; subsequently the higher value was withdrawn, and the 10 soldi was reissued in green, in which colour it continued current.



The Leitmeritz stamps, of which fifty-five were issued, are spurious, and should be repudiated by all collectors.

The stamps of the Gallician railway ought no more to be collected than those of our own lines, or those of the Danish companies. *Postage*-stamp collecting, pure and simple, will give quite sufficient occupation to any who go into it, and "*stamp* collecting in all its branches" may be left to the advocacy of foreign philatelists.

NEWLY-ISSUED OR INEDITED STAMPS.

French Republic—In another part of this number will be found fresh details respecting the resuscitated type of the old republic. This type has now, however, a companion, three low value stamps having appeared, which are ornamented with a design copied, except as regards the effigy, from the imperial stamps of the same denomination—this design is here represented. The complete list now reads as follows :—



1 centime olive on green,
2 „ brown on straw, } unperf.
4 „ grey on white, }
10 „ bistre, perf. and unperf., several shades.
20 „ blue, perf. and unperf., several shades.
80 „ bright carmine, unperf.

No doubt to these will soon be joined stamps of 30 and 40 centimes. The former value must be in particular request, as it represents the rate for letters for this country, which has at present to be formed with two stamps at least. We may also look forward to the early appearance of a 5 centimes of the republic, old type, as this value has never been issued with laureated head, and the old stock must be pretty nearly exhausted. At Paris the authorities attach the 5 centimes of the empire to the little cards which the Paris letter-writers send to their correspondents in the country. The stamp represents the cost of the card, and does not prepay the reply which is to be written on it. These cards form an interesting item among the special means of communication with Paris, resorted to under present circumstances. They are only sold in Paris; the purchaser, in the letter he writes, puts four questions to his correspondent in the country, which should be so framed as to admit of an absolute negative or affirmative answer being given to each. In his letter he inserts the card, and the receiver fills in, on ruled spaces provided for the purpose, the name of the district in which he resides, the initials of his surname, the name and address of his friend in Paris, and his replies to the four questions addressed to him, which replies must be confined to a simple yes or no. The card thus filled in must be taken to a post-office, and one franc must be paid by the sender as postage thereof; the postmaster, to whom it is confided, remits it in turn to the delegate of the postmaster-general at Clermont Ferrand (or elsewhere), and this latter transmits the laconic communication it contains by carrier pigeon to Paris.

Spain.—The Congress stamps promise to become a numerous family. Only eight months since, a new die was prepared, and now behold another, which differs hardly at all from its predecessor. The word *Congreso* is transformed into *Congresso* on the last comer, for some abstruse reason, no doubt, and that is about all the difference which exists between the two stamps.



Spanish Colonies.—The new type is here represented, and it will at once be seen that Senor Eugenie Julia, the engraver (whose initials may be discerned in the lower right corner), has been taking a leaf out of Messrs. Perkins & Bacon's book. The idea of the seated figure has evidently been borrowed from the Barbados and Trinidad stamps, though what or whom the said figure is intended to represent is fair ground for conjecture — possibly Commerce, possibly Liberty, possibly regenerated Spain holding out the olive-branch of peace to all the world. It will be noticed that the *peseta* has become the unit of currency, as in the old country, and also that the system of dating the emissions is maintained. We must defer giving a list of the colours and values until our next.



United States.—We are indebted to Mr. L. W. Durbin, of Philadelphia, for notice of a rather curious handstamp which is now used in the post office of that city. It con-

sists simply of a solid oval disk, with a thick outer line, and bearing in the centre the word PAID in large letters. This handstamp is impressed on the circulars, or rather on the envelopes which contain them. We presume that it is used only when a large number of circulars are taken to the office, and the postage is paid in money.

SWITZERLAND.—*Righi-Coulm.*—The well known Rigi-Kaltbad stamp has now a companion in the shape of a Righi-Coulm stamp, of which the annexed cut is a representation. It is printed in two colours; the oval is blue, and the ground and the flower is rose. The local stamps of the Rigi are, it appears, to be suppressed in the course of this year, as the railway up the mountain will probably be completed in the course of a few months.



We learn from our Brussels contemporary that the Helvetian Republic now possesses field-post envelopes.

RUSSIA.—*Belozersk.*—The new stamp for the Belozersk district, which we introduced to our readers in our November number, is here represented. We regret that through some delay on the part of the engravers the cut was not received in time for insertion last month.



It may be as well to remind our readers that the lines forming the background are of a reddish yellow, and that the remainder of the stamp is in black.

ARGENTINE REPUBLIC.—The annexed cut is inserted simply to put collectors on their guard against envelopes bearing the design it represents. This design, together with two other similar ones, was fabricated so long since as 1866, and was noticed and condemned in our April number of that year (p. 57). All three types are now reproduced and struck on envelopes, and the owners of the stock give out that they have received their supplies from Buenos Ayres. Even were this true, it would prove nothing, for what could be easier than to send them there for the purpose of having them returned? but M. Moens vouches for the fact that those he has received came from this country. We are happy to join with him in denouncing them once again, and we trust no one will be deceived by them.



NEW GRANADA.—*Cundinamarca.*—The engraving here given represents the 5 centavos





blue of this state, first noticed by Mr. Pemberton. It will be seen that the design differs somewhat from the 10 centavos described in a recent number, and also figured here. The latter stamp is printed in red on white paper.

NEWFOUNDLAND.—Here is a representation of the new type for this colony, introduced to the notice of our readers in the November number. Both stamps are a valuable addition to the very beautiful current series, and do credit to designer and engraver.



GREAT BRITAIN.—A correspondent writes us as follows: "You have not chronicled the fact, and may possibly not have observed it, that the plates of the new halfpenny stamps are *numbered*. A small piece of the background, close to the figure of value on each side, is removable, that on the right hand side being just above, that on the left just below the centre—and a numeral is inserted in these places. I have an unperforated specimen of No. 1 plate, similar, doubtless, to the one you first described, and the figure, being a mere stroke in the background, would certainly escape notice if not looked for. I have seen the numbers already as high as 8."

We can corroborate our correspondent's

observations, and at the same time must congratulate him on his sharpness of eye.

HOLLAND.—On the 1st December appeared a 2½ cents adhesive, of the arms type, coloured violet.

BAVARIA.—The 1, 3, and 7 kreuzer are now perforated.

ERRORS OF ENGRAVING AND PRINTING.—V.

BY W. DUDLEY ATLEE.

NEW GRANADA.—We omitted to mention in the proper place that two *erreurs d'impression* exist among these labels. The colours of the 20 c. and 50 c. of the 1863 issue have been reversed, thereby giving us a 20 c. green, and a 50 c. red.

PARMA.—We are of the same opinion as the lamented author of the *Revue du Catalogue Berger*, in respect to the stamps of this state having been reprinted; for it is very strange that until, comparatively speaking, lately, none of the FIFTEEN errors given by M. Moens in his last catalogue were known to the philatelic world. M. Regnard, in his manual, published six years since, enumerates several Modenese varieties, but not a single one for Parma; the same may be said of other compilers of timbrophilic works. We will not go so far as to say that no error exists among the originals, but we strongly advise that none be accepted, unless found upon genuine postmarked copies.

PERU.—"Pendragon" mentions as a variety a stamp of this republic having the cornucopia on *white* ground; this difference is entirely due to excessive wear of the plate, and is not worth collecting.

PORTUGAL.—As stated previously in this volume, the earliest stamps for Azores had the surcharged lettering in smaller and closer type than the later ones; specimens also exist in which the word AÇORES is printed upside down.

PRUSSIA.—In the 1858 series there is a 3 sgr. printed in deep blue, instead of its normal yellow colour; and an error of the 2 sgr. in the first eagle emission "returns the compliment" by appearing in bistre. We may note that all the values of the 1858 set (except the 6 pf.) are found both with, and without the *burelé* across them.

RUSSIA.—One of the very latest errors is a 3 kop. printed upon the ground pattern, containing the minute and oft-repeated v of the 5 kop. We think several sheets must have been struck off, as they are becoming, comparatively speaking, rather numerous. According to M. Mahé, there is a variety of the 30 kop. envelope, having both the numeral and the circle containing it slightly larger. There are also visible differences in the border, and in the shape of the letters forming the inscription.

SANDWICH ISLES.—Sundry labels purporting to be rare Hawaiian errors, are sometimes sold with either letters or portions of words left out in the inscription. These are only vile reprints (or even worse), made to sell, and should be scouted by all amateurs.

ST. HELENA.—In M. Moens' catalogue we find a sixpenny given in red, the colour of the penny. This is of course the usual stamp, only lacking the superadded value, and the black bar. That this label was ever issued is a matter of doubt; it is more probable that a sheet was obtained from the printers, in its unfinished state, either surreptitiously or through influence.

SERVIA.—In the earliest issue, with the head of sovereign, is the well known 2 para, having the inscription PARF. This exists in both the perforated and the unperforated; but, strange to say, its position in the sheet varies in each.

SHANGHAI.—The first issue for this local post-office is full of interest, and now that so many reprints are about they deserve careful study. However, to give a full account of these stamps is out of our present province, so we must confine our attention solely to their varieties and errors.

The following list we can guarantee as being complete, and as not containing a single variety which did not exist among the original labels.

The value of the stamps is inscribed upon the left side, and reads perpendicularly; the upper character stands for the denomination of value, the second for FUN (candareen), and the lower for YIN (silver).

In the one candareen there are no errors,

but there are three kinds of numerals used in the English value; we have a Roman I, a thick Arabic 1, and a figure which we must term mediæval.

There is a very peculiar variety in the 2 candareens; for in place of the ordinary character, signifying LIANG (two), a couple of horizontal lines are given, representing "a pair." Some of the stamps showing this difference are inscribed in the singular number, as CANDAREEN. In this value there are two sorts of numerals: the Arabic and mediæval.

The 3 cand. possesses a duality of errors, both of them in stamps with the mediæval figure; one has the value given in the singular and the other is inscribed CANDARFENS. The stamps with the Arabic numerals are without flaws.

The only class of figure used for the 4 cand. is the mediæval. This value is found in both the singular and plural state. A most extraordinary mistake was made upon the early stamps by the engraver substituting the Chinese word T'SIEN (mace) for the correct inscription, FUN, thereby causing the worth of the stamp to read as forty candareens; ten candareens being equal to a mace. The error was soon rectified, and only existed on the plural value.

All the 6 cand. are correctly inscribed, and have the mediæval numeral. The latter portion of our last remark will apply with equal force to the 8 cand.; but both singular and plural labels exist of the higher value.

In the 12 cand. there is no error, but there are two varieties of figures, the mediæval and the Roman; or, to be more correct, the latter must be described as a Roman I, combined with a thick, well formed 2. The 16 cand. has similar kinds of numerals to the last mentioned value, and also is printed in both singular and plural forms.

In all the values there are slight discrepancies in the position of the initials L. P. O., and of the stops; but as the stamps are type-set, they cannot be chronicled as varieties.

SICILY.—Some time since the editor of *Le Timbrophile* described an error of the 2 grana inscribed SICILLA; and a 20 gr. having a badly shaped figure 1 preceding the 20, causing the value to appear as 120 gr. Not having seen either of these contortions, we give them with reserve, candidly confessing, at the same time, our disbelief in their authenticity.

SOUTH AUSTRALIA.—Early this year a copy of the tenpenny stamp was noted in these pages, as having the surcharged lettering over the words SOUTH AUSTRALIA, instead of at foot as usual.

SPAIN.—A *rara avis* is the 2 reales of 1855, printed in blue, in lieu of pink; this error is priceless, it being almost unique. Specimens of the 12 and 19 cuartos of 1865 exist, having the head of her ex-Majesty reversed.

TURKEY.—In the first issue a few copies are known of the 1 piastre, printed in greenish blue, but whether they were proofs or emitted stamps is a moot point. In the 1864 set, there exists a 10 paras with the figure 1 in the angles.

THE THREE STAMPS OF ST. LOUIS.

AN INVESTIGATION.

BY EDWARD L. PEMBERTON.

WE have had a lull in the storm brought about by these stamps; Mr. Philbrick's letter, in February last, appears to have silenced disbelievers, if it has not convinced them. Since then I have had the only known specimens of the resuscitated 20 c., three in number, handed to me for examination. The discovery of this value was quite unlooked for by anyone, and, to me, was pregnant with suspicion, which, convinced as I was of the authenticity of those 5 and 10 c. on thin paper, which I had known for years, tended to the inference that the recently offered 5 and 10 c. on thicker bluish and greenish paper, had some mystery in their origin; and so indeed it did appear. Of course I regarded these three 20 c. with great doubt. On a cursory examination, I found they had been printed from two altered dies of the 5 c.; and I further found that in two specimens of 5 c. from one of these dies, there were discrepancies in the numeral and the trifling strokes, &c., around it, and also in the head of one of the bears. This did not ease my perplexity, but I could do nothing until I had more specimens to examine, for one 5 c. was on the thin paper, the other on the

thicker greenish, the 20 c. from this 5 c. resembling both in certain points; I therefore borrowed all the specimens I could, and on a careful comparison proved the 20 c. stamp, as well as the other 5 and 10 c. on the thicker paper, to be genuine, entirely to my satisfaction. I began as a sceptic, but ended a believer, having convinced myself against my own prior judgment.

After what has been written, it is a useless waste of time to go all through the history and causes of issue of the St. Louis stamps. At foot are references to all the principal mention made of them in this magazine. The first notice of them is at page 152, vol. i. (Nov., 1863), where the 10 c. is given. On page 171 (of the same volume) the 10 c. is quoted in Mr. Lesley's famous paper. Although the next notice appears so long after as April, 1867 (p. 50), only the 10 c. is given, and it was not till March, 1868 (p. 34), that the two values were chronicled together. This is curious, as showing their excessive rarity in Europe, and, but for the enterprise of Mr. J. W. Scott and Mr. Durbin, they might have remained almost unknown. They were, beyond doubt, in use in 1845, and were engraved, at the instance of the postmaster, Mr. John H. Hymer (not Wymer), by Mr. Kershaw, of St. Louis. He, speaking from memory, says this happened in 1848, and that he then engraved six of each value. The date has been shown to be 1845 (the New York 5 c. "post-office" was in use then, *if not before*). As to the six types of each, these have not been disproved, though I may state I can only identify three of each. I see that in February last I mentioned having found a fourth of the 10 c., but I cannot verify this now, and fear it must be an error made by me in comparing the descriptions I published in *The Philatelist* (for September 1869), with specimens obtained afterwards: for I now write with all the specimens I ever had before me. In this examination I have examined thirteen 5 c., and twelve 10 c.; ten of these twenty-five came across the Atlantic, lent by the kindness of Dr. Petrie; altogether I had a number of specimens never seen together in England. I will take the 5 c value first, giving the differences between the three distinct types, and, afterwards, the differences between the first and last states of each of those types, as far as I have found them.

A good magnifier is necessary in the following examinations. The dies of 5 c., with which I am acquainted, are three; two of these, after being worked for a time were altered to 20 c., but this value being evidently little wanted, the altered twenties were turned back again into fives: whether the third die was ever altered to 20 c. I have not been able to determine, neither have I found traces of more than three out of the *six* dies of 5 c., stated to have been made by the engraver, I have not seen enough of them, however, to be sure that no other exist.

FIVE CENTS.

I.—Eleven strokes over SAINT; ten over LOUIS, one of which cuts through the frame. Eagle very deeply shaded, lettering thin and very uneven. Scroll at base has a double outline to the right ends, and, in addition, these ends touch the frame.

II.—Twelve strokes over SAINT, sixteen over LOUIS. Eagle slightly shaded. Lettering in garter thick and more even; lettering in scroll, P of SUPREMA very small, X very low down, E after it seems very unfinished, second P of POPULI has a line down it, and might be anything. Scroll not as in I.

III.—Six strokes over SAINT; eight over LOUIS, the top and bottom ones being long strokes. Eagle leans to the right. Lettering thin and queer. D of STAND, and first D of DIVIDE very rough, V of ditto is a Y, LL of FALL double lines.

The above points do not touch upon the figures, because the numeral of value is the great differing point between the 5 c. as first engraved, and the same stamp after alteration, and then re-engraving, as 5 c. To assist comparison, and identification of varieties from this paper, I have grouped the great points of difference which exist between the first and last 5 c. and the intermediate 20 c., as thus:—

a. The numeral. There are always large open marks of shading in top and back of the 5, sometimes in the ball; these I call *marks;* the other shadings I call *dots* in distinction.
b. The strokes under SAINT.
c. The strokes under LOUIS.
d. The head of the bear to the right side of the stamp.
e. The two lines of frame above numeral.

These will be found to embrace all the points which differ.

DIE I.

§ First state of die, 5 c.

a. Marks thus: a triangle in top, a diamond in back, with four dots above, and nine below it, ball blank.

b. Four strokes, one long, two shorter, with one speck below, and just over the bear's paw is a vertical mark.
c. One very long, three short; of these two come above and two below point of bear's ear.
d. Bear's ears pointed and shaded, the paw on garter is also shaded. Forehead projecting and rounded, leaving a depression above snout. Snout rounded at end, and it, and the whole head, is heavily shaded.

§ Second state of die, 20 c.

b. Four strokes, but bolder and closer than above, the vertical stroke over (left) bear's paw nearly erased.
c. Strokes deeper and more regular, the third stroke (downwards) on a level with the bear's ear. L of LOUIS has been re-engraved.
d. Ears obtuse, straighter, and the left one unshaded. Snout square, it, and the whole head, less shaded. Bear's paw on garter is erased.
e. Inner line of frame half erased between SAINT and LOUIS.

§ Third state of die, 5 c.

a. Marks thus: in top a diamond, in back a long diamond, with four dots above and four below, in ball a black mark. Shading around figure much coarser than in first, and by the back is one vertical curved line, the outline of the right side of the 0 of the 20, which was not cleverly erased.
b. Lines and marks four, graduating, the second sinuous, and touches the bear's ear.
c. Three, one long, two short, the last level with bear's ear. L of LOUIS a trifle longer and more slanting than in the others.
d. Head, ears, &c., as last; the paw on the garter is only outlined.
e. Bulges a little, showing where re-engraved.

Die II.

§ First state, 5 c.

N.B.—Not having the third state, I can only describe the first as it stands with reference to the second state, *i.e.*, the 20 c.

a. Marks are these: a diamond in top, an upright diamond in back with eleven dots below, those above are hidden by the postmark in this, the only specimen I have seen. It is a very fine early copy, with the curious feather-like strokes over SAINT and LOUIS very clear under a magnifier—sharp as can be. I am convinced that the figure 5 on this was originally engraved 1, whether by accident or design I cannot say, but the straight or down stroke of the 5 shows a thin line to its right, and at top, in the top of the 5, are three minute dots in a curve, to the right of the diamond mark, whilst to the left are two, equally small, one over the other.
b. Four, one long, three short.
c. Four, one long, two short, and one speck on a level between the ear and eye of the bear on that side.

§ Second state of die, 20 c.

b. One long and one short.
c. Two top ones half gone, third quite gone, but the speck is there.
e. Inner line gone from T to L, and a smaller piece of the outer frame.

§ Third state of die, 5 c.
I have never found; doubtless it exists.

Die III.

Of this die all I have seen (six in number) are alike, save that some have a clear mark in ball of figure, whilst others have the ball blank. The last are the earliest, those with mark are later, and possibly were so altered when the two 5 c. above were engraved in their last states. I have never found any other differences, or any thing pointing to the existence of a 20 c. from this die.

§ First state of die, 5 c.

a. Marks are these: a long diamond in top, a misshapen one in back with four dots, and nine below it, ball with a slight speck. Later this was engraved deeply, becoming a transverse pear-shaped mark.
b. Four, one long, two short, and one speck.
c. Four, one long and deep, three shorter, of which the middle one is smallest.

This finishes the 5 and 20 c. specimens at my disposal. The existence of the third state 5 c., die I., on one of the well-known old copies, is an argument which clinches the genuineness of the 20 c., and consequently of the later-found specimens of dies I., II., and III., on thickish paper, of the *first states*.

Ten Cents.

Of this value I have identified three dies. As they have never been altered (to my knowledge), the simple differences as given below, will suffice to distinguish one die from the others:—

Die I.—Three curved lines at foot; at *b*, five; at *c*, four strokes.
Die II.—Three curved lines with a smaller stroke over each, at foot; at *b*, four; at *c*, four strokes.
Die III.—Three curved lines, with a smaller stroke over each, and with dots added between the two strokes at each end, at foot; at *b*, five (two last are specks); at *c*, five (the last a speck).

In conclusion: the earliest specimens of 5 and 10 c. were printed on an opaque paper of a delicate greenish grey tint; later, of a dull grey-blue, getting thinner; and lastly, on a very thin dull grey paper, more or less transparent. Some copies are shown upon white, but these are copies from which the colour has been discharged by chemicals. The three 20 c. are in the second mentioned paper.

POSTAGE STAMPS FROM THE SEAT OF WAR.—II.

THE information we have been able to collect during the past month respecting the new French republic stamps, enables us to correct, on some points, that which we gave in our last number, and to add some fresh details.

The 20 centimes was issued at Boulogne (whence all our knowledge of the provincial emission is derived) early in December, and, contrary to the assertions of the postal authorities there, it turned out to be *unperforated*. This fact alone tended to remove such doubts as we felt, when last writing, as to the issue of an independent provincial series, and our surmises were confirmed by the statement made by the officials to our correspondent, to the effect that the stamps they were selling had been struck off *in Bordeaux*.

The first sheets of the 20 c., issued in Boulogne, consisted of five evenly-printed specimens of two shades, dark and light blue. Those since supplied, however, show a marvellous deterioration in the working, due, no doubt, to the extreme softness of the plates. In fact, the stamps at first sight appeared to be mere lithographic copies of the fine original engraving, so coarse was the impression. All the lines on the crown of the head are worn away, leaving a large white space; the shading across the neck and cheek has also almost entirely disappeared; the fine ground in the spandrels is half-filled with colour, and the lettering from the same cause is rendered indistinct. It must not be thought, moreover, that we base this description on the examination of a single specimen of two or three. We have before us twenty-five unused and uncut copies, forming the section of a sheet, and consisting of five rows of five. Furthermore, our correspondent informs us he has received similar blurred copies on letters from Laval, a town in the west of France. It therefore seems pretty clear that towards the last the plate "gave way," to a large extent.

Only a limited supply, to meet immediate requirements, appears to have been sent out. Both 10 and 20 c. were used up in Boulogne within a few days of their emission, and their places were temporarily occupied by the stamps of the empire. Since then, however, a fresh supply has been received.

We noticed last month that the colour of the provincial 10 c. was a very light yellowish bistre. Some few copies have, however, been struck off in a reddish bistre, approaching, probably, the shade of its Parisian congener, in which shade the details of the design show up remarkably well.

Since the above has been in type we have had the good fortune to receive copies of the one centime, and are able to give an engraving thereof. It will be seen that apart from the change in the portrait, the design is absolutely the same as that of the lately-issued laureated one centime of the empire. The colour is also exactly the same, but, like the other stamps from Bordeaux, these, too, are unperforated.

Le Timbre-Poste, which has just reached us, confirms our statement that the provincial series is fabricated at Bordeaux, and adds that the work is performed under the superintendence of the postal authorities of the Gironde.

It appears from our contemporary that, in addition to the values which are known to us, there have also appeared an 80 centimes bright carmine of the old type, and 2 c. light brown on straw, and 4 c. grey on white, of the same type as the imperial stamps of the same value, but differing in detail from the new 1 c. Our contemporary states positively that the stamps are *lithographed;* if so, and we would not question the statement, we must say that the fine copies of the old design are masterpieces of lithography.

PAR BALLON MONTÉ.

THE following are extracts from Dr. Magnus's letter to Mons. Moens, to which reference was made in our last:—

Paris, 6 November, 1870.

The invasion of France by the German army, followed as it has been by the calling to arms of the entire population of the country, and the suspension of all business, has done great injury to the study of stamps. Whilst our friend, B. L. [Berger-Levrault], submitted in Strasbourg to a disastrous siege, of the effects of which on him we are still in ignorance, others fled precipitately from Paris, in

consequence of the invasion, or because of the downfall of the imperial government. The majority, however, remained in the city, and in the ranks of the National Guard has aided in its defence. Not to speak of the frequent disturbance occasioned by the daily drills and the mounting of guard on the ramparts, which have been common to everybody, we inhabitants of the suburbs have had to quit our homes, and bring away with us our most valued possessions. As you may well suppose, my collection has not been forgotten, but is packed up in four or five cases or pasteboard boxes, and, thus stowed away, it is not easy to refer to it at present. It is impossible, then, to continue the revision of my manuscript on the envelope stamps or to send you copy. That is a labour which can only be taken up after peace has been made.

The learned writer then proceeds to give details respecting the postal regulations adopted during the siege, and winds up with the following remarks:—

What more can I tell you about which you are not better informed than I? The journals have talked of German postage stamps being used in our invaded provinces, and of their denominations being represented in French money. These are but rumours for us; for the last stamp magazine received bears date the 1st September. When will it finish, this isolation, which bears so heavily on our spirits?

THE SWISS STAMPS.—II.

BY FENTONIA.

NEXT in date to the Geneva stamps, according to tradition, are the Zurich stamps; but are they *bonâ-fide* postage stamps at all? "Of course they are," say the dons; "none but the most crotchety sceptic could doubt it." Be it so. I know nothing for or against the assumption, and certainly both those pronounced forged and those pronounced genuine, often bear a very pretty obliteration, quite like an orthodox postmark. Tradition states their value to be 4 and 6 *centimes*—*centimes* be it observed—though Zurich is a German canton, and therefore at that time, if not now, most likely using *rappen*. It is also a remarkable fact, that though Zurich is the centre of German Switzerland, and though the German language (and in the rural districts a German *patois*) is spoken, yet the inscription on the stamps is French. And then the exceptional word "taxe," which, to the best of my recollection, occurs on no other stamp admitted as postal, except on a sort of mongrel accredited to Turkey (described in *The Stamp-Collector's Magazine*, vol. 4, p. 185), and on that it is surmounted by the words "Poste-Locale." I am not sufficiently a linguist to define the various meanings to which the word "taxe" is in French applied, but I believe that while it means a rate or price fixed on anything, and might therefore include postage stamps, yet it is more generally employed to designate an impost or revenue tax. Zurich may be considered, as regards size and importance, the metropolis of Switzerland, though it shares by turns with Berne and Lucerne the honour of the annual meeting of the Federal Diet. The four well-known fiscal stamps for the "Kanton Bern," at one time thought to be postal, have the value and spelling after German fashion, and are, therefore, exempt from the anomaly attributable to Zurich.

Much has been written as to the true standard of genuineness. Some trust in the hyphen, some in the fine pink lines, some in the border pattern, and "when doctors differ, who shall agree?" If any are genuine, I should give the palm to those having a diæresis over the U in Zurich, considering the other points of minor importance.

The (so-called) Winterthur stamp comes next under review. The date of its emission, its locality, and its duration, have yet to be discovered. As Basle had a $2\frac{1}{2}$ rappen stamp as early as 1848, it might have been issued about, or soon after, that date for general use throughout the confederation—ORTS POST on one side, and POSTE LOCALE on the other, indicating it was intended for both German and French cantons. It was probably but a short time in use, when doubtless it was found more convenient to issue separate stamps, of which the leading feature was, as also on stamps of higher value, the white cross on red shield of Federal Switzerland, which differs only from that of Savoy by the cross not touching the shield—*alesé* in French. And here, though it is a digression from the main subject, I would remark on the red cross worn by neutrals, tending the sick and wounded in the present terrible war, being termed the Geneva cross. It certainly has nothing to do with the heraldry of the city and canton. Some one has said that it was decided on by the European powers as a distinguishing badge, in a certain treaty recently made at Geneva, providing for the better care of men wounded in battle; but my researches in the only con-

temporaneous history at hand—*The Annual Register*—have not been successful in finding any mention of such a treaty. *Mais revenons à nos moutons.*

The 4 c. and 5 c. oblong stamps come next in date of emission. The former is so rare, that it has sometimes crossed my mind that it might have been a misprint (the device and colours being identical on both stamps), of which only a few sheets were circulated before it was officially suppressed. Being nearly the same shape and size as the (so-called) Winterthur stamp, they might have have been for a time contemporaries, as it now appears was the case with the 5 centimes (Vaud), and the 5 rappen *Rayon I.* on blue ground. In all these stamps we have the inevitable horn, called indiscriminately by Mount Brown, a post-horn, and a hunting-horn—the latter the most heraldic, the former the most appropriate term.

[Fentonia has evidently not met with a record of the Geneva convention, to which all the Great Powers were parties.—Ed].

(*To be continued.*)

CORRESPONDENCE.

M. BERGER-LEVRAULT, OF STRASBOURG.

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

Sir,—What became of that useful friend to philately, Mons. Berger-Levrault, during the siege of Strasbourg? Has he been able to save his stamps from the general wreck, and re-establish his business, which, if I mistake not, was that of a publisher or bookseller?

Clifton. FENTONIA.

[M. Oscar Berger-Levrault is a printer and publisher, at the head of a very large establishment, employing many hundreds of workmen. From founding the type and preparing the lithographic stones, to turning out the complete bound volume, every operation and trade was carried on upon the premises, and works of the most sumptuous and elaborate character were produced there. We regret to state that no replies have been received to various communications sent to him since the siege ended; but probably the pressure of more serious business has prevented M. Berger-Levrault attending to philatelic matters.—Ed.]

THE SOUTH AFRICAN REPUBLIC STAMPS.

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

Sir,—We observe in the November number of your valuable magazine, a statement made by Mr. Dudley Atlee, respecting the South African Republic proofs, which we cannot allow to pass unnoticed.

Mr. Atlee states that these proofs were obtained from the German engraver; this is a mistake, as we have several of Mr. Jeppe's letters, in his own handwriting, *presenting* us with a great number of them, and in the last, dated July 20th, 1870, he says, "I enclose *all* the proofs which I have." We can fully endorse Mr. Atlee's remarks as to the genuineness of all the Transvaal stamps; in fact, we never met with any collector who had a doubt of them.

Yours faithfully,

Plymouth. STANLEY, GIBBONS, & CO.

ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS.

D. H. E., San Francisco.—We are glad to have been favoured with a sight of the rather curious lottery tickets of your town.

R. J. K., St. John, Newfoundland.—Accept our thanks for specimens of your new three-cent stamp. The cancelling mark on the used copy is a curiosity in its way.

Gertinelliannie.—Your twopence South Australia, with S. P. impressed in large letters, is used by the magistrates, and stands for stipendiary or special magistrate. We have never seen one franking a letter to this country, therefore think it probable they are used only within the limits of the colony.

Urbanus, Stoke-Damerel.—We cannot inform you how the Pope will manage to get his letters conveyed through the post. It will certainly be rather *infra dig.* to use the Italian stamps bearing the effigy of his conqueror; yet we doubt whether the pontifical stamps will long have, even if they have now, any postal value.

E. Beveridge, Dunfermline, complains that some months back he paid a dealer, now residing in Battersea, ten shillings for a set of the first Swedish stamps, stipulating for liberty to return them, should they turn out to be reprints. As they in fact were reprints he sent them back on the 24th September, and has not heard since from the seller, who, we trust, for his own credit's sake, has simply overlooked, and will now arrange, the matter.

J. C., Manchester.—We insert your notice of the numerals on the halfpenny English in our article on New Issues.—1. Your Confederate one cent belongs to the second printing, commonly called the genuine old set, the first stamps were yellower.—2. Your Spanish "Habilitado" is a genuine original.—3. We see no reason for supposing that your medio-real San Domingo is a reprint.—4, 5. These two St. Domingo stamps belong to different issues.—6. The Antigua penny is simply a faded specimen.—7. Your Blood's Penny Post is an original and somewhat scarce stamp, worth, say, 3/6.—8. The New Brunswick stamp is genuine.—9. The Virgin Isles sixpence is a good but rather faded copy.—10. Your 2 r.s. Danish is also genuine; this type exists on plain white paper without the *burelage:* unused copies are not rare; they are worth about 6/- each.

J. H. R., York.—You are right in assuming that the circulation of what are termed the Alsace and Lorraine stamps is not confined merely to those provinces, but is co-extensive with the German occupation. We received a short time since a letter from a gentleman holding a high position in the Hamburg post-office, in which he explained that the Prussian postal service in France is sub-divided into three distinct branches. There is, first, that of the departments bordering on the Rhine, which the Prussians purpose annexing—this service is organised on a permanent basis; secondly, there is the service for those parts of France which the Prussians may be said to firmly hold, such as the districts from Metz round to Laon; and, thirdly, what may be termed the field or movable service, which comes into operation in places only temporarily occupied. In this connection it may not be uninteresting to mention that at Amiens the Prussians have introduced a veritable reform in the postal rates; their office carries letters for all the occupied parts of the country for ten centimes, or only half the regular amount. Letters for the uninvaded provinces, however, are charged 20 centimes, and we presume must be open. If any are sent they must reach their destination by some very circuitous route.—There is not a *grey* two-shilling Mauritius.

OUR CONTEMPORARIES.

From a variety of circumstances, which it is unnecessary to recapitulate here, we have been unable to continue our usual article on our *confrères*, but we have now much pleasure in resuming our pen, and shall endeavour to analyse contemporary publications in the same frank and friendly spirit which it has always been our aim to manifest.

The Philatelist maintains its character as a high-class and valuable journal, full of useful information and interesting reading. The current number contains an announcement to the effect that supplements will be given from time to time, and a number of articles, by experienced writers, are promised.

The most noticeable feature in the present number is Mr. Stourton's reply to Mr. Atlee's attack on his prize essay on Swiss stamps. We are not going to discuss the merits or demerits of that essay in detail; that it was not, however, a very valuable contribution to stamp lore is now generally admitted; but we think the style in which the controversy is carried on is capable of improvement, and that this is the opinion of the editor of *The Philatelist* is, we think, evident from some remarks in his New Year's address, in which he deprecates dissensions among philatelists. Mr. Atlee, in his attack, lays great stress on the fact that the essay was written by John Marmaduke Stourton, and repeatedly notices it in the course of his critique, but surely it is no more a disadvantage to Mr. Stourton to have been christened John Marmaduke, than it is an advantage to Mr. Atlee to be styled "W. Dudley," and certainly the names of the disputants neither add to, nor take away from, the value of their assertions with respect to the Swiss stamps. We should not presume to give Mr. Atlee a lesson in the art of using sarcasm as a weapon, nor is there any necessity to impress on Mr. Stourton the excellence of modesty, but we do not mind saying that it is possible to show a brother collector his error in amicable terms, and if the said brother "doesn't see it," he might justify his want of perception in moderate language. So much for personal questions. If in the exercise of a benevolent neutrality we have managed to offend both combatants, as third parties generally do, we shall still have the satisfaction of having protested against the introduction of undue acerbity into philatelic discussions.

Le Timbre-Poste, which has become the sole influential representative of foreign philatelists since the siege of Paris, continues to appear with its usual regularity, and its pages are never wanting in interest. In the present number there are two good articles, the first on the stamps of Providence (Rhode Island), the second on two newly-discovered varieties of Finnish envelopes. The former article is devoted to a very close—almost too close—analysis of a sheet of the Providence five-cent stamps, whence the writer demonstrates that the twelve stamps of which the sheet is composed, were all separately engraved. He further argues that the ten-cent stamp was never officially issued, but that, in fact, it owes its existence to a blunder of the engraver. The sheet, whence he describes, is composed of four rows of three stamps, eleven out of the twelve stamps thus formed are of the value of five cents, but the twelfth is inscribed "ten cents," and there is good reason to suppose that the word "ten" was written by mistake. With regard to the forgeries of these stamps, the following remarks are valuable:—

> The false stamps can easily be recognised. The five cents has been copied from a type having the word CENTS without punctuation, and with the five balls (or pearls) in the upper part of the oval. This oval measures on the outside $23\frac{1}{2}$ millimetres wide, and $18\frac{1}{2}$ millimetres high. The lines which form the frame of one of the imitations, have a double thickness to left, and right, and below, whilst in the real stamps only the lines on the right and below show the double thickness. The lettering of the inscription on the ten cents is much thinner; the O of PROV. especially is desperately thin, compared with the genuine. The dimensions are, above all, noticeable—$22\frac{3}{4}$ mill. by $17\frac{1}{2}$ mill. As to the design, the imitations are so gross, that no one who has once seen the genuine stamps can mistake them.

The article on the Finland stamps is devoted to the consideration of a 5 kop. indigo and 10 cents carmine (1850 type) *on blue paper*. The specimens from which M. Moens describes were cut round, but he very cleverly proves that they must be portions of *covers*, and not envelopes. The only difficulty presented by the stamps lies in the postmarks,

which, with one exception, bears the date 1858. This, however, is successfully disposed of by the writer, and 1850 satisfactorily fixed as the date of emission.

The American Stamp Mercury.—The current impression consist of three "whole numbers," as they are termed in American parlance, being, in fact, intended to do duty for three months,—October, November, and December, 1870,—and accordingly it is accompanied by three gratis stamps. The number opens with a prospectus for 1871, in which the reader is informed that the "centre page" is in future to be omitted, to afford facilities for giving large illustrations, such as post cards, war envelopes, &c., a facility of which we hope the publisher will not hesitate to avail himself. The number of pages will vary from twenty to forty, "according to press of matter [and matter in press ?], number of advertisements, and subscribers." The editor frankly announces his intention to republish all the original articles which appear in this and other magazines, and to accompany the reprints with editorial notes. This will be by no means a bad plan, especially if applied to contributions which have been some time in print. In our own magazine there have appeared many articles on the stamps of different countries, which were of considerable value when they appeared, but of which certain portions have been rendered obsolete by the march of knowledge. Were they now to be reprinted with explanatory notes, and the necessary additions to bring them up to date, they would, we are persuaded, be of much use to collectors, who lack either the time or the knowledge to make the needed corrections when reading these articles in their original form.

In fulfilment of his intention to reprint, the editor gives an instalment of Mr. W. D. Atlee's paper on "Errors of Engraving," to which succeeds an article on "New Stamps," and this in turn is followed by a really excellent and comprehensive article, by Mr. John E. Robson, on "Provisional Stamps." It is written in a freer and more graceful style than that which usually characterises the compositions of American writers, and it is a pity that it should be disfigured, as it certainly is, by the proof-reader's carelessness. When we see, in a quotation from Levrault, that a stamp "n'a jamicies existe," the effect of this statement on the mind resembles the effect on the ears produced by drawing a pencil at a very acute angle across a slate. Again, "Kanton Berve" is a rough way of writing "Kanton Bern," and surely there was no necessity for referring to the "Connal" stamp.

The Mercury winds up with a sharp but well-merited criticism on the latest edition of Lallier, from the pen of Mr. W. R. Balch. We, for our part, have given up the attempt to review this work. We have been at the pains of pointing out, more than once, the numerous errors which render the album unworthy the support of collectors, but, as its author chooses to pursue his vagaries, there is nothing for it but to let him go his way.

The American Journal of Philately. The number before us completes the third volume of this journal; with it is given a sheet containing engravings of the 10 stamps forming the 1870 issue of the United States, printed in their proper colours, or a near approach thereto; and to prevent the chance of their being fraudulently employed, they are all marked with the word specimen, in small letters. The contents of the number are not, as a whole, very interesting, a long list of match stamps forming the leading feature; and an inordinate proportion of the total space being occupied with reviews. In the article on new stamps we find the following piece of information as to the cause of the suppression of the 1869 series of United States stamps.

> We are now enabled to inform our readers and friends of the press of a little circumstance that has been kept pretty well concealed, but perhaps these few lines may open the eyes of the people who pay the taxes. After a few hundred sheets of the fifteen and twenty-four cent stamps of the 1869 issue had been delivered, it was discovered that a few of the stamps on each sheet had the picture inverted in the frames. The government refused to receive them, and only half sheets of those values were issued. This mistake would have compelled the company to prepare new plates for these values, and of course they would not have been paid for them, so they adopted the bright dodge of setting the papers to run down the new issue, so that they would be required to get new plates by the department, which they would be paid for. We all know how well they succeeded; however, to philatelists this makes two interesting varieties which are very scarce.

There is probably a great deal of truth in these statements, but the 1869 series, as a whole, justly merited the condemnation it received.

We have never had the pleasure of reviewing the weekly edition of the *A. J. P.*, and it appears that we never shall have it, unless we content ourselves with the examination of the numbers already in existence, as, if the statement made in a contemporary be well founded, the weekly edition has been dropped. We are sorry, but not altogether surprised that the speculation has proved an unsuccessful one; if we may be permitted to make a bad pun, the weekly was never strong; it was, in fact, but the shadow of the monthly, and had no independent existence of its own, but we should have been glad to learn that the steam-press which the publishers had set up for the printing off the edition had been working over-time, instead of being, as it now is, "locked out."

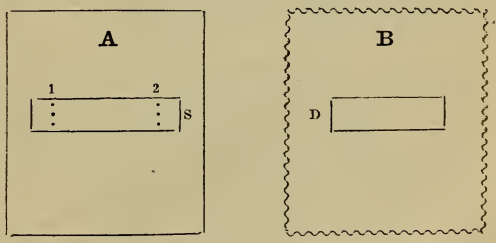
Mason's Coin and Stamp-Collector's Magazine again merits the reproach of being all "coin" and no "stamp." The Philatelic department is compressed into a page and a half, and nearly a third of this space is occupied with a list of "private proprietary stamps."

Ce Kuriositi Kabinet has reached its fourth number, the first page of which contains an article relating, as we at first supposed, to craniology. Read by phonetic light, however, the title "Amerikan and Yúropían skúlz" resolves itself into American and European schools, and we "guess" the paper discusses their respective merits. We have not ventured to attempt to decipher the entire article, but with infinite pains we have managed to translate the following paragraph:—

> The margin of a postage stamp is of as much importance as that of any other engraving, and we consider any radical change (*cénj*) in the paper, such as perforation, watermark, or quality, as noteworthy as an alteration in the engraving.

These observations are wise and truthful, and if the rest of the paper is made up of equally sensible remarks, we can only say, it is a pity it is not written in "plain English," for then we could have given our contemporary's notions on a difficult question in their entirety.

The Stamp-Collector's Guide is a new paper, hailing from Merriden, Connecticut. It starts with a good stock of buncombe and assurance, and manifests its contempt for all collectors who are not of the American school, whatever that may be. The publishers say, "We shall mail a few thousand copies of this number of the *Guide* free to our old customers who have not yet received;" and it is, perhaps, with a view to lessening the cost of this operation, that the *Guide* is printed on a sheet of note-sized paper, as even "a few thousands" of a larger journal could not be got ready without considerable outlay. Deduction made of superfluous brag, our little contemporary contains some readable matter, and its new plan for mounting stamps is worth mentioning. It consists in fastening to the blank space on which the stamp is to be mounted a slip of paper about a quarter of an inch wide, and not quite so long as the stamp is broad. Two vertical slits are cut in this slip of paper, a second slip is gummed to the stamp itself, and all that has to be done to mount the stamp is to pass the end of the slip attached to the stamp through the two slits in the slip which is fastened to the page. The annexed diagrams will make this clear. A represents the space on the page, S the slip attached to the page, and 1 and 2 the two slits. B represents the back of the stamp, and D the slip which has to be passed through the slits.



THE POST UNDER CHARLES I.—The following curious account of early postal arrangements occurs in Taylor's *Carrier's Cosmographpy* (1637): "Those that will send any letter to Edinbourgh, that so they may be conveyed to and fro to any parts of the kingdome of Scotland, the poste doth lodge at the signe of the King's Armes, at the upper end of Cheapside, from whence, every Monday, any that have occasion may send."

LIST OF NEWLY-ISSUED OR INEDITED STAMPS, NOTICED IN *THE STAMP-COLLECTOR'S MAGAZINE* FOR 1870.

(*Continued from page* 4.)

Helsingfors.

(See Russia.)

Holla.

(See Denmark.)

Holland.

1867-8 series. Col. imp.; *unperf.* rect. (varieties).

1 cent green.
5 „ blue.
10 „ carmine.

UNPAID LETTER STAMPS.

Large numeral in circle, inscriptions in upper and lower margins. [TE BETALEN PORT.] Col. imp. on col. paper.; rect. perf.

5 cent brown on yellow paper.
10 „ dark blue on blue „

Italy.

UNPAID LETTER STAMPS.

Large numeral in white oval, inscriptions in upper and lower margins. [SEGNA TASSE]. Col. imp.; obl. perf.

Figure deep carmine, frame yellow.
1, 2, 5, 30, 40, 50, and 60 centesimi.
Figure brown and frame blue.
1, 2 lire.

Kooreyedjah.

Hindoo characters on solid ground in oblong frame, struck by hand at the post-office on letters.

Black [presumed value 1 anna].

Lenant,

or Russian Steam Navigation Company.

(See Russia.)

Mauritius.

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

Sixpence dark green.
One shilling blue.

Mexico.

SECOND REPUBLIC.

Reprinted series of 1861. Col. imp.; rect. (variety).

1 real black on lilac.

Natal.

PROVISIONAL SERIES.

Series of 1867-9. Surcharged POSTAGE in black ink. Col. imp.; rect. perf.

One penny carmine.
Threepence blue.
Sixpence deep lilac.
Shilling green.

Newfoundland.

Portrait of Queen in widow's weeds, in arched frame; figures in upper corners [NEWFOUNDLAND.] Col. imp.; rect. perf.

Three cents red.
Six „ carmine.

New Granada.

Arms in circle, inscribed ESTADOS UNIDOS DE COLOMBIA; above, in curved line, CORREOS NALES. Col. imp.; large rect.

20 (veinte) centavos blue.

Bent escutcheon, inclining to right, in triangular frame. CORREOS NALES EE. UU. DE COLOMBIA. Black imp.; trian.

$2\frac{1}{2}$ centavos, black on deep violet.

Arms surrounded by inscription ESTADOS UNIDOS DE COLOMBIA, and nine stars in circle; CORREOS NALES on scroll in upper margin; figure 25 repeated on five small disks on either side, forming the margin. Black. imp.; large rect.

25 centavos bluish grey.

Arms surrounded by nine stars and inscription, ESTADOS UNIDOS DE, in square disk; COLOMBIA immediately below; CORREOS in upper, NACIONALES in lower margin. Col. imp.; rect.

50 centavos green.

Arms and stars in circle, inscribed in its upper half EE. UU. DE COLOMBIA;

in its lower half, CORREOS NALES. Col. imp.; rect.
1 peso flesh.

Arms surmounted by stars, and with EE. UU. DE COLOMBIA in an irregular disk, CORREOS NACIONALES on arched scroll at the angles, large figure 5 on circular disk in the centre of each of the four sides, small figure 5 in each of four circles, formed by curves of the scroll, and small numeral V. in the outer angles. Black imp.; large rect.
5 pesos green.

Arms and inscription, ESTADOS UNIDOS DE COLOMBIA, in irregular frame, CORREOS NACIONALES above, figure 10 in centre of lower margin. Col. imp.; large rect.
10 pesos.

NEW SERIES.

Inscription EE. UU. DE COLOMBIA on an ornamental label rather below the centre of the stamp, arms and stars above, CORREOS NALES below, figure 5 in four corners. Col. imp.; rect.
5 centavos, pale yellow.

REGISTRATION STAMP.

Letter R and three stars in circle, inscription REJISTRO and six stars in surrounding border; CORREOS NALES in upper, EE. UU. DE COLOMBIA in lower margin. Black imp.; rect.
5 centavos black.

VIGNETTE.

Flag curved round its staff, and inscribed ESTADOS UNIDOS DE COLOMBIA CERTIFICACION CON CONTENIDO; VALE CINCUENTA CENTAVOS; square stamp on each side, with large figure 50 in centre of circle, and inscription CORREOS NACIONALES in surrounding border; below, in a straight line SALIO DE.....EN DE..... DE 187; and below this again a ruled space for the address. Col. imp.
50 centavos, flag yellow, blue, and red; rest of design in black on white.

STAMPS OF SEPARATE STATES.

Antioquia.

Arms in sinuous-edged oval frame, inscribed in upper half ES. US. DE COLOMBIA; in lower half ES. DE ANTIOQUIA; in upper margin CORREOS; background lined. Col. imp.; rect.
5 centavos dark green.

Arms in oval, inscribed like previous type; design on unshaded ground. Col. imp.; rect.
$2\frac{1}{2}$ centavos pale blue.

Arms surrounded by inscription E. S. DE ANTIOQUIA CORREOS, in circle; scroll above, inscribed ES. US. DE COLOMBIA; ground unshaded. Col. imp.; rect.
10 centavos pale lilac.

Cundinamarca.

Arms, with the word CUNDINAMARCA in a curved line below, in an irregular oval frame; curved labels above and below, the upper inscribed CORREOS. Col. imp.; rect.
5 centavos blue.

Arms and stars in circle, inscribed CORREOS CUNDINAMARCA, in ornamental frame. Col. imp.; rect.
5 centavos blue.
10 „ red.

Tolima.

Inscription: EE. UU. DE C—E. S. DEL T—CORREOS DE L'ESTADO—VALE 5 CTS.— in four lines, in oblong type-set border of stars. Black imp.; small oblong.
5 centavos black, on bluish paper.

New South Wales.

Profile of Queen, diademed, to left in inscribed oval, contained within an hexagonal frame; spandrels of interlaced lines. [NEW SOUTH WALES POSTAGE.] Col. imp.; rect. perf.
Sixpence lilac.

Sydney.

ENVELOPE OR WRAPPER

1849. Arms of Great Britain, with the word SIDNEY below, in circle, inscribed GENERAL POST OFFICE, NEW

SOUTH WALES; impressed in white relief, on wrappers or envelopes.
One penny white.

North German Confederation.

(See German Confederation, North.)

Norway.

Bergen.

Large numeral in circular frame, inscribed BYPOST BERGEN; lined spandrels.
Col. imp.; rect.
2 skilling bright vermilion.

Paraguay.

Lion supporting pole, on which is the cap of Liberty. [REPUBLICA DEL PARAGUAY.] Col. imp.; rect.
1 real (lion in circle) carmine rose.
2 „ („ oval) dark blue.
3 „ („ lozenge) black.

(*To be concluded in our next.*)

THE PHILADELPHIA POSTMEN.

In France the postmen, when New Year's Day is near at hand, give a gentle hint to their clients that the appropriate moment for bestowing *étrennes* has arrived, by leaving an almanack for the ensuing year—said almanack having at the back, in small type, an epitome of the postal regulations. This almanack-card is got up in several styles, commencing with plain black and white printing, and a coloured paper edge, and rising to gilt edges and coloured lithographs, and those from whom the largest donations are expected get the richest cards. The wise postmen of Philadelphia have, however, improved somewhat on the French idea, by issuing a little sixteen-page pamphlet, containing much readable, and some valuable information. Title, the book has none, but on the coloured wrapper there appears a representation of a rather care-worn postman, with his U. M. bag under his arm, standing in a meditative attitude beside a lamp pillar-post, that is to say, a lamp-post, round which is attached, about half-way down, a letter-box. The snow is falling fast around him, but does not prevent him from uttering the good wishes printed above and below the engraving—"A Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year."

The book opens with a poetical address by Miss Laura L. Rees, dedicated to the Philadelphia letter-carriers. It is rather serious reading, but it finishes up with a humorous stroke, of which Miss Laura L. Rees is conscious, and may be proud :—

> All honour, then, to those whose well-tried worth,
> Though truly known, is passed so lightly by—
> The messengers who bear the *leaves* of earth
> O'er life's dark waters to the anxious eye.

The idea of comparing postmen to doves is new, but striking. If postmen should ever form a society or trades-union, they might take the hint, and adopt the gentle bird as their symbol.

After being addressed in verse by Miss Laura F. Rees, the letter-carriers get analysed in prose by Mr. James Rees. Mr. Rees explains how it is the carrier system came to be introduced into postal operations, and shows that the object of the Postal System (capital letters) is to bring the whole country "under one great Postal Head"—an impressive and reverential way of alluding to the postmaster-general. Mr. Rees is glad the United States cannot boast that its post-office yields a profit, for that very boast would be a reflection on its success; but a couple of sentences further on he expresses the belief that "the time is not far distant when it can be made a source of revenue"—if so, there will be reflections made in the shape of boasting.

Mr. Rees is evidently anxious to prove that just at present it is an advantage for the United States post-office department that there is an annual loss on its operations; but we fancy Mr. Cresswell would like to show a balance on the right side at the end of the year, and would care very little for reflections.

The letter-carriers of Philadelphia (by the way there are no "postmen" there) have a warm friend in Mr. Rees, who declares them to be, as they no doubt are, a very deserving class of men. He gives a number of directions to correspondents, whereby they may aid carriers, and also ensure prompt delivery of their letters, and plainly hints that if

letters miscarry or are delayed, it is generally the writers who are to blame, and not the carriers.

There is another class of people with whose misdeeds the post-office often gets credited, and that is the class of "boxholder's messengers." As our readers are probably aware, the system of renting private letter-boxes at the post-office is carried on in America to a great extent. The carriers drop all letters that arrive for the boxholder into his box, and the "boxholder's messenger" comes and clears out the contents of the box. Their office is one of trust, and it is often abused. "Scarcely a week passes without the detection of a boxholder's messenger in purloining the letters of his employer. There is hardly a publishing house of importance in the city referred to which has not suffered in this way—the largest of them to the extent of thousands of dollars—through the dishonesty of *three* of its messengers, detected in succession."

Following Mr. Rees' address, comes a list of Philadelphia postmasters, from which we learn the rather interesting fact, that the first one was licensed by William Penn, in 1683. Fifty years after, Benjamin Franklin was nominated to the post, and remained in Philadelphia until he became the "Postal Head" of the colonies. During the present century, no less than fifteen postmasters have been appointed to Philadelphia, and the present holder of the position is a military man—General Henry H. Bingham.

The pamphlet before us winds up with a post-office guide, giving a number of useful details with regard to postage, hours of mailing, &c. From this we learn, among other things, that the two-cent stamps are used for the prepayment of letters addressed to places within the *county* of Philadelphia, and prepayment is obligatory.

The fees for money-orders are comparatively high, the lowest for international ones being thirty cents, which may be made up of ten cents in paper money, and twenty in gold; the lowest for "domestic" money orders (*qy.*, remittances from man to wife, or father to son) is ten cents.

The post-office calls the special attention of the community to the government stamped envelopes, as being cheaper and affording greater security to correspondents than ordinary envelopes. Moreover, though the stamps may not be cut out of the envelopes and used separately, if any are spoilt in directing, they may be exchanged against adhesives in the office of the town where they were bought.

Letters are now delivered free at the recipient's house, and a number of rules are given with respect to the modes of addressing them; among other things it is requested that letters sent to strangers or visitors to a town, whose special address may be unknown, be marked "Transient" on the lower left-hand corner.

The arrangements for quarterly prepayment of newspapers are very liberal; dailies may thus be prepaid at the rate of thirty-five cents, and weeklies at five cents per quarter, but any single paper of which the quarterly postage has not been prepaid is charged two cents; there is, therefore, a great encouragement given to the public to subscribe for at least a quarter to their paper.

The rates for foreign letters seem, on the whole, lower than ours. They average ten cents per half ounce; the highest rate is twenty-eight cents for letters to Buenos Ayres, Spain, and Portugal, *viâ* England; the lowest is three cents (the same as the inland postage), to the Bahamas, and Nassau, New Providence.

We have now come to the end of the interior of the pamphlet before us. At the back of the wrapper we find a further instalment of poetry, an address containing a hint to which we imagine its readers could hardly fail to respond:—

The letter carrier's New Year's call,—
He's waiting at the door;
How many times within the year,
You've met him there before?
You've learnt to know his footstep,
To listen for his ring,
And hasten eagerly to find
What tidings he will bring.

Though scorching be the summer's heat,
Though wintry winds may roar,
He brings his treasures daily,
And leaves them at your door.
These letters, what a volume
Of smiles, and doubts, and fears;
Of hopes that quickly vanish,
Of joys that last for years!

NEWLY-ISSUED OR INEDITED STAMPS.

FRANCE.—The provincial series has just been completed by the emission of stamps of 5, 30, and 40 centimes. We have ourselves only seen the 5 and 30 c., both are roughly designed, and are unmistakable lithographs, probably the 40 c. is no better. The 5 c. made its appearance about New Year's Day, and although this year there has been but little visiting, and many persons have abstained from sending out cards, still a large number were used. Since then, our Boulogne correspondent has seen but very few. The five cents, contrary to expectation, is of the same type as the higher values; as it is intended for printed matter, it had been supposed that the design of the 1, 2, and 4 c. would be adopted. The colour of the three stamps forming the complement of the provincial series are as follow:

5 centimes green, pale and dark.
30 „ brown, dark brown.
40 „ vermilion and orange.

M. Moens announces in his current number, that he has received information from a friend in Paris, that the perforated 40 centimes was issued there about the middle of last month; for what special purpose he does not say, but it looks as if the post had decided to remove the restriction as to weight on balloon letters, and allow a double weight letter to be sent for 40 centimes.

PORTUGAL.—A new 5 reis stamp has just been issued, of which the annexed engraving is a not altogether satisfactory copy, the portrait being roughly done, and the line of perforation omitted. In point of fact, the new type is a very pleasing one; the design is compact and clear, and the effigy superior to that of the last issue. The young king certainly shows to much greater advantage, and has exchanged the rather plebeian nose with which Mr. C. Wiener presented him, on the preceding 5 c., for a more shapely and aristocratic-looking feature; besides this, the lips are adorned with a neat moustache above, and budding imperial below; altogether, the portrait is that of a worthy young gentleman of the period.



The new stamp was not produced before it was needed, the old type being nearly worn out. A copy of the old 5 c. now before us, shows the upper part of the stamp almost bare of shading, and the figure 5 in the upper left corner has a white patch in front. The new comer has the design in relief, is printed in black, and perforated, like its predecessor.

HOLLAND.—A half-cent stamp of the arms type, has just made its appearance; colour, a very light brown, on white paper, and perforated.

The promised post-cards have also been issued; they are close copies of the English, being light buff in colour, with the border inscription and stamp in lilac; we say the stamp, but one of the two is without any stamp whatever, and represents a fresh extension of the post-card system, it being intended for communications to foreign countries. We hope to see this bright idea utilised by other states, accompanied, of course, by special reduced rates for the card-letters.

The stamp which adorns the inland card is a copy of the central portion of the design of the arms series of adhesives; the shield and crown are surrounded by a wreath, and the whole is enclosed in a beaded circle, with the word NEDERLAND in a curved line above, and the value—$2\frac{1}{2}$ cent—below. The inscription on both cards consists of the word BRIEFKAART, in the centre, followed by three lines for the address, and in the lower margin is a four-line explanatory note.

BELGIUM.—This country has followed its neighbour's lead, in the act, if not in the idea of emitting post-cards. The law ordaining their issue was dated the 15th May last, but a change having taken place lately in the government, the new minister felt it his duty to raise certain objections to the design for the card approved by his predecessor, and hence arose a delay in executing the law. However, the cards are at length in circulation; they are of a yellowish tint, and bear a brown impression from the 5 centimes die (arms), a circumstance which astonishes our

friend M. Moens, who argues that as the arms series is consecrated to the prepayment of newspapers, &c., a "head" stamp ought to have been apposed on these cards, which, in fact, are intended for written correspondence.

The Belgian cards will have a more limited circulation than those of any other country, as they can only be used for communications addressed to persons within the postal district in which they originate; if they are sent to persons out of that district they are considered as letters, and require the addition of a 5 centimes adhesive, to render the prepayment complete; if this stamp is not added, the card is charged for on delivery as an insufficiently stamped letter. When, however, an amount has to be claimed on delivery, the card must first be put in an envelope by the postal officials, and the reason is a curious one. "Pending the issue of official cards," says M. Moens, "the public, who desired to turn to account, without delay, the privilege accorded by the law of the 15th May, 1870, which said 'that the cards should be issued within six months from the promulgation of the law,' put in circulation cards of all shapes. Among the specimens which have been submitted to us, there are some very extraordinary ones: thus, we find an invitation to the last Ghémar fête, serving, thanks to a written inscription, as an invitation to dinner. There were also ball-tickets, visiting-cards, and commercial address-cards, which, by the simple application of a five-centime stamp, and the naïve inscription 'Carte-correspondance,' were utilised in the legal sense. They were at first distributed without any extra charge, then double the rate of an ordinary letter was required, because the cards had not been issued by the post." To this demand the public replied by reading the contents of the cards, and then returning them to the postman without paying the charge: it is to this practice that we owe the 7th article of the ministerial decree, ordaining that insufficiently prepaid cards shall be put in envelopes before being tendered to the recipients.

Beside the impression from the five-cent die, the post-card bears in its centre the national arms, surmounted by a crown, and on either side are placed allegorical figures, representing industry, commerce, &c., &c.; the design is completed by inscriptions in Flemish and French, describing the use and value of the cards.

TASMANIA.—The well-known and too-long current series is at length relegated to the region of the obsolete, and the neat design here represented takes its place. It will be noticed that the word POSTAGE does not appear on the stamp, and it is to be presumed that the new set will be used for fiscal as well as postal purposes. Up to the present four values have made their appearance, viz:



One penny rose,	watermark	10.
Twopence green,	„	2.
Fourpence blue,	„	4.
Tenpence black,	„	10.

The watermark 10 is shared by the penny and by the new value, the tenpence; the figure two, with which the twopence is watermarked, is formed of a single line; the other figures are double-lined italics.

There remain to appear the sixpence and shilling, in the new type, and as both values are much employed, we may anticipate that their emission will not be long delayed.

SPAIN.—It appears that after all the new series of stamps to which we alluded last month is not to appear; the accession of King Amadeus is to be postally recognised, without delay, in the shape of a set of stamps bearing his portrait; and they will certainly be more preferable than a repetition of hideous would-be symbolical designs. We suppose it would not be "the thing" to introduce a likeness of Marshal Prim into the projected series, but it certainly would not be doing too much honour to the man who sacrificed his life in the cause of liberty.

ALSACE AND LORRAINE.—Two new values have made their appearance:—

5 centimes yellow-green.
25 „ dark brown.

The former is no doubt intended for printed matter; the latter rather freely represents a value of 2 groschen, and will probably be used for letters to Germany. Both values

are of the same type as the four first-issued stamps, but seeing that the intention to annex the conquered provinces is becoming daily more pronounced, we are rather surprised to find that the denominations continue to be expressed in French money only. When Schleswig-Holstein was annexed, the provisional stamps issued on the occasion bore the value in German as well as in Danish currency.

SWITZERLAND.—In the December number of *Le Timbre-Poste* a couple of columns are devoted to a laboured description of certain field-post envelopes, which had just been issued for the use of the Swiss troops employed in guarding the frontier. We, for our part, felt that these envelopes merited only the most cursory mention, and therefore simply alluded to the fact of their emission; our justification for so doing is found in the following paragraph in the present number of our Belgian contemporary. "The field-post envelopes are no longer worth counting, we already possess *forty varieties*."

UNITED STATES.—We reprinted, in our impression for September last, the advertisement of the United States Postmaster General, calling for tenders for a new set of envelopes, and prescribing conditions for the supply. We have since been awaiting receipt of intelligence respecting this new series, but it appears that the series commenced last summer has been at last accepted and issued in its entirety. The following information respecting it is taken from the current number of *The American Stamp Mercury*. The new contractors not being able to engrave the stamps in the manner desired by the department, the contract has been re-awarded to Mr. S. H. Reay, and the envelopes, with the exception of the 7-cent, have been forwarded to the various offices for use. We have received a set of 24 varieties, and believing that some of our readers would like a description of them, we append it below:—

1	cent	blue	on	cream,	$5\frac{1}{2}$	by	$3\frac{1}{4}$ in.
2	,,	brown	,,		$5\frac{1}{2}$	,,	$3\frac{1}{4}$,,
2	,,	,,	on	orange,	$5\frac{1}{2}$	,,	$3\frac{1}{4}$,,
2	,,	,,	,,		$6\frac{1}{4}$	,,	$3\frac{1}{2}$,,
3	,,	green	on	white,	$3\frac{1}{4}$	,,	$2\frac{7}{8}$,,
3	,,	,,	,,		$5\frac{1}{2}$	,,	$3\frac{1}{4}$,,
3	cent	green	on	white,	$6\frac{1}{4}$	by	$3\frac{1}{2}$ in.
3	,,	,,	,,		$6\frac{1}{4}$	,,	4 ,,
3	,,	,,	on	cream,	$5\frac{1}{2}$	,,	$3\frac{1}{4}$,,
3	,,	,,	,,		$6\frac{1}{4}$	,,	$3\frac{1}{2}$,,
3	,,	,,	on	melon,	$5\frac{1}{2}$	,,	$3\frac{1}{4}$,,
3	,,	,,	,,		$8\frac{7}{8}$	,,	4 ,,
6	,,	red	on	white,	$5\frac{1}{2}$	,,	$3\frac{1}{4}$,,
6	,,	,,	,,		$8\frac{7}{8}$	,,	4 ,,
6	,,	,,	on	cream,	$5\frac{1}{2}$	,,	$3\frac{1}{4}$,,
6	,,	,,	on	melon,	$8\frac{7}{8}$	,,	4 ,,
10	,,	brown	on	cream,	$5\frac{1}{2}$	,,	$3\frac{1}{4}$,,
10	,,	,,	on	white,	$5\frac{1}{2}$	,,	$3\frac{1}{4}$,,
12	,,	slate	,,		$10\frac{1}{4}$	,,	$4\frac{1}{4}$,,
15	,,	orange	,,		$10\frac{1}{4}$	,,	$4\frac{1}{4}$,,
24	,,	violet	,,		$10\frac{1}{4}$	,,	$4\frac{1}{4}$,,
30	,,	black	,,		$10\frac{1}{4}$	,,	$4\frac{1}{4}$,,
90	,,	carmine	,,		$10\frac{1}{4}$	,,	$4\frac{1}{2}$,,

SOUTH AUSTRALIA.—The twopence now comes over with a new watermark, similar to that of the other Australian colonies—a crown and the letters S. A.

VICTORIA.—M. Moens notices a current sixpence watermarked *Fourpence*.

NOTES AND COMMENTARIES ON RECENT DISCUSSIONS.

BY E. L. PEMBERTON.

IN your last volume (page 111) is a letter vouching for the genuine nature of the (so stated) slate-coloured Barbados, and claiming to fix its value at twopence. The existence of such a stamp should not be difficult to prove beyond dispute, if the postmaster of the island remembers it. Is there no official record of its being required, ordered, or sold to the public?

"Fentonia" asserts that it is a changeling, whilst "Bridgetown" is positive that it is genuine, and sufficiently plainly asserts that it is an imperforate stamp, which "passed current, though for a short time," years ago, to bind himself to do his utmost to establish by proof, that which he, so far, only substantiates by assertion. If nothing precise be forthcoming from the order-book of the secretary mentioned, there is yet another course open, and, to my mind, the more satisfactory of the two. "Bridgetown" says, that some years since he found in Martinique, three or four letters, each of which bore the fourpenny, and a half of one of these distrusted slate

coloured twopenny labels, making up the requisite fivepenny postage. Can he not send one of these halves to the publishers of this magazine? It would certainly be impartially tested, and if proved to be a genuine shade, not due to chemical agency, why Bridgetown's specimen, though in penny numbers and incomplete, would be of fabulous value—a pearl beyond price.

Speaking without bias, and, of course, without any positive knowledge—which is just what is wanted—I consider the stamp doubtful as a genuine shade. The stamps of Barbados and Trinidad, of the imperforate and early imperfectly perforate periods, are to be obtained by the thousand. I have had huge bundles of them, embracing all years and well assorted, yet I have never found anything which could be called slate-coloured. The blue-paper series I have had in profusion in all values, and even the native Trinidads I have occasionally found in some abundance. In such varied assortments, it appears to me well nigh impossible that there should have been no specimen, or half specimen, of the slate-coloured Barbados, had such a thing existed. If this should turn out a genuine stamp, I shall feel great surprise. I contend that no West Indian colonial of the low value of twopence could be so scarce as to be *unknown;* and indeed I might almost say the same of any colony, when the circumstances or characters of other unattainables are explained—try British Guiana, even of the blue oblong there are many known copies; of the red there are more; the earlier rectangular *patimus* 1 and 4 c. are comparatively profuse, though the still earlier circular ones are the rarest of all. All these are spoken of as unattainable, yet, though they are of the highest rarity, they *are* to be had now and again—no other values were issued with them; but this slate coloured Barbados formed one of a set, and from the earliest period of the set's emission, each type has been obtainable in great profusion.

I do not think that any colonial (not purely local) could have existed for any time, and not have been known before now. There is no precedent for it, not even the early embossed Sydney post-office, for that was purely local, only franked a letter in the precincts of the town, and was a wrapper or cover, so everything favoured its being quite forgotten. After the resuscitation last year of six unused copies, a cut one was found in an old album, where it had been placed as the seal of the Sydney post-office, and not as a postal label. It had been there for many years; and its existence previous to the resuscitation mentioned is ample proof that an unknown type of a colony with which a large commercial correspondence is maintained, should be accepted with excessive caution. With varieties of types (I mean paper and perforation) this, of course, does not hold good; *not* finding a chronicled *variety* is no certain proof of its non-existence. When a variety has been in use only a short time, it is likely that its use may have been very partial—almost local, in fact—and our not finding it may be due to the lots through which we are hunting not containing specimens from the localities in which the variety was most used. With a type or different value, it is different; if they are not used by the public for the purpose desired, they will not be left on hand, but will be used for other rates.

This subject, of what may be termed the localisation of varieties, is curious. To explain thoroughly what I mean, I will show the localisation of the three known varieties of our current English stamps. Of the one penny, some few were issued (by accident, no doubt) imperforate. One might search over millions of used ones for this variety, and leave off without belief in it, for it would never be found, unless one got hold of a batch of letters stamped at Cardiff, as there only did the sheet or sheets go. Of the sixpenny stamps there were some issued imperforate, these were purely local too. They were doubtless the result of oversight, and very few could have escaped. Another variety of this value has no watermark; the only sheet noticed was found in Malta, from which circumstance M. Moens at once inferred it was issued for that island, and chronicles it as so belonging. A *variety* may remain undiscovered for years; a *type* hardly ever; a *value*, one altogether unrepresented, I should feel inclined to affirm, never.

In *The Stamp-Collector's Magazine* (Nos. 93 and 94) is a disquisition on the Portland local. The editor of *The Philatelist* quotes me as a believer in it. I certainly am, because my information came through a reliable and unimpeachable source. *The Philatelist's* editor's mistake is in quoting the bare assertion of such a mendacious meddler as S. A. Taylor; it is simply folly, and I trust after all that has been written, the impropriety of a member of the Society's Committee patting this man on the back, as it were, may never be repeated. I have before expressed myself on this subject, in a letter which you published, so I need not repeat reasons why I consider such "patting on the back" rather insulting to other members on the committee.

Of the reality of existence of the Portland local I have not a doubt. I need not explain its use, as that has already been done in these pages more than five years ago (see vol. iii., p. 137). The specimen mentioned as belonging to Mr. Hayns, that gentleman had from me. There is not a doubt of its genuine nature, and I can procure more from the unimpeachable source I first mentioned.

In *The Stamp-Collector's Magazine* (No. 93) are some remarks on 1867 *Guadalajara of a second type*. I do not know how many collectors may have speculated in these, of which M. Mahé appears to have been the sole recipient, but the following remarks, read after your notes on p. 154, will add to the already general distrust, and, without throwing any slur on M. Mahé (to whose integrity all can testify), will call for an explanation when communication is again established with Paris. The second type claims to have formed either part (or all) of the stock remaining in the post-office of the penta-syllabic town or city. Under any circumstances it is improbable that only specimens of *a totally unknown type* were there. Indeed, I can imagine no circumstance under which such a thing was likely or possible, neither can I call to mind any precedent for such a curious occurrence. It is easy to reckon up posthumous values (as Spain, 1857, 12 c.) by the score, but posthumous types I cannot understand, and in this case—though I may remember other posthumous single and singular departures from normal characteristics—I cannot accredit so many as being genuine. Had there been but one, it might have passed, but we are asked for too much faith.

I am, perhaps, taking unnecessary pains to fortify myself by good arguments, because in June last the entire stock left in Guadalajara came to San Francisco to my order. No more were left *I was told*, and as my lot contained unused 4 rs. eagles, unused lithographed Maximilian 13 c. indigo, and 1 and 2 rs. 1868, with 4 rs. and 1 peso 1867 provisional, I quite believe no more were left. As I instructed the house in San Francisco to buy up every provisional to be had, and as the lot I obtained exhausted the post-office stock, it is not likely that a perfectly fresh type (obtained direct) of 1867 was genuine. If they were, they would have gone to San Francisco in June, and not to M. Mahé, or his agents, in September. I cannot speak my opinion of the second type more clearly. It is curious that no copies, or even copy, of the white *medio* came over, so that still remains the rarity. The *un* peso (small *un*, instead of *Un*) is also very scarce. So, too, are the curiously perforated things, many pointed, in size and appearance like unto reel-top labels. The eccentricities of the Guadalajara provisionals must be seen to be appreciated, or even believed. There are so many values, so many colours, so many papers, and three distinct years of emission, all so mixed, intermingled, muddled, and perplexed, that the marvel is to find any two alike. In England we unfortunately discredited them when they came over first, and thus lost our opportunity for ever, of obtaining the rarer varieties. They are not a subject to be heedlessly entered upon. I know no one who can so meander at case through their wanderings over the simple and compound colours of the prism, as to be able to impart any particular amount of knowledge which would prove serviceable. The attempt would not leave the elucidator's own ideas quite so clear as at starting. Seriously speaking, a chronicle is wanted; it can only be made by one who is content to sacrifice his own happiness to the good of a grateful body of philatelists; to swathe his massive brow in towels moistened by water with the chill

on, and to imbibe the strongest saturated solutions of obtainable teas (or of other wakeful herbs, which, by abuse, are synonymous), and who, when all has been brought to a successful ending, will curse the many syllabled name, and be deprived of his natural senses for a season.

On page 112, of vol. viii. (answer to G. W. B.), a difference between some specimens of the 48 c. British Guiana is asserted, and, as having been already noticed, I do not remember ever observing such. Can you refer me to a source of reference?

The very name British Guiana is suggestive of various types, and almost unknown rarities.

It may not be a useless filling up of your space to give an outline reference list of the 1860 and 1863 series. No published catalogue is complete, or notices half those differences in perforation, paper, and colour, which, as much as in any other country, must be carefully considered when one's series is full enough for arrangement, and a knowledge of which is indispensable to all philatelists of the extended school. The obsolete types have been treated upon with such lucidity by Mr. Philbrick, in his well-known article, "The Postage Stamps of British Guiana," that this must be regarded as an appendix, bringing information down to the present time. I commence at

1860.

M 12.	Very thick paper.	1 c. rose, rose-brown.
		2 c. orange v. very dark to very light.
		4 c. very deep blue, dull blue, l. and d.
		8 c. brown-rose, deep rose, pale rose or pink.
		12 c. blue-lilac, dark grey v. to lilac-grey, pearl-grey, dark smoky grey.
		24 c. bright green, l. and d.
	Thin paper, white or yellowish.	1 c. deep brown, black.
		2 c. orange-yellow v. to brown-yellow.
		4 c. dull greeny-blue, l. and d., sky or pale blue, light clear blue.
		8 c. rather dull rose, flesh on yellow.
	On yellow.	12 c. pale lilac, dark dull lilac, more or less near violet, neutral brown tints, lilac, l. to d.
	On white.	Delicate violet.
		24 c. clear green.
M 13.	Thin paper. (1) very yellow.	2 c. browny-yellow, red-yellow.
		4 c. dull greeny-blue.
		8 c. flesh, d.
		12 c. neutral lilac.
		24 c. green.
	(2) white or imperceptibly yellowed.	1 c. grey.
		2 c. brown-yellow } paper extra thin and
		4 c. dull blue } transparent.
		8 c. flesh }
		1 c. black.
		2 c. brown-yellow, v. to orange.
		4 c. dull blue, green-blue d.
		8 c. flesh, pale rose or pink.
	(3) white very thin to thick.	1 c. jet, dull black.
		2 c. orange, orange-red, orange-yellow.
		4 c. dull blue, green-blue, slate blue.
		8 c. flesh, rose-*lilacé*, l.
		12 c. grey, l. and d.
		24 c. deep green.
M 10.	white and yellow paper.	1 c. jet, grey-black.
		2 c. orange-yellow, orange-red, l., orange, v.
		4 c. slate blue, more or less greenish, l. & d.
		8 c. flesh, rose-*lilacé*, l. and d.
		12 c. lilac, v. lilac-grey, grey, l. and d.
Im.	Thin paper.	1 c. black } doubtful if ever issued.
		4 c. light clear blue }

1863.

M 12.	Yellow paper.	24 c. yellow-green, v. a little.
		48 c. is given by Mahé.
M 13.		6 c. green-blue, l. and d.
		24 c. yellow-green.
		48 c. rose, l.
	White paper.	6 c. dark blue, v., sky blue, l. and d.
		24 c. yellow-green, bright green, light green, deep emerald green, dark rich green.
		48 c. lake, l. and d.
M 10.		6 c. dull blue, l., ultramarine.
		24 c. bright green (less yellowish than M 13), dark rich green (less dark than darkest M 13.)
		48 c. crimson.

In the M 12 series of 1860, the thick and the thin series ought to be both taken, the thick one is the oldest, the colours are very rich, and the paper being of a fine quality, enhances their appearance. They are all scarce unused, the reprints of the 1 c. rose is more of a flesh tint, is on thin paper, and is M 13, instead of 12. In the M 13 series it is a matter of taste and pocket as to the necessity of making up all three series, but the yellowest of No. 1 and the whitest of No. 3 are indispensable.

Fentonia's half-scepticism as to the postal character of the Zurich stamps is a thing I never indulged in; there is truth in the remarks as to the word TAXE, and also as to the value being, from time immemorial, chronicled as CENTIMES, when RAPPEN would appear the more probable. I know nothing positively upon which I could assert, *ex cathedrâ*, that these Zurich are postal stamps, but I do know that it is not likely that Zurich should have its bill stamps foisted on

us as postals, when Berne, with equal opportunities, was unmasked years ago. I dare say that in the pages of *Le Timbre Poste*, a diligent search would show a copy of the official decree, and all papers relating to their issue as postals, but I consider their nature so very certain, that I leave this search to those who have more time to bestow on the entanglement of a long-settled question. The postmark so well known on Zurich stamps, is to be found on the two blues Rayon I., and upon the black on yellow Rayon II. Possibly, from this circumstance, Fentonia would invalidate the postal character of these three stamps. I have also seen this postmark upon the $2\frac{1}{2}$ c. poste locale. As Fentonia hints, there are several varying dies (five of each value), and the diæresis over the U is a sure test of all genuine, but then all good forgeries show it too; they, however, somewhat exaggerate the dots.

RECENT STAMP FORGERIES.

BY EDWARD L. PEMBERTON.

FORGERIES OF RECENT GRANADINES.—Some months since, through the usual channel (M. Charles Roussin) for those dubious specimens of the earlier issues (concerning the reproduction of which, by means of the stamps themselves, Dr. Magnus wrote at length some months back), came unobliterated copies of 5 and 10 pesos, but disfigured by having a small hole punched out of each, either at top or bottom. It was explained to me, that they were stock in hand, upon the issue of the present larger 5 and 10 pesos, which, after this defacement, were sold at a nominal rate, a reduction which would be a boon to collectors, if they were the real stamps. Unfortunately for our peace of mind and pieces of money, they are gross forgeries, and are far dearer at ten shillings the pair than the genuine things unused at four pounds. They are gross forgeries, as I have said, and may be at once detected by the following shortcomings:—

5 pesos. FORGERY.—In the oval which surrounds the arms are 26 curls.
GENUINE has 30 curls.

10 pesos. FORGERY.—Stars irregular, the two lowest being very large; the scroll-like tracery on the scalloped border cannot be *clearly* traced. Lettering all uneven and shaky, dots all shapes but rectangular.
GENUINE.—Stars regular, all dots and lettering square and true.

The present 25 c. "sobre-porte" also came with these forgeries, penstroked and false. The following differences exist between these and genuine ones:—

GENUINE.	FORGERY.
(1). Interior of scrolls at top shaded by dots.	(1). Left-hand scroll not shaded.
(2). Ring or rope in eagle's back shaded or dotted.	(2). This is quite blank.
(3). The stars are in parts, and have their centre blank.	(3). Stars like asterisks, small, and with too many rays.
(4). Large dot after Columbia.	(4). No dot and the letters smaller.
(5). Dull lightish blue.	(5). A much clearer tint.

The previous 25 c. also exists, forged, with a hole punched out, and having the same legend related about it as the 5 and 10 pesos similarly branded. It may be detected by its light-blue colour, and the fineness of the lines of the ground-work; in the genuine, under the N of CENTS, is a flaw in the engraving, and the eagle's wing touches and goes behind the R of PORTE, both of which points are ignored by the forgers.

Whilst upon the subject of forgeries I would most strongly condemn the practice of Spiro Brothers making and selling forgeries, even though they do not sell them as any thing else than facsimiles (which is the fact); the persons who buy them for re-sale are not so particular. One cannot now find any sheets exhibited in shops by the smaller dealers, which do not contain some one or more of Spiro's forgeries.

POSTAL CHIT-CHAT.

BRITISH GUIANA.—Our German contemporary, *Der Briefmarken-Zeitung*, in a short article on the 1853 stamps of this colony, states, that among other differences discernible between the 1853 and 1860 issue, it should be noticed that the ship on the former has a row of port-holes (*Kanonenluken*), which it asserts are wanting in the latter. In reference to this, a correspondent (Fentonia) writes, "It requires better eyes, or stronger magnifiers than mine, to perceive these port-holes, and it is inconsistent with the commercial allusion of the surrounding legend for the ship to carry guns, which would indicate a man-of-war rather than a merchantman. There is certainly a broken line slightly perceptible in the 1853, and not altogether absent in the 1860 issue, but I think it is merely intended to represent the black and white checky line generally at that time, and perhaps now, painted round our trading vessels. I believe it has

not before been remarked that the legend, which, with the ship, forms the armorial bearings of British Guiana, is misquoted from Horace *(De Arte Poetica)*. The original is '*Petimusque damusque vicissim.*' The first *que* may, perhaps, well be spared, but why *damus* and *petimus* should be transposed is by no means clear, and possibly can only be explained as an oversight of the inventor of the design."

THE OLD NEWSPAPER STAMP.—The old newspaper stamp, abolished on September 30th, 1870, had an existence of 158 years. In the year 1712, Queen Anne sent a message to the House of Commons, complaining of the publication of seditious papers and factious rumours; by which means designing men had been able to sink credit, and the innocent had suffered. On the 12th of February in that year, a committee of the whole House was appointed, to consider the best means for stopping the then existing abuse of the liberty of the press. The evil referred to had existence in the political pamphlets of the period. A tax upon the press was suggested as the best means of remedying the evil; and for the purpose of avoiding a storm of opposition, the impost was tacked on to a bill for taxing soaps, parchment, linens, silks, calicoes, &c. The result of the tax was the discontinuance of many of the favourite papers of the period, and the amalgamation of others into one publication.

The Act, passed in June 1712, came into operation in the month of August following, and continued for 32 years. The stamp was red, and the design consisted of the rose, shamrock, and thistle, surmounted with a crown. In the *Spectator* of June 10th, 1712, Addison makes reference to this subject, and predicts great mortality among "our weekly historians." He also mentions that a facetious friend had described the said mortality as "the fall of the leaf." The witty Dean Swift, in his *Journal to Stella*, under date of August 7th, speaks of Grub Street as being dead and gone. According to his report, the new stamps had made sad havoc with the *Observator*, the *Flying Post*, the *Examiner*, and the *Medley*. He adds "Have you seen the red stamp the papers are marked with? Methinks the stamping is worth a halfpenny."

Twelve years afterwards—namely, in 1724, the House of Commons had under consideration the practices of certain printers, who had evaded the operation of the Stamp Act, by printing the news upon paper between the two sizes mentioned by the law, and entering them as pamphlets, on which the duty to be paid was 3/- for each edition. Its deliberations culminated in a resolution to charge 1d. for every sheet of paper "on which any journal, mercury, or any other newspaper whatever, shall be printed; and for every half sheet thereof, the sum of one halfpenny sterling." In 1761 the stamp duty upon newspapers was made 1d., or £4 1s. 8d. for 1000 sheets. The next change in the stamp duty was effected on the 28th May, 1776, when Lord North advanced the price from 1d. to 1½d. Another alteration was made on the 12th August, 1789. On this occasion the stamp was increased from 1½d. to 2d. In 1794 the stamp went up to 2½d., and in May, 1797, to 3½d. The highest rate of the stamp was obtained in 1815, when the amount was 4d. After this date a period of decline ensued. In the reign of William the Fourth an act was passed for the reduction of stamp duty upon newspapers from 4d. to 1d., and ½d. upon any supplement. This act came into operation on the 15th of September, 1836, from which date the rise of the cheap paper era may be dated. The next improvement occurred in 1855, when the compulsory use of the stamp was abolished, save and except as a means of passing the paper through the post. During the last Session we had the latest touch of stamp-act legislation, when it was decided to determine the operation of the old act, and to inaugurate a new order of things more in accordance with the liberal spirit of the age.—*Times*.

CORRESPONDENCE.

THE SOUTH AFRICAN REPUBLIC STAMPS.

AN AMERICAN MARE'S NEST.

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

DEAR SIR,—Under the above heading, your correspondent, Mr. W. Dudley Atlee (in the November number of your good paper), has hastily given me a *benefit*, which, not being merited, I *modestly* decline to accept.

I do not for a moment blame this gentleman for attacking F. K. W. in the *liberal* manner he has, it is quite natural; but I would warn Mr. Atlee to practice what he preaches—to "*first make sure he is right, and then go a-head.*"

For once he is deeply in error, and will have to re-load in order to shoot the *right* bird.

I deny having written the article referred to, signed F.K.W., and if that unknown does not "*cast off his disguise, and appear unveiled,*" the editor of *The American Journal of Philately* will come to my rescue in the next number of that paper, and clearly prove to Mr. Atlee that I am not the person who accuses him of "*devising a swindle.*"

I regret that this gentleman should have no better opinion of my judgment as an old and well-known philatelist, than to think me so poorly posted on the subject of the Transvaal stamps.

By inserting this, at your first convenience, in your valuable columns, you will greatly oblige,

Yours truly,

W. K. FREEMAN.

New York.

MR. PEMBERTON'S "HONEST" CRITICISM.

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

"The shafts of falsehood unpolluting flew,
And the cold sneers of calumny were vain."
SHELLEY.

DEAR SIR,—If Mr. W. Dudley Atlee's criticism of my Prize Essay, in *The Philatelist* (which has already received a tolerably complete answer at my hands in the January number) was insulting in tone, and exaggerated in statement, Mr. Pemberton's, in your magazine for December, is ten times more so.

Pages may be filled with that tautological style of composition in which Mr. Pemberton so excels—and of which no better example could be found than his last letter to you—before the following facts can be disproved. Not one of the three forgeries of the Vaud stamps has succeeded in reproducing these characteristics of the genuine: viz., "the folds binding the post-horn to the ring containing the cross, on the *left* side, come up to the middle of the large black dot; on the *right*, they do not; and *vice-versâ*, in the forgeries."

As Mr. Pemberton is so horrified at any approach to egotism in others, I think he might be a little less egotistical himself, and not claim the authorship, as his own, of a pamphlet, the greater part of which, I know for a fact, was written by Mr. Thornton Lewes.

Mr. Pemberton's assertion that my Prize Essay was mainly copied from my *Vade-mecum* is a most unwarrantable one, and I must repeat that I referred to my little book on one occasion only, when I was in doubt as

to the proper description necessary for the "port local" Geneva. It is preposterous for Mr. Pemberton to talk of any work containing the characteristics of stamps issued so long ago as 1845-50 as being "long out of date, and simply useless for modern requirements." The editor of *The Philatelist* (who, let me add, was a recognized authority long before Mr. Pemberton was heard of) said of my Prize Essay, that the remarks in it were "pertinent, judicious, and correct;" such being the case, assuredly those of Mr. Pemberton are *im*pertinent, *in*judicious, and *in*correct.

Relative to the Geneva stamps, which form the main portion of Mr. Pemberton's criticism on my prize essay, it is quite a matter of opinion—and I shall certainly not yield mine to Mr. Pemberton—whether the 5 c. port local has or has not a separate existence from the double cantonal. I should say that it has, for this reason: supposing that one of the port locals is cut out of the double stamp, which of itself is improbable, what becomes of the "10 port cantonal cent" at the top? Because I have a different opinion to Mr. Pemberton on this *vexata quæstio*, it is, to say the least of it, very questionable taste on his part to call my opinion a blunder. Mr. Pemberton says I do not attempt to point out the differences between the right and left-hand side stamps in the double cantonal. This reckless assertion is easily disproved by the following extract from my prize essay: "The L of LOCAL in the left-hand port local stamp touches the bottom of the shield, and almost touches it in the right-hand larger division." I can vouch for the correctness of my first paragraph on the double cantonal stamp, as it was translated by me, word for word, from M. Berger-Levrault's French catalogue, the accuracy of which Mr. Pemberton will not venture to impugn. Herein, too, lies the key to the "mystery," made so much of by Messrs. Pemberton and Atlee, of my having said that "the stamp in my own collection tallied with every characteristic of the genuine, as given by myself and M. Berger-Levrault in his catalogue. I must allow that the absence of a comma after the word "myself," did make the sentence read rather strangely.

Mr. Pemberton alludes to my having called the Geneva stamps square, instead of rectangular; my reasons are soon stated. It is very certain that their shape is quite different to the ordinary rectangular stamp, and if not quite, they are almost square. Besides, if we are to take our notions of what a square stamp is, according to the strict definition of the term, I, in common with nearly every writer on the subject, am equally wrong in calling the Basle stamp square, for that is not a perfect square, but approaches very nearly to the shape of the Geneva.

Regarding Mr. Pemberton's strictures on my description of the 5 c. port cantonal stamps, I have little to say, but that little I trust will be to the point. I laboured under the disadvantage of having no forgery of these, or of the Zurich stamps, to compare the genuine with. I will merely add that I had not the slightest intention of "prodigally foisting in" a proof, black on white, nor was the green on white, although by a printer's error—which in correcting the proof, I unfortunately overlooked—the word "green" was left out between 5 c. and on white paper. Mr. Pemberton, I apprehend, will get few to agree with him that there are as many as five types of genuine Zurich stamps. As regards these, I am of opinion that the absence over the U, of what the editor of *The Philatelist* calls the *tréma* (French), and Fentonia the *diæresis* (Latin), but which I prefer to call, in plain English, the two dots, does not necessarily condemn them, especially if in other particulars they coincide with undoubtedly genuine stamps.

One word more, and I have done. Some one once said of Mr. Pemberton's writings, that he had a fine field in *The Stamp-Collector's Magazine* for the display of his graphic powers; I must confess, though, that it does not strike me in the same light, for I cannot *get over the stile*.

I am, dear Sir,
Yours faithfully,
London. J. M. STOURTON.

[Without entering at all into the discussion between Mr. Stourton and Mr. Pemberton, it is right to warn our readers that the above statement of Mr. Stourton, about the small 5 cent port local Geneva, as formed by severing a double copy, which, whole, forms the 10 cent port cantonal, being still *vexata quæstio*, is decidedly erroneous: the very authority, Berger-Levrault, cited by Mr. Stourton, is direct and explicit against him on this point, and the concurrent opinion of all the leading philatelists here and abroad, is uniform. The point is beyond dispute: Mr. Stourton is wrong: all small 5 cents Geneval locals are from one or other of the dies which form the double 10 cents port cantonal.

Another probably more dangerous error of Mr. Stourton's requires contradiction *now*, for we are unwilling to let his statements about Zurich stamps go forth without the correction appearing at the same time, so many of our friends and readers might be deceived, and we might be held responsible for permitting the mistake to be circulated. There *are five*, and *five only*, true types of Zurich: every known genuine copy can be distinctly identified as one of them: and all show the two dots (*diæresis or tréma*) most clearly. It is a great pity that any doubt should be cast on these well authenticated facts; still more so that such doubts should emanate from Mr. Stourton: and we cannot permit our pages to convey his statements to the public, without disclaiming the mistakes he makes, and cautioning our readers against being misled by them.—ED.]

ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS.

F. C., Saxmundham.—Your essay will appear in our next.

E. S. S., Brighton.—The new French Republic stamps being issued unperforated is only a temporary expedient.

K. R. C., Llandudno.—Our publishers will shortly issue the fifteenth edition of their Illustrated Descriptive Price Catalogue.

JOHN M., Guernsey.—Your stamp duly reached us. We are uncertain as to the character and value of the Russian, and are making further inquiries respecting it. We will reply to you more fully next month.

H. H. C. VAN THIEL, Amsterdam.—Your German 2 groschen adhesive, with the Constantinople postmark, evidencing, as it does, the existence of a branch of the German post office in that city, seems to us decidedly worth retaining.

J. H. R., Scarborough.—You will find the stamps you refer to chronicled in the present number.—Your strictures on our engravings of the Alsace and Lorraine, and the Republic 1 c. are certainly founded on fact. The former has too deep a border, and the latter is incorrectly represented as perforated.

W. H. D., Cambridge.—We believe the penny post referred to in the *Tatler* of 1709 was a local service for London; letters posted and delivered in the city were charged only a penny each. In one of the old volumes of *The Stamp-Collector's Magazine*, there is, we believe, a paper in which this is stated as a fact, but not having been able, after nearly an hour's searching to hit upon this paper, we are reduced to the necessity of replying to your query from memory alone.

CORNELIUS VAN DICK.—In the current edition of Dr. Gray's Catalogue there are 35 varieties of New Zealand mentioned, and in a paper read before the philatelic society, and published in *The Philatelist*, 36 varieties of the same colony's stamps are enumerated.—The different shades in the Australian stamps have been frequently noticed, and are catalogued; stamps distinguished by such shades are varieties, but not distinct emissions.—The whole of the North German series, with the inscription, NORDDEUTSCH POST BEZIRK, in minute characters, as the groundwork, have been catalogued, and they form a separate emission.

OUR CONTEMPORARIES.

The Philatelist.—The February number of this journal contains the first of a series of articles from the pen of Mr. Atlee, entitled, "The Spud Papers; or, Notes on Philatelic Weeds," which promises to be of considerable value to collectors. The title is a droll one, and the exact signification of the word "spud" is unknown to us, but the term "philatelic weeds" leaves one in no great doubt of the subject. The "weeds" are the forgeries which are, unhappily, so numerous; and if Mr. Atlee can only succeed in rooting them out, he will have deserved well of the philatelic community. He has set himself to work with a will, and, aided by the publishers, has begun by taking an important step in the right direction. These latter gentlemen, "actuated by a laudable desire to contribute their quota of help, have at a considerable expense obtained from Messrs. Spiro Brothers, of Hamburg, sheets of their many imitations," and the first "spud paper" is devoted to an examination of Messrs. Spiro's interesting productions. Side by side with the analysis, specimens of the actual forgeries are given, so that the readers can acquaint themselves with their characteristics in the most complete manner possible. No better aid could be given to the detection of forgeries, and we hope soon to see their circulation diminish in consequence.

The remaining space in *The Philatelist* is taken up with the usual articles, such as "Recent and Undescribed Emissions," "Correspondence," &c.

In reading the first-mentioned article, we could not help noticing, for perhaps the fiftieth time, a reference to the "Pendragonites." Whenever a secondary variety has to be catalogued, the editor makes a point of inquiring what the Pendragonites will say to it; but the allusion, from its frequent repetition, has lost half its point, and the other half is taken away by the fact that Pendragon has long since dropped out of philatelic existence, and his mantle has not fallen on anyone, unless it be the enlightened editor of *The Stamp-Collector's Guide*. We hope we shall be pardoned this deprecatory observation upon a matter of minor importance; as constant readers, we could not help noticing it, and, *per contra*, we can honestly express our admiration for the new title wherewith the editor of our Brighton contemporary dubs advanced collectors. "Philosophical philatelists" is an appropriate term, and sounds much better than "French school."

The American Journal of Philately is distinguished principally by the commencement of a "History of the United States Post-office," which bids fair to be both interesting and instructive. There is also an article on "The Brattleboro Stamps," in which it is fairly argued that the entire sheet of stamps should be taken to consist of ten, and not of seven labels.

We can do no more than allude to a short paper on "British Honour," in which one of our leading philatelists is attacked with true American virulence, as we are unacquainted with the facts; but without anticipating the explanation—which, if thought necessary, will be forthcoming—we have no hesitation in repelling the coarse imputations launched by our contemporary. In a similar case, we should have privately written for explanation, but the chance of attacking an English collector was not to be thrown away by an American writer.

Le Kuriositi Kabinet continues to make its appearance, but, whilst valuable from some points of view, it is not very readable. The only noticeable point is a rather sly hit at our friend *The Philatelist*, which, in noticing *The Curiosity Cabinet*, had remarked that its peculiar mode of spelling suggested a happy combination of Artemus Ward and Josh Billings, with a few slices of Mr. Pitman, the great phonetic apostle, put in to make weight. Our American contemporary, after quoting this critique, adds, "The same journal, however, gives its readers a page and a half of hieroglyphics, which we presume to be fully as edifying to its readers. Here is a sample: 'aaabcccdeeeeeeeiijllmnnooooooorrra ssssttuuu'—supposed to be a transposition of the inscription on some stamp."

The Stamp-Collector's Guide contains this month its profession of faith. The editor constitutes himself the apostle of the radical American school, which, we may remark,

does not go to the root of anything, but is the most superficial of all the schools, since, if the editor had his will, he "would draw a hard and fast line at the design of the stamp, and never go beyond it. Perforations, watermarks, qualities of paper, shades of colour, silk threads, &c., should not be allowed to constitute separate varieties." Here is a declaration which has about it the merit of being both straightforward and intelligible. We respect the conviction it expresses, but we candidly avow we should no more think of disputing with its writer on the matter, than of arguing with anyone who might choose to assert that the moon is made of green cheese.

LIST OF NEWLY-ISSUED OR INEDITED STAMPS, NOTICED IN *THE STAMP-COLLECTOR'S MAGAZINE* FOR 1870.

(*Concluded from page* 22.)

Peru.

Locomotive and tender, and the Peruvian arms, with scroll inscribed PORTE FRANCO, in square; marginal inscription, CHORRILLOS, LIMA, CALLAO; design in relief. Col. imp.; sq.
5 centavos vermilion.

Portugal.

Design of 1866. Col. imp.; rect. perf.
100 reis pale lilac.
240 „ bright mauve.

Prince Edward Island.

Full face portrait of Queen in oval, inscribed PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND POSTAGE. Col. imp.; rect. perf.
3d. stg.; cy. 4½d. brown.

Roumania.

Design of 1866. Col. imp.; rect.
3 bani deep mauve.

JOURNAL STAMP.

Profile of Prince Charles to left in circle, inscribed POSTA ROMANA; in lower margin, the words DIARE PERIODICE. Black imp.; large rect.
1½ bani deep green.

Russia.

Design of 1864. Variety: the black portion of the design of the 3 kop. struck on the groundwork of the 5 kop., formed of repetitions of the numeral v. Col. imp.; rect. perf.
3 kop. green.

ENVELOPE.

Arms in circle, containing a Russian inscription (type similar to that of 1869, but inscription different). Col. imp.; circ.
5 kop. pale and bright carmine.

Belozersk.

Russian inscription in four lines, printed in black on a ground of waved reddish yellow lines; numeral in four corners. Col. imp.; rect.
2 kop. black and reddish yellow.

Russian Steam Navigation Company.

Ornamental design in relief, enclosing the Russian arms in upper, and a steamship in lower part, P. O. at sides, Russian inscription below; frame blue, centre scarlet. Col. imp.; rect.
Blue and scarlet [2 piastres.]

Ornamental design in relief, with steamship in upper, and Russian arms in lower part; Russian inscription in upper margin; frame brown, centre blue. Col. imp.; rect.
Blue and brown [1 piastre.]

FINLAND.

Helsingfors.

1860? Inscription, STADSPOST, crossing diagonally from left lower to right upper corner of rectangle; above it, in upper section, left of rectangle, a small circle containing the city arms; below it, to right, a similar circle containing numerals; diaper ground; value in Finnish and Russian at sides. [STADSPOST KAUPUNGIN POSTI.] Col. imp.; rect.
10 kop., arms and numeral in red, remaining portion in green.

St. Christopher.

Profile of Queen, diademed, to left in circle, inscribed SAINT CHRISTOPHER POSTAGE. Col. imp.; rect. perf.

One penny rose.
Sixpence green.

St. Domingo.

Design of 1866. Black imp.; narrow rect.

UN real lilac-grey.

St. Thomas and Prince Islands.

Crown in circle, inscribed S. THOME E PRINCIPE; in upper margin CORREIO. Col. imp.; rect. perf.

5 reis black.
10 „ bright yellow.
20 „ stone.
25 „ brick-red.
50 „ green.
100 „ violet.

South African Republic.

Design of 1869. Col. imp.; rect. unperf.

One penny brown-red.
Threepence lilac, deep mauve, bluish mauve (perf. also).
Sixpence blue.
One shilling green.

ENVELOPES.

Circle with inscription on inner edge, POTCHEFSTROOM Z. A. R.; in centre G. P. K., 1869. Blk. imp.; circ.

Black, no value indicated.

Similar design, but Z. A. R. in centre, and POTCHEFSTROOM ZUID AFRIKA in margin. Blk.; circ.

Black; value *(Sixpence)* written by hand.

South Australia.

Design of 1869. Col. imp.; rect., perf. Star wmk.

Twopence orange.

Spain.

Crowned head, symbolic of Spain, in oval; inscription above, and value and date below on scrolls. COMUNICACIONES. Col. imp.; rect., perf.

1 mill. purple-brown.
2 „ brown.
4 „ light brown.
10 „ rose.
25 „ mauve.
50 „ light blue.
100 „ red.
200 „ brown.
400 „ sea-green.
1 esc. 600 „ lilac.
2 „ deep blue.
12 cuartos lake-rose.
19 „ light green.

OFFICIAL OR CONGRESS STAMPS.

Arms in oval, inscribed CONGRESO DE LOS DIPUTADOS, CORREO.

Blue.

Scroll inscribed DIRECCION GENERAL DE COMUNICACIONES.

Black.

Arms in octagon, GABINETE DIRECTIVO DE COMUNICACIONES.

Black.

Spanish Colonies.

(See Cuba).

Switzerland.

GENEVA OFFICIAL.

Arms of Geneva in oval, inscribed DIRECTION DES PRISONS DE GENEVE.

Blue.

Turkey.

ENVELOPES.

Crescent in octagon, star in circle in the four lesser sides, Turkish inscriptions in black in margin. Col. imp.; oct., imp. on back of envelope, partly on the flap, and partly on the lower part. Turkish inscription in white relief on front of envelope.

1 piastre yellow.
1½ „ brown.
3 „ orange.
6 „ violet.

United States.

Profile to left in oval, U. S. POSTAGE above value below, with large numeral in centre of lower margin. Col. imp.; rect., perf.

1 cent (Franklin) bright blue.
2 „ (Jackson) deep brown.
6 „ (Lincoln) pale carmine.
10 „ (Jefferson) dark brown.
12 „ (Henry Clay) purple-black.
15 „ (Webster) orange.
24 „ (Scott) rich violet.
30 „ (Hamilton) black.
90 „ (Perry) rose-red.

ENVELOPES.

Bust to left in oval, inscribed U. S. POSTAGE in upper half. Col. imp.; oval. Wmk. U.S.P.O.D., forming a monogram.

2 cents (Jackson) brown.
3 „ (Washington) deep green.
6 „ (Lincoln) brick-red.

NOTE.—The 2 and 3 cent designs are also struck on newspaper wrappers.

Victoria.

Profile of Queen, diademed, to left, in inscribed oval, with small disks on each side, containing the figure 2, ornaments in each corner. Col. imp.; rect., perf. Wmk. V and crown.

Twopence lilac.

ENVELOPE.

Embossed profile of Queen, diademed, to left in oval, inscribed POSTAGE TWOPENCE, VICTORIA. Col. imp.; oval, various seals on flap.

Twopence pink.

Wurtemburg.

Field-post envelope. Circ. black.

PAPERS FOR BEGINNERS.—No. X.

BY OVERY TAYLOR.

EUROPE.

Austrian Italy & Foreign Branch Offices.

THE stamps of Austrian Italy naturally follow those of the Austrian empire, and it is preferable to class them under this title rather than under Lombardo-Venetia, since the later issues were current in Venetia only. Furthermore, as the Austrian-Italian stamps were employed in all the Austrian post-offices, established in foreign towns, it is but fit, for continuity's sake, that the present soldi series should be catalogued under the head "Austrian Italy," rather than under Austria.

This much by way of preface to the very few observations which it is necessary to pass on the stamps under notice. They are so thoroughly the counterparts, in all but the value, of their Austrian *confrères*, that my comments on the one set may be applied almost in their integrity to the other.

The first series has the value enunciated in *centesimi*, but on all the succeeding issues it is in *soldi*. Comparison shows that the soldo is equal to about three centesimi, as we find the 30 c. brown replaced by a 10 sol. brown, and the 45 c. blue by the 15 sol. blue. In the lowest values the exchange in value could be only approximatively obtained; thus the 2 soldi, equalling 6 centesimi, replaces the 5 c., and the 3 sol., equalling 9 c., supersedes the 10 c. The reason of the change in the denomination may be assumed to have been that the soldo being the Italian equivalent of the kreuzer, and being multiplied into florins or gulden, was more easily calculable by the Austrian officials than the centesimo, which was multiplied into francs.

Of the first series there are no varieties, except such as are caused by differences of shade, more or less marked. M. Moens, it is true, notices a 30 c. brown, on *laid* paper, but I have never yet met with a specimen, and for our purpose, at any rate, this variety may be shelved.

The only remark which the second series calls for is, that some of its members (the 2, 3, and 15 sol.) were in use in Venetia after Lombardy had been annexed to Piedmont, and that their longevity prevented the issue of the corresponding values of the 1861 set. Of this latter, only two denominations were actually used, the 5 and 10 c.; the remaining three are said to have been got ready for service, but not being required, they remained in store for several years, until they were in some mysterious way exhumed to satisfy the wants of the stamp-collecting fraternity. It used to be believed that these three posthumous stamps—the 2, 3, and 15 soldi—were in every respect original impressions,

but they are catalogued by Levrault as the result of a *tirage de fantaisie*, and such they evidently are. They are perforated with 12 dents to the two-centimetre gauge, and so also are the reprint 5 and 10 sol., which saw the light at about the same time; but the original 5 and 10 sol. show 14 dents, and had these posthumous stamps really formed part of a supply struck off to meet a possible want, they also would have been perforated with 14. As no 14-dent stamps exist, it is clear, that although the *dies* for the three values were made, no stamps were ever printed from them for public use, and it was, in fact, the obliging reprinter who first employed the dies, years after the type had been superseded, and by obtaining impressions from them, completed the 1861 set. The three "posthumous" values are thus deprived of what little value they possessed, as stamps prepared in advance, and intended for circulation; they are from the original dies, and in so far as they are *first* impressions therefrom, they are, in that sense, original impressions; but their collection becomes more than ever a matter of choice.

The 1863 set does not call for special notice. Its sole remarkable feature is, that although very closely resembling the Austrian series of the same date, it is not quite identical therewith, as the oval margin outside the inscription is wider. It deserves, however, to be mentioned, that it was the last series in use in Venetia. The war of 1866 stopped its circulation.

The "soldi" series of 1867 is used only in the Austrian branch post-offices in foreign towns. Of these, there are in all 55, which are principally scattered over the Danubian Principalities, Turkey in Europe, and in Asia Minor and Egypt,—a sufficient number to give reason for the issue of a separate series. The maintenance of the "soldi" denominations,—which, in fact, is the sole distinguishing mark between it and the Austrian set proper,—is probably due to the desire to keep the accounts apart, and check the revenue resulting from these offices *in partibus*.

ENVELOPES.

The envelopes, which were not used until after the annexation of Lombardy, require no comment, further than that they have all been reprinted, and that uncut copies of the first series are very difficult to obtain.

JOURNAL STAMPS.

The only journal stamps special to Lombardo-Venetia were those which represented a duty, collected by the government on foreign newspapers. As will be seen, on reference to the last paper, the first stamp of this class was introduced in Austria in the year 1850, but it was not until 1858 that the Italian provinces were endowed with any, and it can hardly be doubted that up to that time the 2 kreuzer green was in use there. After the postal convention between Austria and the German States had been signed, whereby papers from those states were taxed at 2 kreuzers, and those of all other powers at 4 kr., the 2 kr. *red*, and 4 kr. *red*, were prepared for use in Austrian Italy, and were, in fact, employed from the 28th March, 1858, until the 23rd November, of the same year, when, upon the revision of the rates, they were both withdrawn, and the 1 kr. *black*, once so rare, was issued in their place. It is, however, probable that the 2 kr. red continued to be used afterwards, in conjunction with the 1 kr. black, and it is certain that a large stock of this value remained in the Venetian post-offices. Had the 2 kr. red been wholly withdrawn, it would have become as rare as the 4 kr., and the Austrian 2 kr. brown must have replaced it, but the fact that it has never been scarce comes in confirmation of my belief that it was not entirely superseded. The 1 kr. black at one time commanded a high price, but, as it remained in use until 1866, and hidden stores were discovered, it has since fallen considerably in value.

No special design was thought necessary for these journal stamps, nor was it even deemed expedient to change their denomination. They were the Austrian stamps pure and simple, with only an alteration in the colour, and this just shows how little importance was attached to the expression of the value in an Italian currency.

All the journal stamps proper—the Mercuries and their successors—were current in Austrian Italy, and with them, also, no change was considered to be required.

Baden.

The alphabetical order which I have thought it best to adopt, for reference sake, has some defects to counterbalance its advantages, chief among which must be placed its opposition to any attempt at grouping; and thus it happens that leaving Austrian Italy, we find ourselves at once in the middle of the German emissions. However, what cannot be cured must be endured, so, without attempting any general review of the German stamps, we will pass at once to the discussion of the Baden series.

Baden would seem to have been the first of the group of German states to issue postage stamps, though there can be but little question that its priority of emission was rather the result of accident than design. The series issued on the 1st May, 1851, indicates its own *raison d'être* in its side inscriptions, which may be thus translated:—GERMAN POSTAL UNION—TREATY OF THE 6TH APRIL, 1850. It was pursuant to the provisions of this treaty that all the leading states of the old Confederation commenced to issue stamps, and the common understanding arrived at, between them, as to the rates, had its result in an almost entire uniformity in the values of the different emissions; in the colours, however, a certain amount of variation was shown, and it was not until several years after the signing of the treaty, that a fresh agreement was made, to the effect that uniform colours for the several values should be adopted by all the contracting powers.

The first issues for Baden, with their German-text inscriptions, their prim ornamentation, and their clean postmarks, form a quaint but pleasing assemblage. They seem far removed in type and appearance from the "stamp of the period," with its often gaudy decorations and brilliant surroundings. They are stamps of the old school, primitive in design, intended for use more than ornament, and from the very fact that they are simple impressions in black on coloured paper, there are but few varieties. These are formed from differences in the colour or texture of the paper. Of the 3 kr., for instance, there are two distinct shades—lemon and chrome yellow; of the 6 kr. also there are two, viz., deep yellowish green and a cold clear light green. The differences of paper are worthy of notice (though not of collection) by beginners, as they form a guide whereby to detect reprints. These latter are, I believe, uniformly found on rather stout surfaced paper. The originals of the 1851 set are found on stout *unsurfaced* paper, and also on two kinds of surfaced:—1. Thin. 2. Thicker and less smooth.

After the 1851 series had been in use about a couple of years, the colours of three of its component values were changed: the 1 kr. being thenceforth printed on white, the 3 kr. on green, and the 6 kr. on yellow. The cause of this change is not clear. No similar alteration took place in the stamps of any other German state, and we can but set it down to caprice. It could not have been want of the particular coloured papers necessary, as the impression continued to be made on green and yellow, only the values printed in those colours were reversed.

In 1857 the colour of the 3 kr. was changed again from green to blue; and in the latter it is somewhat rarer, as the blue was a comparatively short time in circulation.

No great expense or trouble is necessary to secure clean used copies of all the Baden figure stamps, but a collector with plenty of money in his pocket, may have to wait a long while before he can obtain a set of veritable 1851 originals. Their rarity may be judged from the fact that the celebrated collection of the late Mr. Pauwels lacked the 3 kr. yellow and 6 kr. green. Reprints, however, of any of the four values of the first series can be had for about a half-crown apiece, and are dear at the price.

As to varieties, the following extract from one of Mr. Pemberton's articles on forged stamps,* will show what ingenuity was once exercised to turn a dishonest penny:—

BADEN.—Many vagaries were formerly noticed amongst the earlier set of these stamps; such, for instance, as a pink 6 or 9 yellow, blue, or green. These are owing to the centre being carefully cut out and reversed, making the 9 into a 6, and *vice versa*. Another imposition was the making of the 1 kr. figure, fawn, from the common white one, by soaking in coffee. There is a forged 1 kr., the glazed appearance of which (it is litho-

* *The Philatelist*, vol. i, p. 58.

graphed) denounces it at once. The originals are finely engraved from steel dies, a different die for each value.

Stamp collectors have, I hope, grown wiser since then, and have learnt to look their stamps very hard in the face, before accepting and mounting them.

Continuing our examination of the Baden issues, we come now to that of 1860, when the simple numeral was dropped for the more pretentious arms; and when, with the arms, perforation was introduced. The design of the 1860 series is well executed, but rather too full of colour; the arms being somewhat obscured by the lined background, technically termed *champ burelé*—a defect which was remedied in 1862 by the erasure of said groundwork; whereby the heraldic bearings were left to stand well out.

The 1860 series may thus be catalogued:—

1 kr. black
3 „ blue, ultramarine
6 „ yellow, orange
9 „ rose
6 „ blue (1862)
9 „ brown, pale brown „

The two shades of the blue 3 kr. are well marked, and deserve collection; as to the 6 kr. yellow, it is, in fact, found in several shades.

The series commenced in 1862 and completed in 1864, is notable for the addition of two high values, the 18 kr. green and 30 kr. orange yellow; as also for a change in the colour of three other values, the 3 kr. becoming rose, the 6 kr. blue, and the 9 kr. brown. The 3 kr. is found in all shades, from carmine to pale pink; the 6 kr. may fairly be collected in blue and in ultramarine; and of the 9 kr. there are an infinity of shades, of which the two most opposite, say pale stone and deep brown, may be accepted.

Of the 3 kr. there is a variety highly esteemed among connoisseurs, distinguished by its fine perforations, which number $13\frac{1}{2}$ to the two-centimetre guage. It is usually of pale pink, and when found it is worthy of being made note of, and if possible, sold to advantage.

In all the stamps of the arms series from 1860 to 1864, the word POSTVEREIN is found on the right hand side, and forms a reminder of the origin of the stamps. A new series, however, was started in 1868, represented at present by three values—the 1 kr. green, 3 kr. rose, and 7 kr. cobalt blue—on which the word POSTVEREIN does not appear, but each side is occupied with the inscription FREIMARKE. This new emission is further characterised by its having the value indicated by the abbreviation "KR." instead of the full word KREUZER, and it is evident that the entire design has been re-engraved.

ENVELOPES.

There has been but one series issued, but there have been two editions thereof. The first, which appeared in 1858, has the oval impressed stamp in the left upper corner. All its values were reprinted in 1865, and for my readers' guidance I give the colours of the reprints side by side with those of the originals:

1858.	3 kr. deep blue,	bright blue.	1865.
	6 „ yellow,	yellow.	
	9 „ rose,	rose.	
	12 „ bistre,	brown bistre.	
	18 „ brick,	brick-red.	

Only the reprints of the two lowest values are common. The 12 and 18 kr. can be had occasionally at a high price, but the 9 kr. is exceedingly rare. Dr. Magnus doubted its having been reprinted, but Mr. Pemberton informs me he has a copy. The originals of the 12 and 18 kr. are very difficult to meet with entire, they were in use in the days of timbro*maniacs*, who clipped them close round, and most of those which now figure in collectors' albums are, consequently, found mounted on white paper.

The second edition of the envelope series was published in 1862, and is still current. It has the stamp impressed in the upper right corner, and its values and colours are as follow:

3 kr. rose, bright and pale.
6 „ bright blue.
9 „ bistre, reddish brown.

These stamps are all well known and cheap; and, thanks to the wise regulation in force on the continent—which forbids the use of envelope stamps cut out from the envelopes on which they are impressed, and thus does away with the necessity of obliterating them,—clean copies are always to be had.

UNPAID LETTER STAMPS.

These stamps were issued in 1862. They are three in number, viz.: 1, 3, and 12 kr. They are all impressed on yellow paper, are inscribed LAND-POST PORTO-MARKE, and are perforated. They are generally supposed to be common unpaid letter stamps—that is, stamps used to represent the postage to be collected on insufficiently prepaid letters, and this supposition is supported by M. Berger-Levrault, who certainly ought to know, but I notice that the recently-discovered stamp for the Danish town, Holte, also bears the inscription LANDPOST, and though I admit the coincidence between the two languages may be only accidental, it has set me thinking whether the Baden stamps, like those of Holte, do not really represent an extra charge for rural delivery collected as a matter of custom from the receiver. I give the suggestion for what it is worth, and am open to receive confirmation or correction.*

The "landpost" stamps have been forged, and that pretty successfully; to avoid deception, therefore, my readers would do well to buy from some well-known dealer of good repute.

POST CARDS.

Two were issued last year, but I have, unfortunately, not yet obtained a sight of either; I can, therefore, only describe them from M. Moens' catalogue, whence I learn that one has no stamp, it being probably intended for communications addressed to foreign countries, and chargeable at different rates; the other has a 3 kr. stamp, and both are provided with the necessary inscriptions, which are in black. The colour of the card itself is buff.

* [By a curious coincidence, since the above was set up, we have received from a correspondent, dating from Carlsruhe, the following confirmation of Mr. Overy Taylor's conjecture:—"I beg to inform you that the Baden 'land-post' series are not 'unpaid' stamps, but stamps for letters which are to be sent to post-offices where there is no railway; the 1 and 3 Kr. can be bought at any post office, but the 12 kr. is now out of use.—ED.]

WE LEARN FROM *The Builder*, that the New York post-office has come to a new arrangement with regard to pillar-boxes; those receptacles being now connected with a pneumatic tube, that runs round the city to the general receiving house. As the letters are dropped into the box, they are blown along the tube at the rate of 65 miles an hour.

NEWLY-ISSUED OR INEDITED STAMPS.

FRANCE, which occupies so large a place in the eyes of the world, almost necessarily comes in for the first place in our column of new issues. The latest stamp novelties, however, which have made their appearance in that unhappy country have been issued by the enemy, and consist of post-cards for the use of the French residents in the occupied provinces. They do not bear an impressed stamp, but place is left for an adhesive; the inscriptions are simple and inoffensive. There are the usual lines for the name, then the words LIEU DE DESTINATION, and then below again, DEMEURE DU DESTINATAIRE, SI ELLE PEUT ETRE INDIQUEE AVEC CERTITUDE ("residence of the addressee, if it can be indicated with certainty"). This latter clause is the only sign of the times to be found on the card. At the foot of the card is a notice, in the true German spirit of exactness, to the effect that the address ought to be written with clearness and precision—a not unnecessary precaution, seeing that the delivery has to be effected by foreign employés, who may not be too well acquainted with the names of minor towns and villages. The legend is lithographed in black on a brown coloured card, and M. Moens, from whose journal we obtain these particulars, states that there are two varieties, distinguished by certain differences in the size and arrangement of the inscriptions. These cards are not used in Alsace, where, no doubt, German-text cards are employed.

The perforated 40 centimes of the Republic, issued in Paris, has been withdrawn, in order to allow of the exhaustion of the stock of imperial stamps of the same value. A postal employé has asserted that the old one franc stamp of the Republic had been re-issued perforated, but this is open to doubt, as such stamp would have been of no use in Paris. *The American Journal of Philately* states that it has received unperforated stamps from Paris, but we think there must be some mistake on this point. If any unperforated specimens of the current Parisian series exist, they will become great rarities.

NATAL.—We have to thank a correspondent for early information of two fresh varieties

of members of the provisional series. The penny is now issued with the word POSTAGE printed twice, that is to say, on each side of the stamp; and the shilling is found with the word POSTAGE printed in *green* ink, in a curved line, below the portrait.

ROUMANIA.—The newspaper wrapper stamp which we noticed only three months ago, has already been superseded by a fresh type. The prince having decided to grow his beard in a slightly different fashion, the fact is commemorated on the postal emissions of the country. The main features of the preceding design are maintained in the new comer; the profile is in a circle; the inscription DIARE PERIODICE is in the lower margin; and the figures $1\frac{1}{2}$ in the upper corners, but here the resemblance ends. The portrait has been withdrawn; the inscription POSTA ROMANA on each side of the circle is in a different type; and the space between these two words is filled in with a Greek border; the word BANI appears in the upper margin, and the spandrels are filled in with a three-cornered ornament. Lastly, the new impression is in Prussian blue, on yellow paper. The 5 bani adhesive has submitted to an alteration; the old portrait has been superseded by the new bearded one, and the stamp is printed in bright vermilion; the framework remains unchanged.



Since writing the foregoing we have learnt that the 3, 4, 15, 18, and 50 bani stamps are all to be suppressed, and that the new 5 bani above described will have for companions only the 10 bani (here represented) and the 25 bani, which will be identical in design. The colour of the 10 b. is now pale yellow, and that of the 25 b., dark brown.



CUNDINAMARCA.—Mr. Pemberton writes us, "It was the 10 correos red I first noticed; the blue 5 I never saw—a matter of little consequence so far, but the stamp is rare, and its antecedents might some day be wanted."

TURKEY.—Messrs. T. B. Morton and Co. have superseded the primitive series of circular handstamped impressions in use during the last eighteen months, by the annexed design. We must assume that they have found their stamps so much in demand that they could no longer print off a sufficient supply of their first hand-struck labels; but, on the other hand, we cannot help remarking that, notwithstanding this assumed demand, the Morton stamps have never been seen in any quantity on this side of the Continent, and the fact appears to us somewhat strange. We hope these stamps have not been made merely to sell, and we do not insinuate that they have, but we should like to know something more about them, especially as they are, after all, only unauthorised locals. There are three values, viz:—



½ piastre, green.
1 ,, vermilion.
2 ,, dark green.

—all on white paper, and perforated. The initial letters D. & B. S. L. S. below the vessel signify Danube & Black Sea Local Steam-ship.

UNITED STATES.—Annexed is a representation of the new ten-cent envelope stamp, which bears the portrait of Thomas Jefferson in relief; it is printed in grey-black. The one-cent light blue, with head of Franklin, has also appeared.



RUSSIA.—*Longa.*—Our St. Petersburg correspondent sends us a specimen of a new local stamp for the district of Longa, in the government, or county, of St. Petersburg. It is an oval stamp, with the inscription and design in white relief, on a blue ground, but our correspondent omits to state whether it is a label or an envelope. It is probably the latter, and as it is gummed, we may assume that it is struck on the flap of the envelope; on this point, however, we are waiting for the necessary information. The inscription which runs round the inner margin signifies

VILLAGE POST OF THE LONGA DISTRICT. The design consists of a shield, surmounted by a crown; the symbols on the shield are in very low relief; in the upper half is a wolf, and in the lower what looks something like a basket, but on this point we will not hazard an opinion. The value of the stamp is 5 kopecks. Next month we hope to be able to give an engraving of it.

LUXEMBOURG.—We learn from *Le Timbre-Poste* that the stock of the 37½ centime is now exhausted, and that no fresh supply will be printed; it is therefore, in effect, withdrawn. The 2 and 30 centimes will, in like manner, drop out of circulation when the existing sheets have been used up. To counterbalance this diminution in the number of labels, the administration, it is said, intends issuing stamps of over 40 centimes in value, and of a type larger than the current one.

BAVARIA.—*Regensburg.*—From the source last acknowledged, we gain the information that there are as many varieties of the Regensburg returned letter labels as there are stamps in the sheet, namely thirty, one of which has the word OBERPOSTAMT written "Oberpostamt," and another has "Rotourbrief" instead of RETOURBRIEF. The sheet was set up from types, without care, and the lettering is of different size on different stamps, whilst the full stop after Regensburg is absent in some of the labels.

FIJI ISLANDS.—The following short notice of a stamp, which, if it be authentic, will prove, to say the least, a great curiosity, appears in the last number of *The Philatelist*. "The last Australian mail brought a specimen of a stamp in use in these islands; it is oblong, printed black on white, inscribed FIJI ISLANDS POSTAGE, SIXPENCE, similar to the letter-press stamps in use in the Sandwich Islands." We are sorry the stamp is thus superficially described; we should like to have known a little more about it; and philosophical philatelists in general will, we think, share our desire. The Brussels magazine copies the above quoted description, but wrongly translates the colour, which it gives as black on *blue*.

CUBA.—We have before us a specimen of the new 50 centimos de peseta (green), and find the design looks extremely well. The correspondent to whom we are indebted for the "view," sends us also a copy of the new Cuban telegraph stamp of 1871 (arms in oval), and draws our attention to the fact that it bears the value "½ peseta," which is precisely the equivalent of 50 c. de peseta. Why two modes should be employed of expressing the same value, it is difficult to perceive.

CAPE OF GOOD HOPE.—The same correspondent has received information from the Cape that the provisional fourpence has been withdrawn.

PORTUGAL.—Of the new type there are now in existence, 5 reis black, 10 r. yellow, 25 r. rose, and 50 r. rose.

THE HALFPENNY POSTAGE STAMP.

1.—*The Adhesive.*—This stamp repays careful investigation. A sharp-eyed correspondent, after reading our notice of the existence of the minute figures on the sides, between the oval and the numeral of value, turned his attention to the stamp, and found that in each corner there was a figure 10, and he suggests that it may mean 10th month; if so, it is a very obscure way of hinting at the date of emission. We have had a long look at the stamp ourselves, and have succeeded in discovering certain lines which, taken together, resemble the figure 10, and must, we presume, be intended to represent it. In the lower right corner they show most clearly, but in the three other corners they are also traceable, and would appear to have been roughly scratched over the lace-work ground, and not let in like the rotation numerals at the side.

2.—*The Wrapper.*—Our correspondent, J. C., of Manchester, starts the sensible suggestion, that the variety which is distinguished by the insertion of rosettes in the three circles below the portrait, which ordinarily contain the date figures, has been adopted by the post-office for the impressions made to order on wrappers supplied by private persons. He supports his opinion with a specimen of this variety, struck on a wrapper, bearing a printed inscription consisting of the sender's address, and the words "MONTHLY CIRCULAR;" and another corres-

pondent sends us a Lloyd's newspaper wrapper, of straw paper, bearing the undated stamp, and the address of the newspaper publishers. There cannot be much doubt that J. C. has "hit the right nail on the head." The arrangement thus made by the post-office seems a reasonable one, as it will enable it to ascertain from time to time what number of wrappers has been purchased by the public over the counter, and what number has been taken by mercantile houses. It also avoids the necessity of making almost daily changes of the date-figures for each private order executed, and an alteration in the date on those sold to the public will now mark a veritable new edition.

3.—*The Card.*—This has already attained a wonderful popularity, and according to a statement in one of the daily papers, over *two millions* per week are now issued to the public. The labour entailed on the post-office by this new agent for communication must be considerable, and the mere work of stamping the cards must take up much time. Of late we have frequently heard it remarked that there is little need of postmarking them at all, as they could not be used a second time; and, indeed, he who would seek to defraud the revenue by effacing from the card a pencil-written communication, must be a very pitiful rogue; in the great majority of cases, however, the writing on the post-card is in ink, and therefore practically ineffaceable. The administration would seem to have had the subject under its consideration, and have begun to supersede postmark cancelling by clipping and piercing. The other day we received a card with the stamp cancelled by a broad arrow, formed of cleanly perforated holes, as here represented. As this perforation falls almost in the centre of the stamp, we are inclined to think that a number of cards must be properly arranged under a punch, and all obliterated by a single stroke. We have been shown other cards, with a semi-circular piece clipped from the margin, and assume that they are operated on in the same manner.



Against the entire abandonment of the postmarking system, it may be urged that without the date-stamp there is no legal evidence of the time when the cards were posted, and if there be no obliteration or cancellation whatever, there is nothing to prove that they were even posted at all; the royal road to roguery would thus be opened, as any one, for malicious or fraudulent purposes, might write what he liked, and date it from whatever town he pleased, and there would be nothing on the face of the card to prove that the communication was a made-up one.

A fresh variety of the card will probably be very soon issued, bearing, in addition to the usual printed stamp in the upper right corner, the small embossed penny receipt stamp, such as is used on cheques, as mercantile men have represented that the faculty of using the cards as receipts, or for delivery orders, would prove very useful. As the law at present stands, the impression of receipt stamps on the post-cards is expressly forbidden, but the interdiction will be taken off.

ST. VALENTINE'S DAY AT THE POST OFFICE.

FROM "THE DAILY TELEGRAPH."

THERE is a quaint little ballad, called "Katie's Letter," the point of which turns on the imaginary writer's prudent secrecy in respect of her lover's name and address. Many an action for breach of promise might have been avoided if all who have ever felt inclined to write down their follies had only thought of the expedient suggested by Katie, and had directed their burning effusions, in a delicately vague manner, to say, "The Object of my Eternal Devotion." Possibly the Dead Letter Office in St. Martin's-le-Grand may have its awful secrets to deliver up, one of these days, concerning the very discreet correspondents who, on or about the 14th of February, dissembled their love, or at all events never told it to the postman. But, meanwhile, let us consider how many of those who send and receive valentines, or ordinary letters, through the post, are very much more enlightened than Katie herself, as to the operations by which the missives in question are punctually delivered. St. Val-

entine's Day, or, better still, St. Valentine's Eve, is a good time to take a hint, on this important matter, from the spectacle which a privileged visitor behind the scenes of the General Post Office beholds.

On any evening of the year the inland branch of the circulation department is pretty busy, the ordinary number of sorters being reckoned, in the rough, at some 350 or thereabout. The process of digestion, so to speak, which the rude mass of public correspondence undergoes, when it has entered the zinc jaws that open wide to receive it, is necessarily complex; but the system is, on the whole, simple. At all events, it is a marvel of method and organic arrangement. The letters that come tumbling in, faster and faster as the time for closing the mail approaches, are received in baskets, which are shifted and changed as they fill. These wicker maws are of portentous dimensions; but a very few minutes will suffice to test their full capacity. The letters are emptied from them on the facing tables, which are long lank boards covered with oil-cloth, and guarded at the edges by raised beading. To face the letters—*id est*, to turn them all with their faces one way—is the first very necessary operation. They are then bundled off to the stamping tables and are stamped. The sorting tables, which next receive the letters, are somewhat more complicated pieces of mechanical furniture than tables in general. They are boards of green cloth, having three tiers of recessed shelves above them; and the sorter deals out the heap of letters, first to the main lines of railway and the chief towns, their reduction to roads being matter of subsequent work. The real responsibility begins with the officials who sort the letters down to the several roads; for up to that stage an error could be corrected; but beyond it a misplaced letter must inevitably go wrong. Sorted for the different roads, with the registered and unpaid letters separately stowed and accounted for, the mails go forth from the sorting-room to a platform overhanging the courtyard, in which the red vans are assembled. At intervals, lamps with the names of different railways plainly inscribed on them, guide the porters to the van stationed below through the opened tops of which vehicles the bags are shot. And this, roughly sketched, is the sequence of operations every time an inland mail leaves St. Martin's-le-Grand.

On the evening before St. Valentine's Day, an immense increase of labour in the inland branch of the post-office takes place, and is met partly by the employment of an extra number of men and partly by extra exertion of the regular hands, who are paid an additional shilling for coming an hour earlier than their usual time. The ordinary force of 350 sorters is made up to 500, by the enlistment of men who are off duty in their own right, and of others from the Dead Letter Office. The number of valentines despatched on Monday evening, the 13th instant, from the General Post Office, was 250,000; and about 200,000 more were received the same night and on the morning of St. Valentine's Day for despatch by the day mails. 450,000 in all, then, were the figures roundly estimated; and how, we may be asked, could it be known that these were valentines? Well, in the first place, no very extraordinary perception is necessary to detect a valentine; and, in the next, the number is simply in excess of the average total returns of letters received and despatched within the same period. We have only included in the 450,000 those valentines sent, through the General Post Office, from London to different parts of the country.

For the first time, Cupid's bolts have this year been shot by electricity; or, in other words, valentines have been sent "over the wires." A formidable contrast to such airy nothings was presented by the tangible tokens of affection, or parcels of practical satire, forwarded in the old-fashioned way. Indeed, the post-office officials complain that the preposterous modern valentine, packed in a band-box, is becoming, or has become, an intolerable nuisance. The stamping such things is difficult without smashing them bodily; and the process of sorting entails an alteration in the gauge of the sorter's apparatus. The unavoidable delay of the mails has not been so great this year, we believe, as usual. There have been occasions when the departure which ought to have been at eight o'clock was retarded till

nine; but on the evening of the 13th the Great Western train was only kept a minute; and the trains on other lines were generally got off in good time.

HEAD AND FIGURE OF LIBERTY STAMPS.

BY F CAVELL.

THE head or figure of Liberty is the acknowledged emblem and design of a republican or provisional government, and as such it has appeared on the French, Spanish, Swiss, Buenos Ayres, and Corrientes stamps.

Under the title of "head of Liberty" stamps may be classed—

French Republic, issued in 1848 and 1870.
Spanish Provisional Government, 1870.
Buenos Ayres, issued in 1860.
Republican State of Corrientes, issued in 1856.

Under the title of "figure of Liberty" stamps may be classed:—

Swiss, issues of 1849, 1852, 1854, and 1855.
„ issues of 1862, 1863, 1869, &c.

The head of Liberty is represented in the republican stamps of France by the profile of a woman turned to the left, a bunch of grapes under the left ear being attached to a wreath of corn-ears confining the hair, which falls down the neck and upon the shoulder in slight waves, the eyes little more than half-way open, the lips compressed, the expression of the face being one of decided firmness.

In the Spanish provisional government stamps, the head of the goddess of Liberty is turned very slightly to the left, presenting nearly a full face; no wreath of corn-ears or bunch of grapes adorn her head, but, instead, a crown is placed thereon; her hair falls back in waves, but apparently does not reach so far as in the French republican stamps; the eyes are somewhat stretched, and appear to express wonder and surprise, but the whole design is executed in an inferior manner, and it would be almost impossible to state an opinion with regard to the expression.

In the Buenos Ayres republican stamps, 4th issue, 1860, unperforated, the head of Liberty is to the left, with seemingly a rather aquiline nose.

Republic of Corrientes: head of goddess to the left, rect.; this is much the same stamp as the French Republic, but far less distinct.

The figure of the Swiss goddess of liberty, issued 1845-55, unperf., rect., is represented seated, with a full face, the left hand laid upon a shield bearing a cross argent on gules, the right hand holding a staff, which is slightly out of the perpendicular, and a loose garment folded upon the figure.

In the issues of 1862, rect., perf., the head is turned to the left, and the hair done up in a kind of plaited bunch; the shield also is sloping to the left.

It would seem more appropriate to see the goddess of Liberty wearing a chaplet of corn and bunch of grapes, than a crown, yet in the Spanish provisional government stamps, Swiss all issues, and Corrientes stamps, a crown is substituted, while on the French republican and Buenos Ayres stamps a wreath of corn and bunch of grapes is impressed.

[With regard to the Spanish provisionals, although the exact signification of the head thereon depicted has never been authoritatively settled, yet it seems to us very doubtful whether it represents the goddess of liberty, as the government was by no means a republican one; its chief openly avowed his preference for monarchical institutions, and on the telegraph and other stamps the Spanish arms continued to be surmounted by a crown.—ED.]

THE FEDERAL STAMPS OF SWITZERLAND.

BY W. DUDLEY ATLEE.

[ADDENDA.]

BY an oversight, we omitted the varieties of the 5 rappen 1854 type having black threads. The list of the labels of this value was had back by the writer for revision, and, through inadvertence, the undermentioned were left out altogether.

TYPE VIII.

5 rap. light cocoa; black thread.
„ bay brown „
„ very pale chocolate „
„ light cocoa; yellow thread.

This last stamp is of great rarity; we only found a single specimen out of a packet of several hundred 5 rappen labels.

THE PHILATELIC SOCIETY.

A MEETING of the Philatelic Society was held on Saturday, the 14th January.

The President exhibited his collection of New South Wales stamps, including what he has been able to collect during his visit last year, viz:—a clean and a used copy of the old 1d. embossed Sydney stamp; 3 unsevered 1d. views of Sydney, without clouds; several 2d. views, fine specimens; specimens of the 1d. carmine and orange, 2d. light blue, 3d. green on *bleuté*, and 6d. brown on *bleuté*, of the laureated issue. These last were first impressions sent in by the engraver to the government, and were attached to the margin of his letter.

He had seen an entire sheet struck from the 3d. laureated head, and found that no such error as WACES existed in the plate. It is therefore to be assumed, that the irregularities on copies of this stamp have been produced by part of the plate being too much charged with ink, or some similar neglect in the operation of printing.

He also exhibited a set of beautiful imperforate specimens of the 3d., 5d., 6d., 8d., and 1/ stamps, struck from the plates engraved by Messrs. Perkins, Bacon, & Co., as well as some "registered" struck as proofs of colour; some of these had only the head of the Queen.

He had ascertained that the list of the 3d. views of Sydney sent home by the government printer was made out by a post-office clerk who knew nothing of colours. Those called by him "flesh" and "brown" were only olive-green stamps which had changed colour accidentally.

One of the members called attention to the statement made in *The Stamp-Collector's Magazine*, that the envelopes purporting to emanate from the Argentine post-office, are reprints from an old forged die. On comparing a set of these envelopes with some of the valueless stamps sold some three years ago, it was found that they were identical.

The secretary laid on the table a very dark variety of the 1 centime stamp of the French colonies, and a 1d. New Zealand of a light pink.

SOME LATELY DISCOVERED SPANISH STAMPS.

WE have received from Mr. Ysasi, of London, and Senor Pardo De Figueroa, of Medina Sidonia, some interesting and little-known varieties of Spanish stamps, which we have much pleasure in bringing to the notice of our readers.

The rarest of the group is a Madrid stamp, or postmark, of the eighteenth century. It consists of the letters M P.P. *(Madrid porte pagado)* in two lines surmounted by a crown, the whole in black, and it indicated that the postage of the letter on which it was struck had been prepaid. It is undoubtedly one of the most interesting varieties in existence, and Mr. Ysasi is to be congratulated on his good fortune in possessing the single known copy.

M P.P.

Variety No. 2 is the postmark struck on letters from the soldiers of the Spanish army which operated against the Emperor of Morocco in 1860. It is a plain ring inscribed EJERCITO ESPANOLEN AFRICA, and in the centre is the date 30 SET. '60. This impression is also in black. It is in the possession of Mr. Ysasi.

The third variety reaches us from Senor Pardo de Figueroa, to whose earnestness in the study of philately, and all that appertains thereto, we cannot too warmly bear witness. It is the frank stamp of the military governor of Cadiz, and has such an ancient look about it, that we learn with surprise that it was in use during the past year. It is a broad oval stamp, something after the style of the Congress impressions, and has an inscription running round the inner edge, which reads as follows: GOBIERNO DE LA PLAZA DE CADIZO. In the centre are the Spanish arms as modified since the revolution, but surmounted by the old crown, instead of the mural one lately adopted. A kind of leafy chain descends each side of the shield, but the golden fleece is absent. The impression is in dull blue, at the lower left hand corner of the cover.

Last year we received from Senor Pardo de Figueroa a specimen of the frank stamp of the Treasury, which we described on page 120 of previous volume. He now sends us

a second copy, showing by the side of the Treasury stamp a Madrid postmark, in virtue of which the Treasury communication goes free of charge. It is a simple oval of two lines, with the word MADRID in its upper, and FRANCO in its lower half. Its shape distinguishes it from the ordinary postmarks, which are round.

Our correspondent sends, in addition to the foregoing, a cover, stamped with the words ADMINISTRACION ECONOMICA DE LA PROV^A DE CADIZ; and with respect to these and the other frank stamps, he explains that the regular official series, with which all collectors are acquainted, was suppressed in 1866, since which time each department of the government has had a frank stamp special to itself.

Senor Pardo de Figueroa sends us several very valuable Spanish and colonial revenue stamps of the eighteenth century, which it would be exceeding our limits to describe at length. We may, however, mention that they are printed in black ink, are highly ornamented, and are accompanied with a long inscription, setting forth the date of issue of the value. As proofs of the use, at that period, of impressed stamps, in the place of official seals, they are of very considerable interest.

Lastly, our correspondent sends us an engraving of the arms of Spain, as they now are. They consist of the usual armorial shield, from which, however, the little circular escutcheon in the centre, bearing the fleur-de-lis, is absent; it is surmounted by a heavy mural crown, and flanked by the pillars of Hercules; a ribbon, which passes behind the shield, and winds round the pillars, bears the old Spanish motto, *plus ultra*.

ENJOYING IT!—The Germans have their post-cards as well as we, and abuse the new institution in about the same manner. At Dresden a gentleman received a card conveying the following message:—

"I have lost my purse yesterday at the Elbe Baths, with three napoleons in it. I dropped it close to the watermark, where it must lie still. As you are a good diver, pray go a-bathing with me this evening at six."

The gentleman kept the appointment, and was surprised to see two or three postmen go into the baths just before him. On the platform his astonishment increased, for in spite of the unusual hour there were numbers of post-office clerks there. They took uncommonly long dives. The writer of the card was sitting at a little distance enjoying the sight.

REVIEWS OF POSTAL PUBLICATIONS.

Catalogue Prix-courant de Timbres-poste, Essais, &c. Troisième Edition. Brussels: J. B. Moens.

THIS is a very complete work, and is far more important than might be supposed from its title. It consists of 108 pages of closely-printed letter-press, and half a dozen sheets of illustrations. It contains a notice of every known, and of not a few unknown stamps, and, as a book of reference, it will prove very useful. It is arranged on the alphabetico-continental system, which now finds so much favour among collectors, and is divided into two parts, the first devoted to postage-stamps proper, the second to essays, telegraph, fiscal, and railway stamps. By this plan the philatelist does not find these latter classes thrust upon his notice, as is the case in some English catalogues; and reprints are separately noted and priced, an improvement which might be introduced with advantage into English compilations.

CORRESPONDENCE.

THE LATELY DISCOVERED HELSINGFORS.

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

DEAR SIR,—I am happy to be able to give you some information about the 10 penniä Helsingfors stamp, described on p. 151 of the last volume, which will contribute to elucidate, if not to settle, the question of the date of its emission.

I first saw this stamp about November or December, 1868. The obliterated specimen I possess in my collection is taken from a letter from Helsingfors, dated January 16th, 1869, but the stamp bears the handstamped date of January 17th. It cannot have been issued before August 1868, for up to this month the old 10 penniä appeared on letters I received from Helsingfors. It might have been issued between August and November, 1868; anyhow, I am sure that the date on M. Moens' stamps ought to be read 1/2/69, not 1860. It is strange that this adhesive has not been noticed by you before this, for looking into Messrs. Zschiesche & Köder's supplementary catalogue (1868-9), I found it classified as No. 16*a*., Finland, with the description—"Local stamp for Helsingfors: 10 penniä, brown, with blue bar," which is evidently the stamp in question.

I beg to remain, dear Sir,
Yours very respectfully,
MAX JOSEPH.

Gablonz, a/n, Bohemia.

[We are glad our correspondent has come forward to clear away the doubt respecting the lately discovered Helsingfors stamp, but he is evidently mistaken as to Messrs. Zschiesche & Köder's notice of it, as the stamp is square, and not oval, and is coloured red and green, not blue and brown. The oval blue and brown stamp alluded to by Messrs. Zschiesche & Köder is well known. We hope, however, that Mr. Max Joseph is not confounding the square with the oval.—ED.]

WANTED, AN ODONTOMETER.

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

SIR,—Will you permit me to suggest, in reference to the determination of the measure of the various perforations, the utility of an *odontometer*, on the principle of that given in *Le Timbre-Poste*, No. 46, or in the last edition of Maury's catalogue. Unfortunately, neither of these is sufficiently accurate. In the early days of distinguishing the perforations, a stamp was described as having so many perforations on one side by so many on the other; but that system has now become exploded, and the method (the authorship of which belongs to Dr. Magnus) of measuring the perforations contained in a space of 2 centimetres—as explained in the admirable "Papers for Beginners," which are appearing in your magazine—is becoming almost universal. If any engraver would prepare such a tabular form of perforations, he would confer a benefit on the philatelic community. Let me mention that Dr. Magnus composed his table from actual perforations. Thus the perforation 7 was taken from the French stamps perforated by Susse; 9 from Prince Edward Island, 2d.; 9½ from the Austrian fourth issue; 10 from the Wurtemburg large perforations; 11 from Prince Edward Island, 9d.; 11½ from St. Vincent, 1d.; 12 from the United States; 12½ from the early Russian; 13 from the first of the perforated Belgian stamps; 13½ from the French stamps; 14 from those of Great Britain; 14½ from the Ceylon 5d.; 15 from the actual issue for Russia; 15½ from Natal 1d., with star watermark; and 16 from the first issue of perforated stamps for Great Britain. A card, embracing these 15 kinds of perforation, in a tabular form, might well be prepared under the superintendence of the Philatelic Society, presented to its members, and sold to the public.

I am,

Yours faithfully,

Brussels. W.

MR. STOURTON ON SWISS STAMPS.

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

SIR,—With fear and trembling I venture to contradict that learned philatelist, Mr. Stourton, by asserting that *diæresis* is as much an English as a Latin word, being neither one nor the other; it is, in fact, Greek, from (διαίρεσις), though freely used in both the former languages. It certainly does not indicate the same thing when applied to a German word as in the two former languages, for in them it is used to direct that the letters over which it may be placed shall form separate syllables, which otherwise would be incorporated into one syllable; while in German it is used to indicate a compound vowel—*i. e.*, that the letter *e* is to be understood as interpolated next to the vowel so decorated—or, as some German grammarians choose to call it, a modified vowel. Perhaps Mr. Stourton would have been better pleased had I improved upon Lindley Murray, by describing it as a horizontal colon: yet, even that he might have thought too difficult for the comprehension of his younger readers, for whom he professes to write with such boasted perspicuity. When speaking to them of that mark of punctuation, he would, of course, in strictly plain English, style it "a stop of two dots."

Well, admitting for the sake of argument the learned Mr. Stourton's preference for "two dots"—the expression, by the bye, generally used by Anglo-German grammarians when writing English, for want, probably, of knowing a better—I would ask him what he calls the two strokes or accents used in writing German, to indicate this compound vowel ("dots," as he calls them, being only used in printed language), which cannot by any stretch of imagination, or of the English language, be described as "dots."

Had, however, Mr. Stourton gone through the drudgery of being educated at Eton, he would probably have been able to have avoided this Charybdis, without stranding upon Scylla; for I find in an abridgement of the Eton Latin Grammar now before me (article Prosody), that tyros—*anglicé*, raw students—are specially warned that Diæresis, Synæresis, &c., being words derived from a Greek origin, may *perplex* them, which doubtless has been, unfortunately, the case with the simple-hearted Mr. Stourton.

Truly, however, he must be a valuable authority to refer to, when, on his own admission, he undertakes to write an essay on Swiss Forgeries, without having a single forged specimen of two of the most important issues to write from, so that he is reduced to quote from an obsolete, though not out-of-print pamphlet of his own, since the publication of which, the then current forgeries have been superseded by totally new impostors, requiring totally new descriptions.

"*Trema*," also, I would remind him is more Greek than French, so that if he would speak pure French, he must (as in English) call these diphthong or compound vowel indicators *deux points; trema* being as far from being a French word as *diæresis* is from being an English word.

Clifton. FENTONIA.

ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS.

— FURSE, Esq.—We beg to thank you for the report of the last meeting of the Philatelic Society, with which you so kindly furnished us.

W. M. C., Melton Mowbray.—Our engraving of the 1 cent French Republic was inaccurate, inasmuch as the stamp was represented perforated.

CORNELIUS VAN DICK.—The stamp you describe is a Bremen fiscal. We should be glad to see the wasp postmark on the United States stamps.

R. S. & Co., Dewsbury.—We make use of your information respecting the halfpenny band and adhesives in another part of of the present number, and are obliged for same.

G. A. J. C., Hornsey Rise.—Both the lavender and the violet Mercury (current issues) are well known; probably it was thought sufficient to give only one shade in Dr. Gray's catalogue.

E. F. C., Belfast.—Your stamp, with spread-eagle on it, is an Austrian commercial.—The square stamp, with winged head of Mercury, and inscription K.G L. POST F.R.M. is a Danish essay, or rather, in all probability, a forgery thereof.

J. M., Guernsey.—Your Russian label, inscribed MEARCHAUX, seems to us a *mere* imposition.—We have noticed your undated halfpenny wrapper.—The other stamps (Corrientes, Cape, and Montevideo) are all genuine.

F. H. SMYTHE, Carlsruhe.—Your information respecting the actual use of the Baden land-post stamps comes very appropriately to confirm an hypothesis put forward in this month's "Papers for Beginners," and we quote your observations at foot thereof.

J. B. M., Rochdale.—No printed album gives spaces for the whole envelopes, if we except only one or two special varieties, such as the Mulready and the oldest Hanoverian town envelopes, which cannot be collected otherwise than entire. The best album, is, in our opinion, the English Mocns.

PAPERS FOR BEGINNERS.—No. XI.

BY OVERY TAYLOR.

EUROPE.

Bavaria.

THE first Bavarian stamp, in order of value, was once supposed to have seen the light in advance of all the others; such, however, if we accept Levrault's dates, was not the case. The 1st November, 1849, the day on which the 1 kreuzer black was issued, was also the date of emission of the 3 kr. blue and 6 kr. brown. Most probably Levrault is right, for it is hardly to be supposed that the postal authorities would have introduced the postage-stamp system by the issue of a single low-value stamp, which must have been used either for local letters, or, as is more likely, for circulars only. A love of arrangement by values, so as to form "complete sets," was no doubt, in part, the motive for isolating the 1 kr. black; and a further reason may be sought in the slight dissimilarity of design between that stamp and its companions.

The first series, if we adopt Levrault's classification, should be arranged as follows:

1st November, 1849,	1	kr. black.
	3	„ blue.
	6	„ brown.
1st July, 1850,	1	„ rose.
	9	„ yellow-green, apple-green.
19th July, 1854,	18	„ yellow.
22nd June, 1858,	12	„ red.

It will be observed that the black stamp was only in use eight months, and yet four varieties thereof are in existence—two principal ones, characterised by differences in the design; two secondary ones, distinguished by the presence or absence of a silk thread worked into the paper, as in the Mulready envelopes. Of the two former, one is generally taken to be a lithograph, and may be recognised by the imperfect outline of the central figure 1, which at the base, especially, is noticeably broken and irregular; the other is assumed to be a wood-cut, but is more probably from a metallic die; it has the *extreme* outline of the figure 1 formed by a black line, so that the shape of the figure is clear and unbroken throughout. As to the two secondary varieties, it is still a moot point whether that which shows the silk thread is not an essay. It is certainly far rarer than the threadless stamps; but Dr. Magnus hints that it was struck on paper prepared for the "second" series, and therefore was used for a much shorter period. What does he mean by the second series? Does he refer to the 3 kr. blue and 6 kr. brown, under the impression that they were issued later than the 1 kr.? If so, his suggestion does not help matters much, for, on Levrault's authority, we admit that the 3 and 6 kr., *with threads*, were issued at the same time as the 1 kr. black. We can only suppose that the greater portion of the supply of the black was struck off in advance of that of the other values, and before it had been decided to adopt the Dickinson paper. Levrault catalogues both varieties as actual stamps, and not essays, and his verdict is probably the correct one.



This stamp has been frequently forged, and as it would take up far too much space to give descriptions of all the counterfeits, I will content myself by mentioning *the* chief distinctive point of the genuine. If then, to quote from Mr. Pemberton, "we take the genuine stamp, and examine round the base of the numeral, we find on the left hand a blank and unequal space, a continuation of the white bordering of the figure;" and this is not found in the forgery.

The entire series, excepting only the 1 kr. black, has been reprinted, or a marvellous "remainder" from the original has been discovered within the last two or three years; hence unused copies even of the 12 and 18 kr., which at one time were rather scarce, are now common.

The other stamps of this emission do not present any specially remarkable history; the sole noteworthy point is that they are all found on two thicknesses of paper. The first impressions were on a comparatively thin texture, and the colours were less brilliant than those of the second working.

The real second series was, in fact, formed simply from the values of the first, impressed in different colours, viz:

1 kreuzer yellow.
3 „ rose, bright rose.
6 „ dark blue, bright blue.
9 „ stone.
12 „ green.
18 „ red.

All these stamps are common used, and have not yet enjoyed the doubtful honour of being reprinted.

The existing series was brought out in 1867, and was originally formed of the following values and colours:—



1 kreuzer green.
3 „ rose.
6 „ blue.
9 „ bistre.
12 „ lilac.
18 „ red.

being, in fact, a simple repetition of the old denominations, and, for three stamps out of the series, of the old colours. In 1868, however, the 9 kr. was withdrawn, and its colour was given to the 6 kr.; a new value, the 7 kr., being impressed in blue. Within the last twelve months the whole series has been perforated.

The first supply of the existing type was worked in very pale colours, but, about eighteen months after the emission commenced, a fresh stock, in fuller, brighter tints was struck off; and as there is reason to suppose that the deepening of the colour was intentional, there appears to be good ground for collecting both sets.

The design is neat and well engraved, and the stamps, especially those of the second edition, have a very pretty appearance when placed together; but in these latter there is a notable deterioration in the fine horizontal lined background of the arms. This has almost entirely disappeared—in the 3 kr. it is, indeed, quite lost—and the arms, consequently, stand out from a ground of solid colour. The effect of this unintended change in the design is not on the whole a regretable one.

ENVELOPE STAMP.

The sole envelope in use is the one which appeared in 1869, and with which my readers are doubtless well acquainted. It is principally noticeable for its having the denomination spelt in the old style (DREY); at the time of its issue it was reported that only a few envelopes were thus distinguished, and that the bulk would show the word in its modern formation—*drei*—but up to the present time no variety showing this difference has been brought out.* The old spelling was doubtless a freak of the engraver, for we find the word written in the modern way on the adhesives.



UNPAID LETTER STAMP.

This old-fashioned stamp was issued in 1863. Its inscriptions signify BAVARIAN POSTAGE, 3 KR., PAYABLE BY THE RECEIVER; and after my successful guess of last month, in reference to the Baden "landpost" stamps, I am almost inclined to venture a similar one in respect to this one, whilst admitting, however, that the inscription is as much against as for me. Like the ordinary adhesives, this stamp has a silk thread running perpendicularly through the paper.



RETURNED LETTER STAMPS.

Stamps of this type have been in use since the year 1865, in



Augsburg,
Bamberg,
Nurnberg,
Munich,
Spires, and
Wurtzburg,

and a simple type-set stamp for Regensburg was described very recently in these pages. All of them are printed in black, and all are used for the same purpose. Letters which, from one cause or another, cannot be delivered to the addressees, and which bear on their exterior no indication of the sender's name and address, are opened in the presence of an officer or committee nominated for that purpose; and if in the interior the required particulars are found, they are returned to the sender with one of these stamps

* By some mistake, our engraving gives the modern spelling.

attached, to show that they have been opened by the proper authorities. Of the Munich there are two varieties, one with a thicker oval than the other; and it is said that this latter was "affected" to the service of the Regensburg office; but, if so, its employment must now have ceased, as that office possesses a stamp of its own. Of the Nurnberg, also, there are two varieties, easily distinguishable, which are found side by side in, and run through, the sheet. All these returned letter labels are very cheap, and as they are affixed in the post-office, they are never found postmarked.

"INSTRUCTION" STAMPS.

These are found in a good many albums, and were once highly valued as rare essays. There are two complete sets of them, corresponding to the two sets of adhesives which they accompanied. They are, in fact, black impressions of the different values struck on the coloured envelopes containing the supplies of said values, sent out by the administration to the provincial offices, and were an aid to business, as the recipient could always tell what values were contained in the envelopes without opening them. Together with these stamps, the envelopes bore inscriptions stating the number of sheets of stamps enclosed in them, and their total value. Of the first series the following are the values:—1 kr. grey; 3 kr. dark blue; 6 kr. violet-brown; 9 kr. green; 12 kr. rose; 18 kr. yellow. Of the second:—1 kr. yellow; 3 kr. rose; 6 kr. blue; 9 kr. light brown; 12 kr. green; 18 kr. grey; and the "unpaid" letter stamp is found in its normal colour, black on white. We have not seen any instruction stamps for the present series.

These stamps are of no value, except as postal curiosities, illustrative of the working of the system in Bavaria.

SPURIOUS STAMPS.

Bavaria, like other countries, has had her share of these. In 1865 there was a grotesque design on sale, of which the most conspicuous feature was a Chinese-looking priest. This, with some other equally questionable varieties, was first noticed in the once famous Volpi collection.

In 1866 a rather pretty envelope design was put on the market. The annexed copy will put my readers on their guard against it. It was issued in many colours, and originally at a rather high price, but there is no proof whatever of its having had an honest origin, and it is far more likely that it belongs to that crew of disreputable productions, the sale of which did so much to depopularise stamp collecting.



A FEW NOTES ON THE STAMPS OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA.

BY EDWARD L. PEMBERTON.

I DO not know that there will be much fresh information in the following notes, for they can contain very little original matter, but I have been led to publish them because there is need of a guide to the correct arrangement of the postage stamps of this colony. Though there are some papers existing, to which the collector can pin his faith (so far as they go), yet a concentration of widely-scattered facts must be useful; and as I have endeavoured to correct a few errors, and to add such further information as lies in my power, as well as to supplement the whole by a careful list of the varieties known to me, I believe that the present notes may prove of service to many, whether collectors of the extended, or of the English school.

The best plan is to commence by thoroughly describing the different types; these all contain the emblematical swan, but vary in shape and background to the number of five; and of these, there are three obsolete. They are as follows:—

TYPE I.—Swan swimming, reeds at sides, and sun's rays overhead; solid octagonal frame, lettered in full, POSTAGE WESTERN AUSTRALIA, and value; octagon; swan watermark; imperforate and roulette.

2d. black-brown on red-faced paper.

6d. bronze on plain paper.

TYPE II.—Swan swimming; netted background; solid octagonal frame, lettered in full as last; octagon; swan watermark; imperforate and roulette.

4d. blue on white or yellowish.

This type is considerably smaller than I., but the lettering is much bolder.

TYPE III.—Swan swimming; netted background; solid transverse oval frame, lettered POSTAGE W. AUSTRALIA and full value; oval; swan watermark; imperforate and roulette.

1s. brown on white or yellowish.

TYPE IV.—Swan swimming; netted background; netted oblong frame, with star in each corner; lettered as I.; oblong; various watermarks; imperforate, roulette, and machine; coloured impression.

1d. black, rose, olive-brown.

TYPE V.—Swan swimming; netted background; solid oblong frame as last; oblong; various watermarks; imperforate, roulette, and machine; coloured impression.

2d. vermilion, blue, yellow.

4d. blue, vermilion, rose.

6d. green, purple-brown, light violet, mauve.

1s. yellow-green, dark green, dull green.

The only difference between types IV. and V. lies in the frame; IV. being netted, V. being solid. In IV. the reticulation is very ineffective, and often hardly shows at the sides; the solid frame of V. is far more striking.

Type I. is very rough, especially as to lettering; yet owners of fine specimens cannot but admire their rude simplicity; the 6d. in fine perfect condition, with the bronze deep and glittering, is really a gorgeous stamp. Very few, however, exist which can merit this eulogy, for to one perfect copy of the colour of a guinea, we get one hundred showing less and less bronze, and gradually going to dirty black or grey. It is only on fine specimens that the sun's rays can be clearly defined, but on extra fine ones they may be observed coming down to the swan's wing, and greatly heightening the effect of the design, which indeed is incomplete without these rays.

Types II. and III. are poor specimens of a mediocre style, and, though more pretentious, are generally badly printed, and of ineffective shades; there is little to cause admiration; indeed, the only thing about them which could cause unmitigated pleasure is, that they are obsolete. The two last types (IV. and V.) are those now current; they are well engraved, are not commonplace stamps, and the latest series is magnificently coloured.

DATES OF ISSUE.

It is a matter of uncertainty when the first issue of stamps took place; authorities differ; but most of them agree that types I., II., and III. were issued first, whilst M. Moens adds the black 1d. to the first set. As there appears no official record of the actual earlier dates of issue, and as these must be given rather at hazard, I think it will be as well to see what other writers have to say.

Dr. Gray's last edition gives types I., II., and III., as 1855.

Moens' last list gives types I., II., and III., and one penny black, as 1856.

Mahé's list gives type I., 6d., II. and III., as 1856, and type I., 2d. as 1857.

Maury gives them as 1854.

Levrault gives type I. as 1854, and types II. and III. as 1855. All, however, save Moens, agree that the black 1d. was issued in 1860. Then as to the vermilion 2d., blue 4d., and green 6d. of type V., some give 1860, others 1861 as their natal year; still there appears little doubt that whenever the three first types were issued, they were superseded in 1860 or 1861.

Mr. Overy Taylor justly says (see *The Stamp-Collector's Magazine*, vol. v., p. 59), that it is very unlikely that stamps so roughly engraved as type I. should have been current from 1854 till 1860; to quote further, "Issues of such a character partake generally of the nature of temporary expedients, being employed only for a short time, and not unfrequently whilst a better design is being executed." Another thing is, that these stamps are watermarked with a swan; and, as watermarks were only introduced in the New South Wales series in 1854, it is improbable, to say the least, that any watermarked issue should take place in backward Western Australia at the same period as in the head colony. Even Victoria did not adopt the star watermark until 1856, and it is said that Van Diemen's Land commenced their use in the same year. I feel sure their currency must have been very short. I cannot understand a 2d. and 6d. stamp being issued in 1854, 1855, or even 1856, and no 1d. being issued until 1860. I do not know

on what grounds the 1d. black is always quoted as 1860; but, if we are to accept the old types as issued even in 1856, I think the 1d. black should be included with them. I should be inclined to place the three first types at 1857 or 1858, the black 1d. at about the same date, and the other first oblongs, 2d. vermilion and 6d. green, at 1859.

From similarity, I should say the octagonal 4d. and the oval 1s. were issued together, and issued first, being followed by the octagonal 2d. and 6d. as a temporary expedient, waiting the arrival of the new dies from England. Whether the 1d. black was actually issued with the 4d. oct. and 1s. oval, is difficult to say, but I incline to think so; it is different in frame to the other oblong values, which may, perhaps, be some slight proof that it was separately issued; there cannot be a doubt that the solid frame is clearer and more effective, and a subsequent improvement on the reticulated frame of the 1d. Another curious thing is, that the only black proofs on India paper that I ever saw, are of this 1d., of the octagonal 4d., and of the oval 1s. As, however, all this can only be regarded as a matter of opinion, I have preferred to take the types in the order in which they are usually now recognized.

Whenever the octagonal brown 2d. and bronze 6d. were issued, it is quite clear that on the issue of the oblong vermilion 2d., and green 6d. the set in use was this (all swan watermarked):

1d. black, swan wmk., type IV., oblong.
2d. vermilion, ,, ,, V., ,,
4d. blue, ,, ,, II., octagon.
6d. green, ,, ,, V., oblong.
1s. brown, ,, ,, III., oval.

This proves, pretty conclusively, that the octagonal 2d. and 6d., though swan watermarked, were only provisionally issued. When the imperforate oblongs were superseded, in 1861 or 1862, by the perforated 1d. rose, 2d. blue, and 6d. purple-brown (also swan watermarked), there appeared some indecision as to the colour of the new 4d., for a stock was printed in blue, on paper identical in thinness with that used for the vermilion 2d.

All these are found imperforate and rouletted, doubtless issued imperforate by the government, and, for convenience sake, rouletted at a few head offices. That the stock printed of 4d. octagonal and 1s. oval was very large, is proved by the non-issue of the blue oblong 4d., on paper identical in thinness with that used for the oblong 2d. vermilion, and, no doubt, prepared with it, and the green 6d., which latter is on a somewhat similar paper; and the 1s. oval was not attempted to be superseded until the issue of an entirely new *perforated* set in 1861 and 1862. This oblong 4d. blue is usually regarded as a proof or essay, but there can be no question that it was actually circulated to some slight extent—indeed, in these pages there are notices of its having been used (see vol. iv., p. 144, and vol. v., p. 14); whatever stock was printed—and it must have been considerable, for they are not at all rare unused—they were never issued extensively, for when the imperforate stamps were superseded in 1861 or 1862 by a perforated issue, the following changes took place:—

1d. black, imperf. to 1d. rose, machine
2d. vermilion ,, to 2d. blue ,,
4d. blue, ,, to 4d. vermilion ,,
6d. green, ,, to 6d. purple-brown ,,
1s. brown ,, to 1s. green ,,

And the 4d. blue oblong takes its place between the two sets, as a stamp which was never wanted, and hardly issued, owing to the non-exhaustion of the stock of 4d. octagonal. The perforated 4d. vermilion, and 1s. green, though belonging to the recognised 1861-2 set, appear to have been held back until 1864, when the stocks of octagonal 4d. and oval 1s. were exhausted. In 1865 appeared the set with CC. and crown watermark; they were, of course, perforated, and the following values:—

1d. olive-brown.
2d. yellow.
4d. carmine.
6d. violet.
1s. green.

But between the swan watermark of 1861-2 and these CC. and crown of 1865, came some stamps—a partial issue—on paper without any watermark. Mr. Taylor truly says that it is a matter of great difficulty to detect the swan in watermark on some spe-

cimens. I know that a 1d. in brown-carmine, and a 6d. in light violet, were undoubtedly issued without watermark, after the 1d. rose, and 6d. purple-brown (which bore a swan in the paper); but, whether the 1s. actually exists without watermark, or whether I am deceived by the paper I cannot positively say. The French writers give a 2d. blue to this set, but I have never met with it; they also quote the 1s. which I have named, but in this examination the style of perforation must be considered. The swan series of 1861-2 are perforated 14 to 16 in all combinations; the CC. set are perforated $12\frac{1}{2}$.* Without going into varieties (which are treated upon in the list at the end of these notes), the following are the no-watermark set, all I believe to be actually issued.

Perf. 14 to 16, compound:
6d. light violet; 1s. dark rich green.
Perf. 13:
1d. brown carmine.
6d. violet, purple-violet.

There must have been some need for both 1s. and 1d. previous to the emission of the 1865 set, CC., perf. $12\frac{1}{2}$, so that the 1s. no-watermark may be really what it appears; for just before the issue of the CC. set, appeared two varieties, with swan watermark, viz., 1d. olive-brown, and 1s. green, and perforated $12\frac{1}{2}$, like the CC. set.

I do not think there is much more to be said about the dates of emission, so I will now turn to

PERFORATIONS.

As I have before said, it is evident that until 1861-2 the government issued all their stamps imperforate, and, though every value up to that date has been found rouletted (save the oblong 4d. blue, which had scarcely any circulation), this method of perforating must have been used for the sake of convenience, at the principal or head offices. The varieties I have observed are of three sorts, —rouletted, a small pin perforation, and a square machine perforation. The following varieties are guaged by the same guage as that used in the previously-mentioned instances. There are, no doubt, full sets existing of every variety, but I only give what I can answer for:

1.—Very small, $9\frac{1}{2}$; 4d. oct., 1s. brown, 2d. vermilion, and 6d. green.
2.—Ordinary, $12\frac{1}{2}$; 2d. oct., 4d. oct., 6d. bronze, 1s. brown; 2d. vermilion and 6d. green.
3.—Ordinary 12-13, varying and compound; 2d. oct.; 1d. black.
4.—Large 14; 4d. oct., 6d. bronze, 1s. brown, 1d. black.
5.—Machine 14, square punctures, 1d. black.
6.—Pin perf. 17, very small and insignificant punctures; 4d. oct., 2d. vermilion.

The issue of 1861-2 was a testimony to the want of some method of perforation better than the imperfect rouletting, &c., practised as a convenience to the public. This series was machine perforated in all combinations from 14 to 16; the next variety of perforation is 13, found on some few values issued without watermarks, but they were quickly superseded by the present set, perforated $12\frac{1}{2}$, and watermarked CC. and crown.

WATERMARKS.

There is very little to recount here, except what every one who has read these notes so far must know, but, as it is necessary to do it, I will simply state again that a watermark swan, though more like a goose as a rule, is found to pervade the paper in use for every issue up to 1862; then comes an intermittent set on unwatermarked paper; and last comes the series now in use, bearing CC. under a royal crown, as watermark. Many writers have given, and affirm as existing, 2d. vermilion and 6d. green, on unwatermarked paper. I do not believe in these for a moment; the difficulty of detecting the watermark swan has given rise to the impression that some specimens are without it, but this is quite a mistake. I have examined unused sheets of 2d. vermilion and 4d. (oct.) blue, and though it would be next to impossible to detect the watermark swan on separate specimens, yet in the sheet, when one swan has been found, those on every

* These measurements are without reference to any other writer, but are taken from a guage having 14 dents, *English perforation*, to the 2 centimetres: this is the exact width of our penny stamp.

other stamp can be faithfully traced. These sheets are surrounded by a watermark frame of five thin lines, with the word POSTAGE in large capitals at the base; parts of this border (or *réylure*, as the French term it) are often found on single stamps. It may be useful to know, that whenever a watermark of one or more parallel lines is found on a stamp, it is part of a *réylure*, and points to a watermark existing and belonging by rights to every specimen on the sheet. The CC. and crown series has a *réylure* of a single line, and the full sheet also contains a single line in watermark down the centre. Respecting the series on unwatermarked paper, as I have previously said, there are 1d and 6d. beyond doubt; the 1s. is, perhaps, doubtful, and the 2d. blue, given by most French writers, I only recognise as a proof. Between the set of 1861-2, and the CC. series of 1865, there appeared some indecision as to what to adopt, for there are existing proofs on plain unwatermarked paper, gummed, and before perforation.

2d. blue.
4d. rose.
6d. dark violet.

To this series also belongs a 2d. blue, perforated 14, square punctures, exactly similar to that found on the black 1d., and which is No. 5 in the list given previously. I regard this as an essay of perforation; possibly the black 1d., so perforated, may have been *officially* issued thus, yet as there is no certainty, I have preferred leaving it with the roulettes, &c.; one thing is certain, it was pretty extensively used on the 1d., as specimens are not very rare.

(*To be continued.*)

MORE POSTAL PROGRESS.

MR. MONSELL has not only removed a great postal grievance, but has accomplished a great postal reform. The changes he announced on Tuesday night will do more than even those of last year to increase the usefulness of the post-office to the public. The sample post used to be a great convenience. By it all kinds of little parcels were sent by post, and the attempt to restrict it to *bonâ fide* samples was a needless limitation of its usefulness. The new postmaster-general has more than restored the old convenience by abolishing the sample post altogether, and by giving us a new tariff for letters, as follows:—Not exceeding one ounce, 1d.; above one ounce, but not exceeding two ounces, 1½d.; above two ounces, but not exceeding four ounces, 2d.; above four ounces, but not exceeding six ounces, 2½d.; above six ounces, but not exceeding eight ounces, 3d.; above eight ounces, but not exceeding ten ounces, 3½d.; above ten ounces, but not exceeding twelve ounces, 4d. The book post and the half-penny circular post will remain as at present; and though the penny is retained as the minimum for a letter, the weight it will carry is doubled, and the postage of letters above the ounce limit is reduced by one half. A similar concession has been made in the charge for money-orders At present the smallest sum costs threepence to send, and the fees run, threepence, sixpence, ninepence, and one shilling. They will in future be, for sums under 10s., one penny; for 10s. and under 1*l.*, twopence; for 1*l.* and under 2*l.*, threepence; and so on, an additional penny fee for each pound sent.—*The Daily News*, March 16th.

THE PRUSSIAN FIELD-POST.

(A REMINISCENCE OF THE SIEGE OF PARIS.)

I WAS witness yesterday, in La Vert Galant, of a scene full of pathos. The 107th regiment had marched in on the previous night and taken up quarters. In the morning came on what the field-post had for the regiment in a large waggon. The waggon drew up at each battalion orderly-room, and the bugle sounded the rally. It was a curious medley that streamed out as the tail-board of the waggon was let down. The German field-post is an elastic institution, and I think if you chose to send one out a box mangle, or a live tiger in its cage, there would be no objections on the score of bulk. There streamed down cigar-boxes, wrapped in canvas, long shapeless rolls that were eloquent of "wurst," flabby packets that one might swear contained underclothing, and little boxes that rolled as they fell, and

evidently contained thalers. The pile was made against the wall, the sergeant cleared a space and commenced on the pile letter by letter, packet by packet.

I made a note of the responses to the first six names, and simply transcribe it—"Schumann?" "Todt" (dead). "Caspar?" "Verwundet." "Schultz?" "Weg." "Stolberg?" "Todt." "Schrader?" "In Paris." "Bergmann?" "In Lazareth." Thus proceeded the dreary roll call. It was that of the 2nd battalion, which has suffered most severely. Before the sergeant had done there was quite a heap of packets which their owners will never claim. The number of "Wegs" was surprising. "Weg" is a wide word. It may mean anything: prisoner, missing, unburied, deserted (but I never heard of a German soldier deserting). The sum of it is—not here; and Lord knows where he is. "In Paris," was not an uncommon response, but always with a laugh. —*The Daily News Correspondence.*

NEWLY-ISSUED OR INEDITED STAMPS.

United States.—We are now in possession of the new 12-cent envelope, and have pleasure in giving an engraving of it herewith. It may be as well to mention that the bust is that of Henry Clay. The impression is in deep violet, and is struck on the right hand corner.



Russia.—*Longa.*—Annexed is the engraving of the embossed stamp for the Longa district, which we described last month. We are still in doubt whether it is an envelope or a label.



Denmark.—Of the new series there are now in circulation the following values, in addition to the 8 and 48 sk. referred to in our December number:—

2 sk., ultramarine; frame, grey.
3 „ violet, „ „
16 „ green. „ „

The new service (official) stamps are also to make their appearance very shortly, and will conform in design to the annexed type, which has been copied from a proof. The colours are not yet known, but the proofs have been struck in rose, green, blue, lilac, and brown. A similar design is in existence, which was rejected.



Alsace and Lorraine.—Two new values have been recently issued for these provinces, viz:—

5 centimes green.
25 „ dark brown.

The type is the same as that of the earlier issued values, but the lettering is thicker. Our Carlsruhe correspondent states that a new set of stamps for united Germany will be issued on the 1st of January, 1872, and no doubt the provisional Alsace will remain in use until then.

In the occupied departments, or at least in the department of the Somme, by special order "from a very high quarter," the Prussians impose a surcharge of 20 centimes on all letters posted within their jurisdiction. This charge is indicated on the envelope by a hand-stamped figure 2, and the inscription taxe allemande, in black. We have seen several letters from Amiens and Abbeville bearing this imprint.

France.—The transition from occupied to unoccupied France is a natural one. The provisional Bordeaux series continues in use, and numerous varieties are in existence, resulting from the rough printing. The 20 centimes is found in deep blue, ultramarine, and dull blue; the 10 c. in all shades, from red-brown to a light brownish yellow; the 80 c. is known in deep carmine and dull rose. The 40 c. is rarely used, and but few copies have come under our own notice. In Paris, the use of the republic stamps has almost ceased for the moment; nearly all the letters which arrive in the departments are franked with the old imperial labels, of which the stock must now be nearly ex-

hausted. Probably the old head of liberty will long remain current, as the government is hardly in a position to go to the unnecessary expense of making fresh dies, and the republic itself appears likely to last.

CANADA.—Our Brussels contemporary has apparently been deceived by the adroit swindler who succeeded in misleading the editor of *The Philatelist;* he chronicles as a surprising novelty, a small sized 3 cents *dark brown*. We have had one in our possession for some months, which was originally red, and owed its transformation to chemical agency. Would M. Moens like to see it?

SOUTH AUSTRALIA.—The fourpence mauve has been "translated" into a provisional, and has had its value reduced by one fourth. Below the effigy, in a straight line, is the inscription 3-PENCE, printed at first in red, but now in black. This is a new value, and no doubt will be represented by a new type when the stock of the fourpence is exhausted.

FINLAND.—*Helsingfors.*—The design here represented supersedes the blue and stone



stamp which has been in use for the last three years, and is printed in two colours, in a very peculiar manner; the upper half, from the right upper to the left lower corner, is red, and the lower half green, and thus it results that the Swedish inscriptions, HELSINGFORS STADSPOST, have their colour, and the Finnish inscriptions, KAUPUNGIN POSTI HELSINGISSA, have theirs. The stamp is printed on white paper, and provided with serpentine perforations.

GREAT BRITAIN.—In our last impression, in the course of some remarks on the half-penny stamps, we ventured to adopt the suggestion of one of our correspondents, that the undated wrapper stamp was designed exclusively for wrappers ordered by private persons; but this supposition, as several other correspondents have proved, was erroneous. The undated wrapper is sold at all the post offices, and is rapidly superseding the dated type; our readers would therefore do well to provide themselves with specimens of the latter without delay. The new wrapper, we may observe, is shorter than the old, and one of the specimens sent by our correspondents shows the stamp printed in a light green, of an emerald tinge.

BAVARIA.—The Brussels journal notes the emission of several varieties of field-post envelopes.

SWITZERLAND.—The same paper gives a representation (which we copy) of a stamp which has been issued by the Swiss authorities for the use of the soldiers of Bourbaki's army interned in Switzerland, and frees their letters through the post. This stamp is printed in black on rose and on red paper.

Militaires français
internés en Suisse.
Gratis.

DECCAN.—A rather peculiar design, presumably for this district, was noticed in *The Philatelist* for last month, and by the courtesy of the publishers we are happy to be able to reproduce the illustration thereof. The original was received by a correspondent from Hyderabad, accompanied by one of the stamps described and figured in our last volume. The impression is in brown on thin toned unwatermarked paper.



MOZAMBIQUE.—M. Moens, in his catalogue, chronicles an emission of six values for this Portuguese colony, but gives no description.

BADEN.—In our last number Mr. Overy Taylor having referred to a newly-issued post-card for this state, a Carlsruhe correspondent sends us a specimen of the same. It is a large buff card, provided with the necessary inscriptions in black, and with a ruled square in the upper right corner, on which to place an adhesive stamp. Our correspondent is not acquainted with any stamped card.

WURTEMBURG.—The same correspondent informs us of the emission of two post-cards for this state, one with an embossed 3 kr., and the other with an embossed 1 kr. stamp, in their usual colours.

CAPE OF GOOD HOPE.—Another correspondent sends us an extract from a letter received from a friend at the Cape, explaining the cause of the surcharge of the sixpence

lilac. It appears this value was much used as a revenue stamp, and but little for postal purposes; when the government forbad its being affixed to documents, its employment almost ceased, and to utilise the stock remaining on hand, the value was changed from sixpence to fourpence.

SPAIN.—The 25 milesimas has just been issued in a new colour—bright mauve.

THE PERUVIAN STAMPS.

(Translated from *Le Timbre-Poste*, February, 1871.)

THE history of the Peruvian stamps has already formed the subject of an article which has appeared in this journal. Our purpose in returning to them to-day is, first, to continue that article to the present date, and, secondly, to acquaint our readers with the interesting documents connected with the history, which were entirely wanting when we first wrote.

We have said that it was on the initiative of the Director of the post-office, Mr. A. Davila, that the employment of stamps was adopted on the 1st December, 1857. The proposal which was made to that effect should not bear date the 17th March, 1857, as we had first published, but the 17th March, 1851. Hardly was the project submitted, than it received (two months after) the approbation of the government, as is shown by a letter, dated 10th May, 1851, and signed by the minister, Jean Crisostomo Torrico, which we have now before us, and which requests the postal administration to prepare the instructions and regulations relative to the new system. Notwithstanding all the good will of the government, six years passed away before the project was put in execution. On whom the blame of such delays should be cast, we know not; we can but mention them. However, the great decision saw the light on the 19th October, 1857. The following are its terms:—

The Council of Ministers charged with the Executive power,

Considering,

That the system of stamps for the prepayment both of home and foreign correspondence offers facilities to the public, and that it simplifies the operations and the book-keeping of the post-office, and increases the efficiency of that branch, in accordance with the proposal made by the Administrator-General,

Decrees,

Art. 1.—As soon as the law of the 2nd of this month, respecting the monetary system, takes effect, all correspondence shall be prepaid by the senders by means of stamps, representing the charge for prepayment.

Art. 2.—There shall be stamps of *un dinero*, of *un peseta*, and of *un demi-peso*, which will bear the national arms with the modifications, and in the colours of the types submitted, and the indication of the value on each one. They will also have, in addition, secret marks, whereby to verify their authenticity. The backs of the stamps shall be gummed; and by moistening the backs, the stamps may be attached to the letters.

Art. 3.—Whoever shall in any wise falsify the postage stamps, shall be subject to the laws in force against forgers.

Art 4.—The matrices of the stamps shall be preserved by the postal administration in its private safe, and the same administration shall take the necessary steps to have printed the quantity of stamps required for public use.

Art 5.—An account of the number of stamps printed shall be kept in a special book, and signed by the chief of the department, the controller, and the functionary charged with the superintendence of the impression; in the presence, and with the authorization of the treasury agent. The operation, as soon as it is terminated, shall be transferred to the account of the quantities issued, accompanied by a certified copy of the entry in the special book, and of the agent's approval.

Art 6.—For the sale of the above-mentioned stamps, agencies (*débits*) shall be established throughout the republic; the sellers will receive a corresponding bonus, and the administrators will require security from them equivalent to the value of the stamps which shall be confided to them.

Art. 7.—All letters shall be prepaid by the senders, by attaching to the letter, or to the flap (*sic*), the stamp or stamps equalling in value the rate fixed by the tariff.

Art. 8 —The stamps on all the letters which shall be thrown into the different boxes established by the administration, shall be annulled by means of a hand-stamp.

Art. 9.—If it be found that the stamps attached are not sufficient to pay the postage, letters destined for abroad shall not be forwarded. The sender, if he can be discovered, shall be advised, or else a list of detained letters shall be affixed at the post-office door, so that the writers may complete the postage.

If such letters can only be forwarded by couriers of the republic, they shall be sent to the addressees, who must pay the sum required to complete the postage. The same rule shall be followed for letters bearing stamps which have already served.

Art. 10.—With regard to letters which shall be dropped into the boxes without any stamp whatever, if they are intended for any place within the republic, they shall be forwarded, and double postage be claimed from the receiver. If they are for foreign parts, they will not be forwarded, but the senders will be advised by the means indicated in art. 9.

Art. 11.—Letters which it may be desired to forward *registered* should bear sufficient stamps to prepay the postage and registration. For such letters the post will perform the prescribed formalities on delivery.

Art. 12.—The administrator-general of the posts is authorised to make the regulations and disbursements necessary to establish the above system of postage stamps.

Given at the seat of government, at Lima, the 19th October, 1857.

(Signed) JOSE MARIA RAYGADA,
MANUEL ORTIZ DE ZEVALLOS.
LUCIAN MARIA CANO.
JUAN MANUEL DEL MAR.

The postal director—the author, probably, of all the preceding delay—did not venture, even after the decree, to frankly adopt the new system; he must needs give it a preliminary trial between the towns of Lima and Chorillos; to this effect he addresses the following proposition to the minister:

LIMA, the 5th Nov. 1857.

I can obtain from the agent of the Steamboat Company a large quantity of *porte-franco* stamps which he has had by him for a long time, and of which the design has never been employed. These stamps would be gratuitously delivered for the purpose of trying the system, for the correspondence of the towns between Lima and Chorillos. Their employment not offering any inconvenience, a notice in advance might be published to the effect, that on and after the first of next month these stamps might be used for the above-mentioned correspondence. This system might be extended later on to prepayment by the steamers.

Refer this matter to the supreme government, that it may acquaint itself with and approve my proposition.

(Signed) A. DAVILA.

It results from this document, that the stamps of the Pacific Steam Navigation Co. served at first only as Peruvian stamps between the towns of Lima and Chorillos, and that previous to that date (1st December, 1857) the stamps of that company had never been in use. Those obliterated with the *Callao* mark, and considered as having been employed at that period, must have been current when the new system of prepayment of postage was extended to letters sent by the steamboats, which extension is referred to in M. Davila's letter.

Only one provisional stamp of the Pacific Steam Navigation Co. is known. It is the 1 real blue, printed on bluish paper.

Mons. A. Davila, having obtained the permission he had solicited, forwarded the following circular to all the post-offices of the republic.

LIMA, 23 Nov., 1857.

It has been established by a supreme decree of the 19th of last month, that the prepayment of letters by means of stamps, should be introduced for correspondence of all kinds. This invention, which simplifies the work and the accounts of the office, offers to the public great facilities.

The rates for all places have been rendered uniform, so that it is only necessary to be acquainted with the values of the stamps, in order to know how to effect the prepayment without making inquiry at the post-office.

Desiring to give the stamp system a trial, and acquaint the public with the advantages derivable from it, I have published a notice, of which I enclose some copies, so that you may be able to put in practice the system from the 1st December, for the correspondence between Lima and Chorillos. This is simply to give you a preparatory idea of the system; later on you will receive detailed instructions, which I shall bring to the notice of the public and of the officials, so that the service may not give rise to any inconvenience.

Have the goodness to communicate my circular to your subordinates, that they may get an idea of the system.

(Signed) JOSE DAVILA CONDEMARIN.

The utility of the "system" being well established by the results of the experiment tried at Lima and Chorillos, it was at length decided to give the whole republic the benefit of the innovation. A new decree appeared, in which it was no longer question of the emission of a ½ peso stamp. The following is a sufficient extract from it.

Art. 9.—Under the superintendence of the postal administration, designs shall be engraved for the stamps of *un dinero* and *un peseta*, comformably to the decree of the 19th October last.

Art. 10.—The stamps of 1 dinero shall be sold at one real, and those of 1 peseta at two reales each.

Art. 11.—The present decree shall take effect fifteen days after date in this department, and in the province of Callao, and thirty days after date in the remainder of the republic.

Art. 12.—The provisions of the decree of the 21st Jan., 1851, are only maintained in so far as they are not incompatible with those of the present decree.

Given at the seat of government,

Lima, 23 January, 1858.

(Signed) JOSE MARIA RAYGADA.
MANUEL ORTIZ DE ZEVALLOS.
LUCIANO MARIO CANO.
JUAN MANUEL DEL MAR.

A document which we possess, signed A. Davila, approves the proposition made by Don José M. Masias, concerning the disbursements to be made for the postage stamps, and fixes the date of the 1st March, 1858, as that of the introduction of the system of prepayment by means of stamps of the correspondence between Lima, Callao, and Chorillos. The date of the 26th February, 1858, given in our No. 28 is there erroneous; it belongs, from what we now see, to the new general tariff, which was published on that day.

From our former article it is known that the ½ peso was suppressed on the 18th June, 1858. Here is the proof:—

Government Office,
LIMA, 18th June, 1858.

To the Adminstrator-general of the Posts.

By the decree of the 19th October, of last year, I required you to get engraved the designs of stamps of the value of 1 dinero, 1 peseta, and ½ peso, respectively. This request was modified by the decree of the 23rd of January last, in consequence of the publication of a new tariff of postal rates. Conformably to certain articles of

that decree, only stamps of 1 dinero and 1 peseta were to be prepared.

Consequently, I beg you not to print any more of the ½ peso stamps, as they have become useless.

God guard you.

(Signed) JEAN MANUEL DEL MAR.

From what has gone before it appears that the partial employment of the stamps only commenced on the 1st March, 1858, and their general usage—taking into account the decree of the 23rd January, 1858—fifteen days later.

In compliance with the decree of the 19th October, 1857, the half peso was certainly issued on the 1st March, 1858, only to disappear on the 1st June of the same year. The type of the half peso belongs essentially to that of the stamps of the second series, equally by the details of the design and by its dimensions; in order, then, to admit the classification given in our former article, and which has been generally approved, it must have happened that precisely the opposite of what the law prescribed was done. The first decree authorised the creation of *three* stamps—there exist only *two* in the first series; the second decree requires only *two* stamps—there are *three* in the second series. Furthermore, between the creation of the first series and the suppression of a stamp, (½ peso) of the second series only three months elapsed. During such an inconsiderable period it seems to us hardly possible that two series of stamps could have been issued; we think, then, that the relative position of the two series should be reversed, the second being henceforth considered as the first, and the first as the second.

It is indeed not impossible that the ½ peso was intentionally distinguished by its size from the other values, and that afterwards, when it had been suppressed, its type was adopted for the 1 dinero and 1 peseta. However, notwithstanding the general accord in classing the two stamps with double-line inner and outer frame as the oldest, we believe that in presence of the observations we now bring to our readers' notice, there is reason for modifying the classification, in the sense above indicated.

The second article of the decree of the 19th October, 1857, informs us that the stamps bear secret marks. We have searched them over from corner to corner, and back again, with our magnifier, without finding anything special. The only thing we remarked was the size of the stamps, which differs for each series. May not that be the secret mark of which it is always question with regard to the Peruvian stamps? We think so. If then, the whole secret of the postal administration consisted in the size of the stamps, the division of the second series seems to me impossible, and we see in the remark a new proof that our arrangement is the right one.

Two ½ peso stamps are known, the one printed in yellow, the other in rose. We had at first thought that this latter might be an essay, but having since seen authentically cancelled specimens (collection of Monsieur A. de R.), we had inclined to the idea lately put forth by M Mahé, that the existence of the rose stamp is the result of an error. Our *confrère* thinks that the plate of the ½ peso was printed from, in the stead and place of the rose peseta of the same type, but seeing the great rarity of the ½ peso rose, we are more ready to attribute it to the introduction of a cast of the ½ peso into the form of the peseta.*

The postmaster whom we have consulted on the point, now replies: "I cannot understand how it was you could have seen rose ½ peso stamps, since none but yellow stamps of that value were ever printed." It is then, indeed, the result of an error, which the postal administration, notwithstanding all its secret means for recognising genuine stamps, has never discovered.

From 1858 until 1863, all the different stamps issued were lithographed by Mons. D. Emilio Prugue, of Lima.

It had been supposed that the successive

* [It is beyond doubt the rose ½ peso has in many cases passed through, and been postmarked in, Peruvian post-offices: besides the copy above referred to, the collections of the late Mr. Pauwels, Mr. Philbrick, and several others in this country have postmarked specimens; but the fact to which we desire to call attention is, that the colour is not at all the same shade as that of the rose peseta of that type; it is perfectly distinct and different, being of a much yellower hue; and this observation of ours is confirmed, not only by every postmarked copy we ever met with, but by the *unused copy* in Mr. Philbrick's album. At present we are not prepared to assent to M. Moens' view; further consideration is required.—ED.]

series had been issued simply on account of the wearing away of the designs. Not at all: it was to make head against the inconveniences caused by counterfeiting. We have here a circular, unfortunately without date, which the administration addressed on this subject to the different post-offices.

Very recently there arrived at the central office, a letter, bearing a clumsy counterfeit of the blue 1 real stamp (1 dinero), and coming from the Huaraz district. The administration deems it necessary to give notice of the fact to all the postmasters and officials, in order that the author of the forgery may be discovered, that all letters bearing the forged stamps may be seized, and that all the necessary indications may be forwarded to the department.

The first two series of stamps having been withdrawn from circulation, the postal department requested a ministerial authorisation to burn all the remaining stock of those series, and the same was sent in the following terms:

Lima, 15th December, 1860.

To the Administrator-general of the Posts.

In reply to the letter you addressed to us, on the 12th November last, by which you required an authorisation to burn the stock of old stamps, of the total facial value of 8,653 pesos 1 real, and the books of that office [?], his Excellency the President, on the 7th of this month, gave his decision that you might proceed with that operation, with the formalities necessary in such case.

I communicate to you the present that you may conform to it.

God guard you.

(Signed) A. Manuel Morales.

According to this document, the third series cannot have been issued more recently than in 1860, and we doubt if it dates any further back. There can be no harm in giving 1860 as the date of its emission.

(*To be continued.*)

SUNDAY LABOUR IN THE POST-OFFICE.

No more useful institution exists in the United Kingdom than the Post-office. To be able to speak to one's friend 500 miles away "for the small charge of a penny," and to receive his thoughts in return for a like outlay, is an advantage which cannot be too highly appreciated. But how many of us regard with feelings of gratitude the post-office as a system? or the individual workers who make that system the success which it undeniably is? We affix the Queen's head to the envelope, and consider that our part of the contract is fulfilled. We think the postman has no further claim upon us. It is purely a business transaction; he does so much work for so much money; and there an end. What is it to us if he is footsore and weary at the day's close? If he is scorched by the heat of summer, or half frozen by the biting winter wind? What if his uniform is uncomfortable and unhealthy, his work excessive and monotonous, and his treatment tyrannical? Work, however unpleasant, must be done, and discipline must be preserved. There are many worse off than he—many who would jump for joy at the prospect of getting into government employment, regular and certain. Surely, then, it is no concern of ours. He can stay or go as it pleases him. No one compels him to be the slave he says he is. Such, no doubt, would be the logic of mere money-makers—men who live on the lives of others, who grind their workmen down to the lowest farthing, and exact their pound of flesh without bating a pennyweight. But such, we trust, is not the reasoning of our readers; men and women who have both intelligence and sympathy, who look not upon their fellow-creatures as so many gold-making machines, to be worked at high pressure until worn out, but as human brothers and sisters, with temporal and eternal interests as important as their own; who not only believe in, but act upon (in some measure, at least) the golden maxim of our Saviour: "Do as you would be done by." And such, we are sure, will listen to us with open hearts as well as ears, while we plead for justice, simple justice, for the poor provincial postman. It is not merely that in common with his brother labourers in town he is poorly paid and harshly treated, but that he has a grievance, which, happily, they have not: that week by week, and year by year, there is no cessation of his toil; no holy Sabbath rest; no breathing time in which to direct his thoughts to things better and higher than those of this life.

Shall we be believed when we state the fact that in this Christian country, upwards of 20,000 persons are employed by the Post-office in Sabbath labour of a totally unnecessary kind. In all the great commercial

centres of the country—London, Edinburgh, Glasgow, Belfast, &c., there is no Sunday delivery of letters, and no inconvenience results from the arrangement. Surely, then, it is most anomalous that in our rural districts they should be deemed requisite. The physical exhaustion, consequent upon such continuous exertion, is only a lesser consideration; though this alone might well prompt us to do all in our power to abolish the pernicious custom. The evil example which the government thus sets before the people of the land is much to be regretted. Tradesmen and manufacturers are fined for trading or making their men work on Sunday, and yet the government which enforces the law against them, is itself breaking it every Sunday in more than 20,000 instances. Fortunately the bad example is not generally followed, though the temptation to do so is in some cases very great. Tradesmen with easy consciences may often forestall their rivals in business by writing through the Sunday post, and this of course leads to the employment of their clerks and workpeople, as well as to a great increase in the cab and railway traffic upon that day, so that the evil is by no means confined to those in the actual employ of the post-office. We have no desire to advocate an ultra-Sabbatarianism, which would make the Sabbath a gloomy, saddening day, instead of a day of refreshing rest and soothing contemplation; but we do say that it is the duty of a consistent Christian government to abolish all unnecessary Sunday labour over which it has direct control, and thus to set the good example of respect for that divine law which it desires the nation to obey.

It seems to us that there is little excuse at present for this practice. The telegraphs are now in the hands of the government, and all cases of real emergency could be easily met by their means, and we are at a loss to conceive a reason for its continuance, other than that proverbial dislike to change, which is the characteristic of all government offices. Not only is Sunday labour completely unnecessary, but is also entirely against the wishes of the great majority of the people. This has been amply proved by the efforts of the Working Men's Lord's Day Rest Association, which have resulted in thousands upon thousands of signatures being obtained to the formal request that letters for the persons signing might be kept till the Monday; 27,000 such signatures were obtained by only a partial canvass of the city of Liverpool in 1865-6, and in Birmingham and all other places the memorial for the entire suspension of Sunday labour met with an almost unanimous consent.

In the Parliamentary return issued in 1867 it is shown that 109,331 persons had signed the following stringent request (drawn up by the Post-office authorities):—

> I request that my letters and newspapers may not be delivered on Sunday until further notice. I make this request with the full knowledge that this instruction cannot be cancelled until three months have expired, nor even then without a week's notice.

There can be no doubt that the number would have been much larger had not the letter-carriers been prohibited (on pain of dismissal) from moving in the matter, even in their own time, so that many persons were entirely ignorant of there being any such provision for the relief of the rural postman, and some, of course, did not like to give up their letters while the postmen passed their doors to deliver those of their neighbours, though doubtless they would willingly have done so if they saw the letter-carrier enjoying a day's rest in consequence of their slight self-denial. The rule laid down by the post-office for the abolition of a Sunday post in any particular district, is somewhat arbitrary and certainly unconstitutional. A simple majority is considered sufficient to settle questions of even greater importance, and nearly all public bodies are content to be bound by a decision given in that way; but the post-office requires the vote, not of six-sevenths of the inhabitants, but of the persons who receive six-sevenths of all the letters at the office on two successive Sundays, so that any unprincipled person might defeat the otherwise unanimous petition of a district by having a number of letters posted to himself on the days when the counting takes place. However, despite the unfairness of this rule, many districts have agreed to it; and, thanks to the association above named, many rural postmen, instead of tramping through mud or dust

some 18 or 20 miles with letters on Sunday, are enjoying the religious exercises and the recreative pleasures of that day.

Let us do all we can to place by their side their toiling brethren who still bend beneath the yoke. Humanity and religion alike prompt us to our duty, a duty plain and simple, which is to support with all our energies the motion lately brought before Parliament by Mr. C. Reed, M.P. for Hackney, for the exemption from Sunday labour of all letter-carriers and rural messengers throughout the country.—*The Graphic.*

REVIEWS OF POSTAL PUBLICATIONS.

El Averiguador. Madrid: M. Rivadeneyra.

THIS paper is the Spanish equivalent of our English *Notes and Queries.* It deals with all manner of scientific and literary questions, and is altogether a very interesting publication. It has its philatelic section, in which various matters connected with Spanish stamps and the Spanish postal service are discussed, and we are pleased to observe the name of our esteemed correspondent, Senor Pardo de Figueroa, among the contributors. We can cordially recommend this journal to those among our readers who understand the language in which it is written.

CORRESPONDENCE.

THE MEXICAN STAMPS.

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

SIR,—I have not seen it noticed in *The Stamp-Collector's Magazine* that a difference exists among the current Mexican stamps. I have one set marked "Mazatlan," and dated 1868, which has no dot after the numeral of value; whilst another set, marked "Vera Cruz," and dated 1869 and 1870, has a dot after every numeral of value throughout the set. I do not perceive any other difference between the stamps.

I am, &c.,

Liverpool. E.

NEW VARIETIES.

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

DEAR SIR,—In *The Stamp-Collector's Magazine* for August, 1870, is a notice of the 30 c. brown French having the disc covered with *horizontal* lines. I have lately got a 40 c. laureated with lines, but *perpendicular*. I have also a 5 kr. Austrian with markings similar to this 30 centimes.

In a friend's collection I lately saw a 1d. Natal with POSTAGE surcharged in Gothic type, instead of Roman.

Should the foregoing be new to you, you would much oblige me by inserting this in the April number.

Yours faithfully,

Clifton. W. E. C.

THE LIBERIAN STAMPS, &c.

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

DEAR SIR,—The writer on the "Head and Figure of Liberty Stamps," in your last number, omitted noticing the interesting impressions of Liberia, whereon the personification, in addition to her normal shield (which has rather the appearance of Fortune's wheel) and the cap of liberty, has borrowed the spear of Minerva. The interpolation of the current Spanish is quite a mistake: the head decidedly symbolizes the country, as evidenced by the castellated crown, totally anomalous on a head of Liberty. The Cuba stamps in present use may be added with more propriety.

Your correspondent on the halfpenny wrapper seems unaware that all the bands at present issued at the post-offices bear the rosettes, the date not having been impressed since the early emission.

Johnson gives the meaning of the word *spud* to be "a short knife." The term is applied to a tool used to grub up weeds.

Yours obediently,

London. PHILATELIST.

BADEN AND WURTEMBURG POST CARDS.

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

DEAR SIR,—I beg to inform you that the Baden 18 kreuzer adhesive, and the 6 kreuzer envelope (blue), are out of use,—at least I have asked for them at the post, and they say they have not got them.

I do not understand what Mr. Overy Taylor or M. Moens mean by saying that there is a Baden post-card with a stamp on it. I have only seen cards without a stamp, but provided with a place for one; and of these I send you herewith a specimen. They can now be sent to England, France, Belgium, and Switzerland; but you have to put a 9 kreuzer stamp on for England and France, and a 7 kreuzer for Belgium.

There are two post-cards in Wurtemburg, one embossed with a 1 kreuzer stamp, and the other with a 3 kreuzer. I have not yet seen a card without a stamp, but I intend going to Wurtemburg soon, and will then make inquiries, and inform you of the result.

I expect the new German stamps will come into use on the 1st of January, 1872.

I remain, yours truly,

Carlsruhe. F. H. SMYTHE.

THE HALFPENNY NEWSPAPER WRAPPER.

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

DEAR SIR,—By the time you receive this note, you will no doubt have discovered that your correspondent, "J C.," of Manchester, was mistaken in his supposition about the halfpenny wrapper. The "variety" with the conventional heraldic rose, in place of the "1-10-70" is as much a government issue as the other. The post-office officials, doubtless, thought it a very needless piece of work to alter the dates on such an insignificant thing as the die of a halfpenny wrapper (for altered they *would* have been, as surely as the penny envelope is altered), and so bethought themselves of the expedient of doing away with the date altogether, and putting in its place

the national emblem. In many of the larger towns the stock of dated wrappers is already exhausted. Here, in Birmingham, there are no wrappers on sale at the general post office but the *undated ones;* and the dated ones can only be obtained at some of the small local offices, where the demand has not been sufficient to exhaust the original stock. The same thing occurs with regard to the post-cards; for, although the general office here has long since ceased to issue the *large* cards, yet they are the only ones to be had at some of the smaller offices.

Yours faithfully,

Birmingham. R. B. E.

THE HEAD ON THE SPANISH STAMPS OF 1870 AND 1871.

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

DEAR SIR,—I have just read in No. 98 of your excellent journal, Mr. Cavell's article entitled "Head and Figure of Liberty Stamps:" you are quite right in expressing, in your foot-note to that article, your doubt as to whether the goddess of Liberty was intended to be represented by the head on the current Spanish stamps. The following are the facts relative to the meaning and the adoption of this design:—

Shortly after the fall of Isabella II., and the revolution of 1868, the provisional government consulted the Academy of History—one of the most respectable literary and scientific corporations in Spain—upon the choice of an allegorical representation of the country. A commission appointed by the Academy, and consisting of Messieurs Olozaga, Fernandez Guerra, Rossell, and Saavedra, proposed (and their proposition was approved by the government) that the symbol of Spain should be a figure similar to those which are depicted on the Emperor Adrian's medals; that is to say, a matron, seated, with an olive branch in her right hand and a crown on her head, in token of the national sovereignty. This figure is represented in full-length on the Spanish impressed revenue stamp; and on the newly-struck coins, as also on the lately emitted Cuban postage stamps. The head alone forms the grotesque ornament of my country's stamps.

M. Moens was right when he observed in his journal, *Le Timbre-Poste*, so long since as December, 1869, that "the effigy of which we speak might be taken at a distance for the head of Liberty, whilst in fact it represents Spain under an allegorical figure."

Trusting this information may be of use.

I remain, dear Sir, yours faithfully,

MARIANO PARDO DE FIGUEROA.

Medina Sidonia.

MR. STOURTON'S REPLY TO FENTONIA.

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

SIR,—Fentonia's reasoning, so far as I understand it, is curious. The lady denies that *aiœresis* is a Latin word, merely because it has a Greek equivalent in διαίρεσις. Fentonia might just as well attempt to assert that the words "geography" and "subterranean" were not English, but, respectively, Greek and Latin, because they are derived from those two languages. Surely, while professing to correct me, she might have avoided that *non sequitur* line of argument.

One would have thought, too, that Messrs. Pemberton and Atlee had harped enough on that unfortunate "youngest reader" string, without Fentonia's wandering from her disquisition on German and Anglo-German grammarians, for the purpose of recurring to it. Having been educated at Westminster, a public school, second to none in the kingdom, that has turned out such men as Dryden, Ben Jonson, Cowper, Southey, and (its numbers being considered) more eminent men than any other public school, I am the better able to bear the brunt of Fentonia's remark as to my not having been educated at Eton; at the same time I would remark that my having forgotten—after a lapse of some ten years—the prosody part of the Latin grammar, does not necessarily imply that I am a "raw student," still less that I should be perplexed by such a word as *diœresis*.

Never having studied German, I am quite unable to answer the question put to me by Fentonia, concerning accents used in that language.

The lady again jumps to a wrong conclusion when she asserts that I had not a single forged specimen of the Geneva or Zurich stamps to compare the genuine with, as I had two forgeries of the 10 c. double cantonal, by far the most important, because the rarest of the Geneva stamps. What I said in my letter (published in the February number) was, that I had none of the 5 c. cantonal stamps (which are much more easily to be met with than the double stamp) to compare the genuine with.

Fentonia is also mistaken in supposing *tréma* to be a Greek word; this time she is wrong, without the shadow of a doubt, as it is not even derived from the Greek, the nearest approach to it being the word τρῆμα, which, I need hardly say, has quite a different signification. I am sorry that Fentonia does not consider *tréma* to be a French word, as it is to be found in every French dictionary I have looked.

I am, Sir, yours faithfully,

London. J. M. STOURTON.

ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS.

MR. MAX JOSEPH.—The differences in the shades of the current Austrian stamps were duly chronicled in our last volume (p. 122).

MRS. E., Liverpool.—We are obliged for your information respecting the wrapper; you will observe that our speculation of last month has called forth several replies.

R. M., University Club, Dublin.—The French five centimes laureated was never issued, nor have we been so fortunate as to see a proof; if we are to believe a report which is now afloat, the whole of the stock has been destroyed.

E. S., Wilton Tower, near Darlington.—The undated halfpenny wrapper being now in general use, is not rarer than the dated variety, and probably in time the latter will become somewhat scarce.—The thin-lined 2d. is not rarer than the thick-lined.

A. W. S., Cheltenham.—Both Levrault and the editor of Oppen's album are in error as to the value of the quattrino. 100 quattrini were worth about 1 f. 40 c. The value of the Tuscan lira was 84 centimes (say 8½d.), and it contained 60 quattrini, therefore five are worth 7 centimes.

F. H. S., Carlsruhe.—We reproduce, in another column, your information respecting the Baden and Wurtemburg post-cards.—Both varieties of the halfpenny wrapper should be collected; the field-post envelopes are collectable *à discrétion*.—Do you know what is to be the design of the new German stamps?

J. C., Manchester.—We regret, equally with yourself, our unqualified publication of the suggestion emanating from you respecting the halfpenny wrapper, which decidedly deserves the epithet "sensible"—commendation which it is difficult to apply to the course adopted by the post-office.—There is nothing surprising in your receipt of a letter from Paris bearing the imperial stamps on it; those of the republic are now scarce.

RAMPONT *v.* THEISZ.

It is not often that the fate of a government is intimately connected with the delivery of letters. A despatch written by the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs may plunge two countries into war; the maladministration of the army or navy may cause the fall of a ministry; the expediency of educating the children of the gutter may become a cabinet question; but, amidst the turmoil of discussion which such matters may cause, the post-office continues to perform its daily round of functions undisturbed, and the postmaster is, at any rate, at ease respecting his department. He, too, may be displaced, but the machinery of the post-office is not disarranged by his fall,—Jones comes in and Brown goes out, but the post works on for ever. In France, however, recent events have drawn marked attention to the post-office; the interruption of its service in the capital has been at once the indication and the result of serious disturbances, and the postmaster who might have been content to rest on the peaceful laurels gained during the siege, finds greatness thrust upon him. All the world is talking about M. Rampont and the pretender to his chair, M. Theisz, the "chaser of metals" as he is termed, with quaintly expressed scorn, by certain newspaper correspondents, and we would wager that their *cartes de visite* would find a ready sale anywhere.

The action of the contending postmasters has had no slight effect in discontenting the Parisians with the Communal *régime*, and as it illustrates also a curious page in postal history, it deserves, we think, more than a passing notice in these columns. Perhaps before these lines see the light, the whole affair will be but a memory of the past; but to-day, whilst we write, the telegram from the chief of the executive, announcing a fight yesterday (3rd April), in front of Versailles is being cried in the street, and it is not yet certain whether M. Rampont or the chaser of metals will remain master of the Parisian post-office.

M. Rampont, let us explain at starting, was appointed postmaster of Paris during the siege, whilst M. Steenackers directed the provincial service. Who, or what M. Rampont had been before is not known, but he certainly showed himself to be the right man in the right place, and we philatelists may thank him for having brought into use again the fine old stamps of 1848. Of his general capacity the following extract from *The Daily News* (Paris correspondence, 31 March, 1871), is no inapt testimony.

> Let me say, in passing, that M. Rampont is one of the ablest public servants in France. His management of the post-office during the siege reflects the greatest honour on him. He is full of ideas, and he was most energetic in working them out. The balloon service and the pigeon service which he established were the most successful enterprises of the siege, and will make him a name in history. If he remain in office he will no doubt perfect the postal service, and correct the many deficiencies which Frenchmen perhaps do not see, but which we English, who live under a better system, keenly feel.

Of his adversary, Monsieur Theisz, absolutely nothing is known, beyond the bare fact that he is a "chaser of metals," an occupation which does not imply any special qualification for the management of the post-office. "Citizen" Theisz has come to the surface with the Commune, and, unless events take a very unexpected turn, is likely to sink back into obscurity with his socialist friends; still he has for the moment made his mark, and his pertinacious insistance shows him to be quite as resolute a man in his way as M. Rampont.

Of his struggle for possession of the post-office, the following seem to be the leading facts. On Monday, the 27th March, the day after the Paris elections (we are quoting from *Le Soir*), M. Rampont received the visit of Citizen Theisz, member of the committee, and municipal councillor, elected by the 12th and 18th arrondissements. The Citizen Theisz was the bearer of a little paper, with the committee's stamp on it, whereon was written an order, conceived in something like the following terms:—

> In view of the disorganisation at present existing in the postal service, and,
>
> Considering that it is needful to provide for the supercession of the present administrator,
>
> The Citizen Theisz is charged with the direction of the postal service.

M. Rampont was expecting this visit; a week previously he had read in the *Cri du Peuple* some lines announcing the nomination of M. Theisz to the postmaster-generalship,

and since then, a number of national guards, among others M. Theisz's two brothers, had been to inquire for the new director, and had found the door closed.

M. Rampont, after he had deciphered the little document, replied coldly that he did not recognise the committee, and that he considered as null and void the order of which Citizen Theisz was the bearer.

"If the elected municipal council," added M. Rampont, "thinks proper to encroach upon the prerogatives of the executive power, and of the Versailles Assembly,—if that council thinks it right and proper to revoke my appointment, I shall then see what I have to say. I will only observe to you, *Monsieur*, that the disorganisation of which the committee speaks does not exist, and that the postal service is the only public one which has not suffered by present events."

Be it so, politely rejoined Citizen Theisz, but I can assure you in advance that the Commune will not recognise the Versailles government, and that it will have to decide whether it ought to maintain you at the head of the post-office.

M. Rampont replied that these gentlemen of the Commune did not at all hold to the principles laid down in their *Officiel* journal, wherein they had published a decree revoking all such ministerial *employés* as might be absent from their post on the 25th March. Having himself never quitted the *hotel des postes*, he considered his revocation as null and void, and he further declared he would only give up when real force should be employed.

M. Theisz then retired, and did not reappear, but the Versailles government having declared that every *employé* serving the commune would forfeit his post, and the Communal *Officiel* of the 29th March containing a decree, according to which the different public services must consider the orders of the government of Versailles as void, M. Rampont no longer hesitated. He started for Versailles yesterday, with the whole of the *matériel*, and has there established his head office, leaving the federals to get out of the mess the best way they can.

M. Theisz has issued his version, to the effect that his opponent had agreed provisionally to remain in Paris, and that he had run away, in breach of his agreement. Be that as it may, the departure of M. Rampont has caused the utmost annoyance in Paris, and has done a great deal to discredit the Commune. To keep the Parisians without their letters is to hit them in their weakest point, by renewing one of the most troublesome incidents of the siege, and this at a moment when commerce was just reviving. A deputation of merchants and others waited on the commitee to remonstrate on this new interruption to business, and so anxious were the rulers of Paris to set themselves right with their fellow-citizens, that they issued a notice to the effect that, without recognising Versailles, they would be willing to come to some arrangement about the resumption of the postal service: they even sent some of their friends to Versailles to negociate for the neutralisation of the post-office, but without effect. At the present moment, therefore, letters for Paris are addressed *poste-restante*, Versailles, and those who can get out go there and claim them, but the claimants are few.

The Paris postmen themselves are in a curious position, as the following letter, ostensibly emanating from one of their number, in which a real grievance is detailed, will prove.

PARIS, 2nd April, 1871.

SIR,—The spirit in which the *Petit Journal* is conducted is so full of good sense and moderation, that I do not hesitate to confide to you the strange perplexity into which I have fallen during the last few days.

A postman for more than twenty years past, and having submitted to the monthly deductions, which are to form my superannuation pension, what must I do to perform my duties as employé, and also as husband and father? If I obey Versailles, I am discharged in Paris; and if I place myself under the flag of the Commune, I lose my right to a pension.

My box, a veritable Pandora's box, is so destitute of letters, that even hope does not hide in it.

However easy it may appear to do the work of a postman, you would not believe, sir, how much dexterity is required in order to sort the letters at the chief office. We do not simply make our rounds in our respective quarters, we have to prepare for the distribution before the break of day, and there pass through our hands, letters from Calcutta, Rome, St. Petersburg, &c., &c.

I don't know how our improvised successors will get out of the muddle. Members of the Commune can be improvised, were they Chinese; so also generals of division *extra-muros*, and even postmasters-general; but not postmen. We are at once the hands and the movement of the great postal clock, and to exercise our modest

t
unctions, a pretty long apprenticeship is required. As for me, I am so fond of my profession, that I make my rounds every morning with my empty box, and chat with the *concierges* of the *unlettered* houses.

How long will it be before I carry news of a son to his mother; of a wife to her husband; of a daughter to her father; to say nothing of the registered letters, which bring abundance to the hearth, and aid in the keeping of sacred engagements? My natural goodness makes me deplore the lot of my favourite receivers, and forget all the evils of my own position.

A word of advice, if you please, and you will *free* me from many a torment now and hereafter.

ZEPHYRIN, Man of Letters,
Street of the Four Winds.

The plaintive Zephyrin and his friends will, let us hope, preserve their pensions, and meanwhile they might earn an honest penny by constituting themselves unofficial letter-carriers to the provinces.

To get letters in or out of Paris, various plans are now resorted to. The passenger trains still run between Paris and the departments, or, at any rate, between Paris and the north of France, and of course every traveller brings out letters and journals. The engine-drivers are making a fine harvest, as a good many letters are handed to them for delivery at one end or the other, and *their* postal rates are high. A third means of communication came to our knowledge only to-day. A manufacturer in the town whence we write, received a rather large case by passenger train from Paris, with a request written on the upper side that it might be opened immediately. The recipient complied with the request, and found the sole contents of the case to be a letter from the sender, containing an order for goods, of which he was in pressing need.

In Paris itself, M. Theisz, if we may believe his proclamation, is engaged in organising the interior service, and hopes soon to get it in order, whilst the Commune, in its proclamation respecting the fighting on the 2nd instant, piteously exclaims that the Versailles people, after depriving them of their letters, have gone to the extremity of using force. The importance thus attached to the stoppage of the service, though great, is not exaggerated, and when contemporary history is hereafter studied, it will, we think, be admitted that nothing weakened the power of the Commune more than the appointment to the postmastership of Citizen Theisz, *vice* Rampont, run away.

THE PERUVIAN STAMPS.

(Translated from *Le Timbre-Poste*, February, 1871.)

(*Continued from page* 61.)

WE now arrive at the series of stamps in relief, struck by M. Lecocq's machine. Great preparations were made for the reception of this machine, which came from Paris. Its arrival is announced in the following terms:

Post-office Department.

On the 14th of September, 1862, took place the reception of the Lecocq machine, for the fabrication of stamps, which machine had been ordered in Paris.

I opened the case containing the two matrices of the 1 dinero and 1 peseta in the presence of the *employés*, and of the secretary of the treasury, and I deposited them in the safe of the administration, placing with them the sealed document containing the secrets marks of, and remarks on the stamps.

That the fabrication may be accompanied with all the necessary precautions, the director of the posts, using the authority which is conferred on him by the 12th article of the supreme decree of the 19th October, 1857, and other dispositions relative to the fabrication of stamps, establishes the following instructions, to avoid all abuse.

1.—The machine shall be deposited in a safe and isolated place, well covered in to preserve it from damp.

2.—The printing of the stamps shall be confided to a competent person, on clearly-defined terms, and on condition that he shall execute any repairs which the machine may require, at his own cost.

3.—Whenever it shall be necessary to print a supply of stamps, the matrix shall be taken out of its case in presence of the secretary to the treasury, and handed to the person by whom it has to be used. The same formalities shall be observed on replacing the matrix in the case.

4.—Pursuant to the fifth article of the decree cited, a memorandum of the number of stamps worked off each day shall be entered in a special register; such note shall be signed by the *chef de service*, the contractor, and the *employé* charged to superintend the impression, in the presence and with the "intervention" (*sic.*) of the secretary to the treasury, who shall be present from beginning to end, and shall take note of the quantity furnished, of which he shall make out a certificate.

5.—Stamps which from any cause whatever may be spoilt, and stamps printed in excess of the quantity required—which quantity should always be a round number—must be burnt.

6.—A numbered bulletin of each working, signed by the contractor, and countersigned according to the rules laid down by article 4, shall be handed to the director.

7.—The contractor, to protect his personal responsibility, may envelop the matrices in a sheet of paper sealed with his private seal.

8.—The deposit of the stamps with the cashier shall be declared on the bulletin referred to in art. 6.

9.—Only the workmen shall be allowed to enter the place where the stamps are printed. It is forbidden to introduce therein either strangers, relations, or friends.

10.—The department will decide on the type of the stamps to be printed, and the colours, reserving to itself the right to inspect at its pleasure the execution of the work, and, in short, taking all necessary steps to ensure a proper check being kept.

11.—The *employé* charged with the superintendence of the work shall take oath to do his duty faithfully.

12.—When the contractor shall have completed the quantity of stamps he is engaged to print, his security shall be returned to him, and he shall be paid what is due to him.

Lastly, as great confidence on the part of the department will be reposed in those charged with the work, it is hoped that all the foregoing regulations will be carefully observed.

(Signed) DAVILA.

We have nothing to add to our former article respecting this emission, if it be not the announcement made by *Le Timbrophile* of the existence of a 1 dinero red, "of which the arms are by mistake struck upside down." For us, who have seen Lecocq's machine at work in Brussels, it is difficult to explain how such an *erreur d'impression* was possible. To believe, we should like to *touch* these stamps—for M. Mahé says he has seen several.

The official documents do not speak of the 1866-7 series, engraved by the American Bank-Note Company. We wrote to Lima inquiring the reason, and got the following reply:

No mention is made of the 5, 10, and 20 cents. stamp, engraved at New York, because they were ordered during the dictature, all whose acts were illegal, and, consequently, null.

This answer seems to us so logical that we have no comment to make on it.

The letter rate having been reduced by one half from the 1st January, 1861, between the towns of Lima, Callao, and Chorillos, recourse was had—pending the arrival of the 5 centavos ordered of the American Bank-Note Company—to a half stamp of the 1 dinero red (the dinero equalling 10 centavos), until the 5th June, 1866, at which date the 5 c. green were put in circulation. The 10 cent. red and 20 cent. brown appeared about the middle of the year 1867, and are too well known to need special remark.

The Peruvian dictature having probably met with "its Sedan," there comes to hand one fine day a green 1 dinero, identical in design with the red stamp of the same value. Every one in the philatelic world inquires about this stamp from every one else, and each replies, as in the *Dame-Blanche*, "I cannot understand it at all."

M. Mahé learns that an earthquake had taken place in Peru—which was the cause of the emission,—and without losing time he gives the news in his journal without any reserve. This is history, therefore let us give the information *verbatim*.

We have now the explanation of the change in the stamps. The plates of the 5, 10, and 20 centavos, and those of the fiscal stamps engraved by the American Bank-Note Company, were all destroyed in the last earthquake. It has been necessary then, pending the preparation of fresh plates, to have recourse to the old type, and it required but little time or labour to get ready a sufficient supply of stamps.

It must be admitted that the earthquake caused some singular effects in Peru. It respects at Lima the Lecocq machine deposited there, and at New York, where it was not felt, it destroys in the workshops of the American Bank-Note Company the plates of the 5, 10, and 20 cent. stamps, no doubt because they belonged to the Peruvian post office!

On the 18th July, 1868, the director-general of the post addressed the following circular to the post offices:

LIMA, 18th July, 1868.

(Circular, No. 63.)

New postage stamps have been fabricated by the machine possessed by the post office, which stamps have the relief white and the frame green. Persons who possess the old stamps with white relief and carmine frame may exchange them at any post office against those of the new emission. After the month of August next prepayment by means of the old stamps will not be allowed.

I have to announce also that the stamps termed *fiscal stamps*, issued during the dictature, will not be any longer accepted in payment of postage, neither will those previously issued, and intended to be used as receipts of taxes paid.

I address you these instructions for your guidance, and that you may acquaint the public with them by means of placards, and, further, that you may inform your subordinates.

God guard you.

JOSE DAVILA CONDEMARIN.

The green 1 dinero stamp has never been perforated, as had been reported, neither have there ever been any half or one peso stamps of this type issued.

A letter addressed on the 1st May, 1869, to the director-general of Lima, by the minister, A. Manuel J. Ferreyros, decides that all the stamps shall henceforth be printed by the postal department—hence it results that the contract with the New York company no longer exists.

In the letter we wrote to Lima we expressed our surprise at the abandonment of the decimal system adopted under the dictature. The following was the reply:

There has been no change in the currency. The decimal system had been established it is true, but a sol equals 100 centavos, whilst a peso was worth only 80. The sol represents 5 pesetas and the dinero is the half of a peseta, or ten centavos.

Although there has been no change in the money we still see that the peso on becoming a sol gains 20 per cent. in value! He may explain who can the sense in which the above passage should be understood.

The fall of the dictature (M. Mahé's earthquake) having entailed the disgrace of the New York company's stamps, which were suppressed by a decree of the 1st May, 1869, the postal director began to think of replacing the 5 c. (llama) green, then nearly exhausted (the 10 c. was suppressed in consequence of the emission of the 1 dinero green, which was its equivalent), whilst still leaving the 20 centavos brown in temporary circulation.

The authorisation to that effect which he solicited from the minister reached him in the following shape:

LIMA, 15th September, 1869.

To the Director-general of the Post.

On the proposal made by you relative to the rate for correspondence between this capital, Callao, and Chorillos, I send you the following decree, dated the 4th of this month.

"In view of the present proposition of the director-general of the post, the decree of the 29th December, 1865, is again put in force. The postage of letters between Lima, Callao, and Chorillos is reduced by one half, consequently the director-general is authorised to print postage stamps of 5 centavos, destined for the prepayment of such postage."

I communicate to you this decree for your information. God guard you.

RAFAEL VELARDE.

The stamp here referred to is the one reproduced in No. 92 of this journal.* It will only be definitely put in circulation in April, 1871; nevertheless, for a long time past, obliterated specimens have come over.



We transcribe the subjoined document concerning this stamp, in which it is more than ever question of secret marks.

Post-office,
LIMA, 12th September, 1870.

Pursuant to the authorisation conceded to me by the supreme decree of the 18th September, 1869, to prepare 5 centavo postage stamps for the prepayment of the correspondence between Lima, Callao, and Chorillos, I have had a matrix prepared whence to print a design, containing, in relief, the national shield in the centre, with the words PORTE FRANCO; the representation of a locomotive, and the words LIMA—CALLAO—CHORILLOS on the four sides. This type contains secret marks, to facilitate the discovery of forgeries, and will be printed by means of the Lecocq machine kept at the post-office. Lastly, the impression will be in carmine, and the stamps will be deposited at the public post until a period to be ulteriorly fixed; meanwhile, the green 5 cent. stamps will serve for the same purpose.

(Signed) DAVILA.

Finding nothing mysterious in the 5 centavos of the new type, nor in any of the stamps of preceding emissions, we took the liberty to inquire from Lima in what the secret marks consisted. We were answered that "these secret marks were in a sealed envelope, were kept for the purpose of making comparisons, and that, therefore, our request for information could not be complied with."

We are puzzled by so many mysteries; secret marks in a sealed envelope, hidden in the bottom of a case which cannot be other than secret, which case is itself put in an isolated but safe spot. We are almost inclined to offer a years' subscription to *Le Timbre-Poste* to the persons who may penetrate the secret; we might, perhaps, thus satisfy our own and our readers' curiosity.

The return of the 1 dinero brown into circulation is not mentioned in any of the official documents which have been communicated to us, but the postmaster's letter gives the following stamps as now in use:

5 centavos red (Lima-Callao, &c.), printed by the Lecocq machine.
1 dinero green (old type) ditto.
1 peseta brown ditto ditto.

The 5, 10, and 20 c., printed in New York, will likewise be accepted until the stock is exhausted; the post-office only delivers the 20 c. brown, and even that, it would seem, is replaced in certain localities by the 1 peseta brown.

* [And in No. 92 of *The Stamp-Collector's Magazine*. We reproduce this stamp for our readers' guidance.—ED.]

THE STATIONERS AND ENVELOPE MAKERS are agitating against the sale of the halfpenny post-cards at their facial value, alleging that it constitutes on the part of the post-office an unfair competition with the stationers in the supply of envelopes. We doubt the success of the agitation, as this is a case in which private interest should certainly yield to the public benefit. The only way to put down the post-card would be to reduce the postage on closed letters to a halfpenny.

PARAGUAY AND ITS STAMPS.

BY DR. WONNER, OF MONTE-VIDEO.
EDITED BY W. DUDLEY ATLEE.

As Paraguay has at last given to the world a bonâ-fide emission of postage labels, the writer thinks that a short sketch of the country itself, and of the philatelic impositions which have been fathered upon it, may be of interest to collectors. He is compelled, in many instances, to go over well-trodden paths, but as his wish is to make this a complete history of Paraguayan postage stamps, essays and falsities, he hopes his tautology will be excused.

The Republic of Paraguay is bounded on the south by the Argentine province of Corrientes, from which it is divided by the river Paraná; upon the north and east of Paraguay is the empire of Brazil. The Spaniards, Cabot, Garcia, and Cabeza de Vaca, were the first to discover this country, which they did in the sixteenth century. In the year 1620, the country was placed under the rule of a Spanish governor, and by a royal grant, dated 8th August, 1776 (upon forming the viceroyship of Buenos Ayres), the same form of government was renewed, and continued until 1811. On the 14th of May, in that year, the people rose against the Spanish, and formed a provisional government composed of three persons; the following June an assembly was installed, which elected a council of five members, at the same time declaring itself independent of Buenos Ayres. Since then it has been a free and distinct nation.

On October 12th, 1813, the council was dissolved, and in its place two consuls were named, one of them being Dr. Gáspar Rodríguez Francia, and the other, Dr. Fulgencio Yegros. The latter resigned in 1814, and on the 30th October of the same year, the congress named Francia dictator of Paraguay for three years; in 1817 that time was extended, and from then till his death, in 1840, he held the reins of power. Few men tyrannised more than he did over the countries they ruled. On his death a council was formed; but in spite of this there were several revolutions in that and the succeeding years. On the 14th of May, 1841, C. A. Lopez and Alonzo were elected consuls.

On the 25th November, 1842, the independence of Paraguay was re-declared, and its separation from the republic of the River Plate finally settled; its flag had been determined upon the previous April. On the 16th May, 1844, the consulships were abolished, and Don Carlos Antonio Lopez made president and supreme dictator of the republic, which office he held until his death, which occurred September 10th, 1862. Upon his decease he was succeeded by his son, General Francisco Solano Lopez, who was elected by the congress on the 18th October in the same year. It is not the writer's intention to speak of the political affairs that happened in the republic during the government of the latter. It is, therefore, enough to say that on the 12th of November, 1864, the war between Paraguay and Brazil was commenced, and on the 29th of March, 1865, war was also declared against the Argentine Republic. In consequence of this declaration a treaty of alliance was signed on the 1st May, at Buenos Ayres, between Brazil and the Argentine and Oriental Republics against Paraguay. The war may be said to have terminated on the 1st March, 1870, at the battle of Aquidaban, where President Lopez was killed.

Upon the 18th August, 1869, a council was installed at Asuncion, forming a provisional government, which was composed of a triumvirate, one of whom resigned last May, the two remaining being Rivarola and Loizaga, who continue still in power. It is due to the government of these latter that some true progress has been made, including free trade, and the emission of postage stamps.



More than a decade of years has passed since the well-known essays appeared with the lion and "moderator lamp" in the centre. That this design really was submitted to the government there seems to be no doubt, but their worth is but trifling. Collectors who desire to possess copies from the original die, must be careful that they are not imposed upon, as several imitations are current.

In 1864, the large oval impression, of

which we give an engraving was brought out by some speculative timbrophilist, but the device never existed as a stamp. The editor of this article has in his possession an envelope from a government official in Paraguay sealed with the exact counterpart of our sketch, but that is the sole shape in which the design was ever used.



In 1865 a trio of essays was prepared in Paris, and forwarded to Lopez, who could not accept them because of the war; and in 1869 they were brought under the notice of the provisional government, which did not accept the offer "because it had already contracted for the new stamps." This the writer knows to be the case, having the proofs before him.



In 1868 philatelists were deceived by the oblong label concocted by the Boston firm of swindlers. The execution of this barefaced imposter is very fine, and it was a disappointment to collectors to find so much talent wasted upon what was absolutely worthless.



After the establishment of the provisional administration, the letters were franked in Asuncion and other large cities, by a circular hand-stamp impressed in blue. The design consisted of a star in a circle, surrounded by an outer circle, containing the word CORREOS, and the name of the place of issuing. Another device was sometimes used; it was very plain, resembling an ordinary English postmark. In a circle was inscribed the name of the town, the date, and R. P. This was also struck in blue.

Previous to the adoption of the above franking-marks, the large oblong oval impression described and figured at page 170 of the seventh volume of this magazine, was used. It continued until April, 1865, and in addition to being struck in black, as stated by a former writer, it is found in red. For the benefit of new subscribers, the design is here reproduced.



Last, but very far from least, come the newly-emitted adhesives. They are now so well known, that a simple list of their values and colours may be deemed sufficient.

1	real	rose.
2	„	blue.
3	„	black.

For illustrative description of the trio, the reader is referred to the number of this journal for December last. The designs of these stamps are copied from their Argentine equivalents, but, being native productions, they are far below the finished engravings of the American Bank-Note Company. Perhaps some day the Paraguayan postmaster will think of following the example of so many other South American states, and obtain his stamps from New York, in which case we may hope to see a more worthy representation of the redoubtable Paraguayan lion than that which adorns the current series.

NEWLY-ISSUED OR INEDITED STAMPS.

THE present article, from causes which we need not here enter into, must necessarily be a short one; but we are glad to be able to introduce herein some interesting novelties, amongst the principal of which are three new stamps for the

SANDWICH ISLANDS.—*The Honolulu Gazette* announces their appearance in the following terms:—

NEW POSTAGE STAMPS.—Specimens of the new Hawaiian postage stamps were received by the postmaster-general on Monday by the "Comet." The designs are very handsome and appropriate, and correspond with the two and five cent stamps now in use. The stamps re-

ceived are of the denominations of one, six, and eighteen cents The one cent is violet coloured, with a vignette of the late Princess Victoria Kamamalu; the six cent stamp is green, with the likeness of His Majesty; and the eighteen cent is pink, with the likeness of His late Highness M. Kekuanaoa, all of which are most perfect likenesses.

All three stamps are very finely executed, and are evidently from the same *atelier* as the present United States series; the likeness is even preserved in the colours. The 1 cent is of a rich mauve, nearly akin to that of the 24 c. United States; the 6 cents is of the same shade of green as the 3 c. United States, and the 18 cents is a little darker than the 6 c. United States. All three values have the word HAWAII at the top, in a curved label, with numerals right and left, and the value in a similar label below, the effigy being, in each instance, in an upright oval. The denominations are thus expressed :—

Akahi Keneta, mauve.
Eono Keneta, green.
18 *Keneta*, 18, rosy-red.

The portraits are of the usual Hawaiian type, and form interesting additions to our postage-stamp gallery. We shall hope, later on to be able to give some information respecting each of the celebrities represented.

Mr. C. W. Lomler, of San Francisco, to whose thoughtfulness we owe the privilege of being among the first to notice the new emission, sends us specimens of each value, which our engraver is now copying from, and we hope to give the illustrations in our next. Mr. Lomler calls attention to the very heavy postmarking to which the stamps are subjected, whereby used copies are rendered of little value. In a specimen of the 1 cent the *fair* face of the Princess Kamamalu is so darkened as to be unrecognisable by her dearest friends.

RUSSIA.—Our indefatigable correspondent at St. Petersburg, has succeeded in "unearthing," if we may use the term, another pair of those tantalising and interesting local stamps which are issued by the local tribunals. They are as follows :—

1.—*Berdiansk.*—10 kopeck stamp, issued by the district court of a town of the same name, in the government of Taurida, on the sea of Azof. The design is contained in an upright rectangle, divided transversely into two unequal portions, the upper of which, coloured green, contains the representation, in black, of a plough and a hovel; the lower, coloured blue, bears an anchor in black. The external frame is uncoloured, and around its four sides are inscribed, in Russian characters, the words STAMP OF BERDIANSK RURAL POST. At each corner is a kind of scroll ornament, bearing the figure 10, indicative of the value.

10 kop., blue, green, and black.

2.—*Tver.*—A stamp, value 2 kopecks, issued for use in the villages of the Tver district, and of an extremely simple type. It consists of a rose-coloured ring, bearing the Russian inscription TVER VILLAGE · POST, and roughly following the inner circumference of this ring is a blue circle, containing in the centre, also in blue, the value 2 k. This blue portion of the design is evidently struck after the printing off of the rose, as it encroaches thereon. Around the rose circle, but at a considerable distance from it, is a faint red rectangle, formed of a single line, and serving merely to divide one stamp from another.

2 kop. rose and blue.

Both the above are adhesives, not only in form, but in fact. The town of Tver, whence hails the second, is about half way between St. Petersburg and Moscow, and is the county town of a government of the same name.

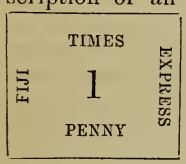
Our correspondent corrects us in the spelling of the name of the local described in our March number; instead of *Longa* it should be *Louga;* he also informs us that this Louga stamp is a label, and not an envelope, and therefore may be stuck on any part of the letter. The figures on the shield are meant to represent, in upper half, a horse, in lower a basket, as conjectured by us. Our correspondent has just obtained the loan of a post-office *employé's* collection of Russian locals, believed to be nearly complete, and promises to send us, very shortly, a description of all the novelties it may contain.

SARAWAK.—A new three-cent stamp for this country, bearing the head of the present rajah looking to the left, has just made its appearance. It is printed brown on yellow,

like its predecessor, but is a squarer stamp, and is lettered at the corners C.—B. R.—S.

FIJI ISLANDS.—From *The Philatelist* we gain information of another Fiji stamp, and as our contemporary is alone responsible for the character of the new comer, we give his announcement of it in his own terms.

"Our February number contained a description of an emission for these islands, value sixpence. This month we have the pleasure of announcing the appearance of another value; and having been favoured with the loan of a specimen, we give our subscribers a description and illustration thereof. It is printed in black ink, on thin overland rose-tinted paper, with roulette perforation. Our correspondent can vouch for the genuine character of the stamp, it having been used with another specimen of the same value, to defray the postage to Melbourne of a copy of the *Fiji Times*, which was brought over to England by the last Australian mail."



NEW SOUTH WALES.—We learn from *The Philatelist*, that "At the last meeting of the Philatelic Society, the president exhibited a set of envelopes which had been prepared for postal use, but eventually rejected. There are four values. The one penny red, the stamp on which is the same as that employed for the earliest emission of newspaper wrappers in that colony. The twopenny is similar in every respect, except in colour, which is blue, and, of course, the words of value. A sixpenny violet bears the same head as the others, within a circular frame, bearing above NEW SOUTH WALES in small capitals. Above, again, in a small semicircular band, POSTAGE; in a similar one below, SIXPENCE. These bands are connected by ornamentation. The complete stamp forms a hexagon. The shilling is octagonal and pink; with this exception, almost identical with the preceding. They are stamped to the right, and have SPECIMEN impressed in black letters just below the stamp."

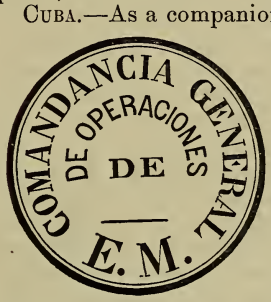
SOUTH AUSTRALIA.—We ought to have mentioned in our last that the fourpence, now transformed into a threepence, has also changed colour, being now a kind of indigo-blue, and sky-blue, instead of mauve. The indigo is found with the red, and the sky blue with the black surcharge.

QUEENSLAND.—A correspondent sends us four specimens of the current sixpence watermarked Q and crown, and not previously noticed by us. The four specimens are of different shades, varying from emerald to chrome-green.

MAURITIUS.—The annexed design represents a frank stamp, used by the Colonial Secretary of Mauritius, as the inscription itself indicates. It is struck in red. M. Moens announces that he has come across a greek-bordered two-pence, with the value *two-pfnce*.



CUBA.—As a companion to the above design, we present, herewith, the illustration of a stamp which is struck on letters from soldiers forming part of the Spanish army in Cuba. The inscription reads, GENERAL COMMAND OF THE OPERATIONS OF ——— E.M. (*Estado Major*, or staff). The impression is in black. This stamp, we should mention, was originally discovered by Senor de Figueroa.



Mons. Moens catalogues, in all, five varieties of the Y$\frac{1}{4}$ stamps (2 reales, 1855, and '57 with Y$\frac{1}{4}$ surcharged in black), namely:—

1st type, Y very narrow.
2nd ,, Y very broad.
3rd ,, Y medium size, figure 4, medium.
4th ,, Y ,, ,, ,, 4, very broad.
5th ,, Y ,, ,, ,, 4, thin.

The first four types are met with on the 1855 issue, the last three on that of 1857.

We should not like to support the above classification, before assuring ourselves that not only the stamp, but the surcharge is genuine. Nothing is easier than to strike the $Y\frac{1}{4}$ on an ordinary stamp, and it is not long since we had occasion to signalize the existence of a number of *Spanish* stamps, fraudulently surcharged with the above mark. In that instance the stupidity of the fraud was sufficient to destroy it, but in the present case there is no check whatever. *El Averiguador*, a Madrid journal, declares that forged $Y\frac{1}{4}$ exist, and an esteemed correspondent, Mr. Ysasi, calls our attention to, and confirms the statement of the Spanish paper. Under these circumstances, a little caution in accepting the new varieties will not be out of place.

Alsace and Lorraine.—One of our correspondents sends us specimens of the 2, 10, and 20 centimes, with the ground inverted, an error resulting from the sheets having been put wrong end forward into the press.

Turkey.—The same correspondent forwards us a 10 para Turkish *deep grey*, which we suspect to be a changeling.

France.—The perforated and unperforated series continue in circulation side by side, but the currency of the latter is likely soon to draw to a close. Supplies of the unperforated stamps of all the values, except the 10, 20, and 40 c., have been sent to Paris, and have been received thence on letters; and we have also seen some unperforated 20 c. on Paris letters, but these latter are, perhaps, chance comers. On the other hand supplies of the perforated 20 c. are now being sent into the provinces to replace the exhausted stock of unperforated.

The Commune has not issued any stamps yet, but there would be nothing unlikely in its doing so, as the following extract from *The Morning Post* of 11th ult. incidentally proves:—

"It appears that all the stamps in the Paris post-office have been removed to Versailles, their value being two millions of francs. The new *employés* in Paris have sent round to the tobacco shops for all that were to be found, and are now, it seems, beginning again to mark off the payment on the letters with a pen."

If the crisis last much longer, the post-office clerks will get tired of penmarking, and the Commune will be obliged to issue, at any rate, a ten-centime stamp.

We have received all the values of the present republican stamps surcharged diagonally, in large black type, B. BALLON, P. E. They are said to have been used in Paris by the *ballon poste expedition*, but we are unable to vouch for the truth of this.

Burmah.—There appears to be a likelihood of this far-off realm entering the lists of stamp-issuing countries, in which case some novelties in design will probably see the light. *The Standard* of the 8th ult., apropos of the report above mentioned, has the following paragraph:

"Burmah is taking to civilisation with a rush. * * * Stamped papers are about to be introduced, as the king sees in it an excellent way of increasing the royal income, while introducing regularity into his courts of law. The system of law is also to be changed, in order to assimilate it with our own, and *postage on correspondence* is to be introduced."

If this should meet the eye of any gentleman of essay-fabricating propensities, we hope he will refrain from attempting to turn the information to evil account.

HOW PARIS COMMUNICATED WITH THE PROVINCES DURING THE SIEGE.

The siege of Paris gave rise to numerous schemes for the establishment of regular communication between the capital and the provinces; and before the eventful period, during which the finest city in Europe was beleaguered by the German armies, passes entirely into the domain of history, we do well to notice the difficulties which the Parisian post-office, more or less, successfully surmounted. These are portrayed in the two following extracts; the first from the tenth edition of an interesting work, entitled *Le Siège de Paris*, by M. Francesque Surcey; a book which has already acquired considerable notoriety. The second from an article which appeared some time back in *Le Figaro*.

I.

It was during this period (October) that the definitive organization of the postal service took place—that service which forwarded our letters by balloon, and brought back to us the replies—too rare, alas! and too brief, by means of carrier-pigeons. The government established a large manufactory of balloons, so as always to have one ready to start whenever the wind might be favourable. At the beginning of the siege, the balloons used to take their flight in the day time, but it was soon perceived that the Prussians, forewarned of the hour of departure, dogged their passage, aiming incendiary fusees at them, or firing balls from long-range rifles. It was then decided to start only at night. It was nearly always in a railway station—either that of the Northern or the Orleans line—that the balloons were inflated and cast off. Those who watched the spectacle will never forget it. In the centre of a vast yard, the half-filled balloon struggles furiously, blown about by gusts of wind: it is made of yellow taffetas, and the bull's-eye lanterns of the locomotives fling a fantastic glare over the route. All around in the shade, men are bustling about, and in a corner, the postmaster-general, M. Rampont, watch in hand, and with an anxious air, seems to be consulting with M. Godard, the æronaut, with whom he chats in a low voice. It is evident some danger is apprehended; three men are to start: one, a passenger whose name is a mystery. He is enveloped in furs; walks about nervous and pale, and tries to put on a bold face when he finds he is observed. A marine,—he carelessly smokes his pipe, and it is easy to guess that he will jump into the basket with the same resolute heart as he would show in a boarding affair. Its a mere matter of business with him. Thirdly, a post-office *employé;* he is very much occupied; the van containing the printed matter has just entered, and it is he who will carry the precious sacks, and arrange them round the basket. Five little cages arrive, containing 36 pigeons—adorable, black, white, golden;—pigeons with names that speak of victory—*Gladiateur*, *Vermouth*, *Fille-de-l'air*. It is the proprietor himself who brings and stows them in the car.

At the moment of starting it is noticed that none of the travellers have thought about provisions; there is a bustle and a rummaging of hidden stores, and at length three rolls, two cakes of chocolate, and a bottle of wine are found. This delay has had its good side. An aide-de-camp rushes in breathless. "A despatch from the governor." The æronaut takes it, the basket is fixed, the sacrament is administered. "Let go all." The balloon leaps up with a bound, it bends under the force of the wind, which curbs it with violence. It is a moment of inexpressible emotion; we are all holding our breath, our eyes fixed on that black mass which is tossed about in frightful convulsions. Will it be crushed? No: it rises; and hardly has it risen above the glazed roof of the station than the darkness closes under it, and it is lost in a misty obscurity. "Adieu, adieu," cried the voyagers; and we reply to them, wishing them a good journey, and by shouts of "*Vive la France.*"

The pigeons which they take with them soon return to us, that is, if the cold or the rain, the hawk or the Prussian bullet, does not arrest them on their way. Each one brings, tied with three threads to one of its tail feathers, a light tube, in which will be found, rolled up, a little square of paper, of 30 or 40 millimetres ($1\frac{1}{2}$ inch). It is the microscopic reduction obtained by the aid of photography, of an ordinary typographed composition. This little sheet, hardly legible even under a powerful glass, considerably resembles a newspaper of four columns. The one on the left contains only the following words:

SERVICE DES DEPECHES PAR PIGEONS VOYAGEURS. *Steenackers à Mercadier*, 103, *Rue de Grenelle.*

The other three columns contain—those on the back as well as those on the front—the despatches, one after the other, without any blank spaces or interlineations. Some of these despatches are official, others come from private sources. What joy and consolation they have brought us! How many five-franc pieces and golden louis' have been dropped into the hands of the postmen who brought us the long-expected message. And the pigeons,—with what tender respect were

they surrounded! When, by chance, one of them, fatigued, and dripping with rain, took refuge on some cornice, with what an eager eye the quickly-gathered crowd followed its movements! How every hand was stretched towards it, offering it bread or millet to attract it; and what a joyful cry arose when it was seen to resume its flight straight to its cot!

II.

The immense efforts made by the postal administration to get letters through, in spite of the rigorous and prolonged blockade to which Paris was subjected, deserve to be chronicled; and the following details will possess considerable retrospective interest.

On the 18th of September, 1870, at three o'clock in the afternoon, the last mail train was despatched from Paris by the Western line, and on the following morning the blockade was complete. In twenty-four hours the German armies had bound Paris with an "iron hoop;" and for four months and a half the postal administration put in operation all the resources of artifice and of the spirit of invention, sharpened by necessity, to overcome Prussian vigilance.

The first effort was to utilise the pigeon post. It is of course well known that pigeons are celebrated for their intense regard for their homes, and the certainty of their making their way back from any distance to the spot where they were bred or kept. Hence in all ages they have been employed as letter carriers. In the process of training, short distances are gradually increased to longer, till the trained bird is at last said to be able to complete a journey of four hundred miles in about twelve hours. The old plan was "to write either words or cipher, or some very abbreviated form of communication, on a strip of the thinnest vellum, or other material, and then to wind it firmly but neatly round the scaled part of the pigeon's leg, fastening it with fine sewing silk." But microscopic photography has recently given immense facility to the concentration of messages; and it is said that "three thousand five hnndred despatches, each of twenty words—seventy thousand words in all—can be easily carried by a single pigeon." The microscopic message is carefully rolled up, and securely fastened to the centre feather of the pigeon's tail, which remains stationary though the bird is in flight; so that the message is not likely to slip from its place.

Happily, some days before the investment, the Prefect of the North and the President of the Chamber of Commerce of Lille had conceived the happy idea of sending to Paris 900 pigeons belonging to the "Sociétés Colombophiles" of Roubaix and Tourcoing.

Every one was aware that the carrier pigeons, having their home at Paris, were taken out in balloons and set at liberty in the provinces, whence they brought news. But what was carefully concealed, was the service the other way,—which was performed by Flemish pigeons, set at liberty in the Jardin des Plantes, where they had been confined, and which, two or three hours afterwards, found their way back to their homes at Roubaix or Tourcoing.

This special service was reserved for state despatches that had to be sent off when the wind was unfavourable for aërostation, as the balloons always sufficed to convey the whole of the correspondence—to use the picturesque expression of the post-office agents—born at Paris during the existence of the siege.

The success of the pigeon post did not, however, equal expectations. The return letters presented many difficulties. Of about two hundred pigeons taken out by balloons (ninety-nine since the commencement of December) seventy-three only ever came back to the cots; out of this number also five had no despatches at all, three brought the celebrated apocryphal messages of the Prussians, and ten simply conveyed news of the descent of the balloons that had brought them out. The Germans, of course, did their best to hinder this plan of communication with the outer world; and with this view employed numbers of trained hawks [?] which were set loose and flown at post pigeons. The swifter flight of the pigeon, and the fact that it flies at a very considerable height, led many to conclude that the hawks would not do much harm, but whether this was the case or not, from some cause or other, very few of the fea-

thered messengers returned. No doubt the season of the year had much to do with it. One correspondent stated that "the birds often refused to fly late in the afternoon; and at this time of the year they are unwilling to travel,especially against the wind."

In view of so very meagre a result, the post-office fell back upon the old system of foot messengers. From the 23rd September attempts were made to conceal beneath trusses of straw or hay, in gardeners' and market-carts, letters addressed to the departments; but not one of these conveyances was allowed to pass. The foot messengers were a trifle less unsuccessful. From the 20th September to the 30th October, the very last day that one was sent, eighty-five messengers were despatched on postal service. Out of this number nine were made prisoners, one was arrested and afterwards set at liberty, one disappeared, one arrived without despatches at Tours, which place was reached likewise by one of the nine prisoners who managed to escape: finally, five were enabled to deliver their letters, and out of that number two even succeeded in bringing letters back. All the others, after essaying in vain every spot in the neighbourhood of Paris, and trying every point of the compass, were compelled to fall back from the cordon of sentries who intercepted their passage. Truly the gaolers had taken their measures well; and so absolute an investment over an area so vast is calculated to astonish those who have the slightest notion of military science.

Recourse had then to be had to other means. There was one track which commended itself early, and as a matter of course —the Seine. It was tempting to think that the peaceful current of the river might bring news in the very teeth of the Prussians. But an enemy who had mounted cannon on carriages jointed like the tube of a telescope, to fire at balloons—who had trained hawks and other birds of prey to bring down carrier pigeons—was not likely to neglect to look after navigable streams; and, in truth, the river was barred with nets.

It seemed at last that, in spite of every good intention, the postal service must be paralysed. M. Rampont, notwithstanding his zeal as a neophyte; Messrs. Bechet and Besnier, the directors, notwithstanding their profound knowledge of the service, could not conceal their messages from the surveillance of the German Argus.

On the 6th of December a contract was made with Messrs. Venoven, Delort, and Robert, for the transport to Paris in hollow floating balls of photographed despatches. Great hopes were raised. The provincial delegation had even prepared by the end of December a decree fixing the bases of this mode of correspondence. But the messenger-spheres were waited for in vain—they never arrived. Another inventor proposed to substitute in their stead old corks, similar in character to those which are constantly floating on the Seine. We believe, without affirming it, that these means were never tried, although they offered some chance of success. It is just possible that the enemy might have disdained to pick up such flotsam and jetsam—waifs and strays of such common occurrence.

The mind of two millions of men was in a state of labour. Just in the same way as *ballons montés* had taken the place of *ballons libres*, an idea was set on foot of replacing buoys by a submarine boat. There were great material difficulties in the way, owing to the bed of the river being encumbered with the *débris* of blown up bridges. Still these difficulties, added to many others, did not deter an inventor, M. Delente, whose projects were favourably received by the post-office authorities.

M. Delente started with his plunging apparatus on the 14th January, by the *aérostat-poste* "Vaucanson." Nothing has been heard of him from that date to this. The armistice, which rendered his further efforts useless, is, perhaps, the main cause of his non-appearance.

"We had," writes one of the besieged, "passed through the air; we had endeavoured to pass over ground, over water, and under water; we were now going to try and burrow under ground. Messengers were found willing to attempt a passage through the catacombs. Alas! the fatality, the old fatality, awaited us and met us here as it had done elsewhere. Not a man got through;

and one died a horrible death, imprisoned in the mud."

All attempts were not yet over. Man having failed, they determined to try animals. After the bird, the quadruped. A certain M. Hurel undertook to send back into Paris several ox-drovers' dogs, which are accustomed to find their way home from long distances.

He started with five dogs, on the 13th January, in the *aérostat* "Général Faidherbe." The owners of the dogs were to receive two hundred francs for each despatch brought in. Need we say that the money was never claimed? It is presumed that the Prussians, or the Francs-Tireurs, or perhaps the Mobiles, transformed the poor post-dogs into salt-marsh mutton.

A few days later, the armistice was signed, and the besieged were enabled to send off their letters—open to the conqueror's inspection, and on payment of a duty of ten francs per kilogramme.

SOME MORE SPANISH STAMPS.

An esteemed correspondent, to whose diligence we have occasion to make frequent reference—Senor Don Pardo de Figueroa—has discovered a postage stamp of far greater antiquity than any yet known, if we except only the Madrid mark described in our last. He thus refers to his discovery in an article published in a recent number of *Le Timbre-Poste*, which we transcribe with his permission.

"I have just found among a bundle of old papers an envelope containing an official order, dated from Seville the 15th January, 1809, signed by the president of the Court of Justice, and addressed to Messieurs the Prior and Consuls of the tribunal of commerce at Cadiz. This letter bears as mark of prepayment an oval black stamp with the royal arms, like the annexed design. It is the oldest known mark of prepayment in Spain. It was created pursuant to a royal decree of the *7th December*, 1716, which stipulates that the secretaries to the crown, the tribunals, &c., &c., will have the privilege of apposing on the letters addressed to the other authorities a seal, impressed in ink, bearing the royal arms of Castile and Leon, which will pass them free.



By the general regulations of the post (8th June, 1794), section xix., chapter x., notice is given that the employment of the seal struck in black, bearing the arms of Castile and Leon, permitted to the persons and tribunals mentioned in the royal decree of 7th December, 1716, is only authorised for letters concerning public business, and not for private affairs.

The ordinary letters of that period were prepaid at the post-office. The *employe* struck the word FRANCO on these letters, and made a Saint Andrew's cross with his pen over the address.

Another postage stamp, if we may so term it, has been kindly forwarded to us by Senor Pardo de Figueroa. It consists of the letters "P^{te}" in an oval, and is hand-struck in black. It belongs to the end of the eighteenth century, and the letters above given form the abbreviation of the word PARTE, that is to say, "despatch;" or rather, as the Spanish dictionary has it, "the post (or correspondence) sent by the king or prince to his court, when he is absent from the capital." When the king lived at the Escorial, or at Aranjuez, this stamp was impressed on the despatches sent from the royal house to the ministers at Madrid.

Whilst we are writing under this head we may as well refer to another "habilitado" stamp, chronicled by M. Moens in his 93rd number. It is printed in blue, and is found on the 50 mil. d'esco. bistre, and on another dark brown stamp. Up to the present time we have not been able to learn, nor has M. Moens, in what province it was used.



Monsieur P. Mahe.—Our readers will, we are sure, be glad to learn that the editor of *Le Timbrophile* is in good health, and has escaped *perforation*. During the siege he performed his duty as a national guard, and took his share of the night watches on the ramparts. He purposes shortly resuming the publication of his journal.

REVIEWS OF POSTAL PUBLICATIONS

The Philadelphia Monthly. Philadelphia, United States.

THIS paper, of which the seventh number is before us, has rather the look of an amateur publication, but it certainly ought to enlighten its readers, for if not edited by any "bright particular stars" in the American firmament of talent, it at least numbers amongst its contributors three planets of the first order,—"Jupiter," "Saturn," and "Mars."

The philatelic department is under the direction of the second of these luminaries, but we are bound to admit that in the half-dozen lines which represent the *Monthly's* contribution to philatelic lore, we do not observe any saturnine remarks; and when we discover "Mars" looking after "Our Puzzler," we find it difficult to explain the adoption of such astronomical *noms de plume* by the writers in our Philadelphian contemporary.

POSTAL CHIT-CHAT.

WHY IS A SOLITARY LETTER LIKE A DEBT? Because it's *a-loan.*

AN ONEROUS PRIVILEGE.—Although the mails (and especially those between 18 and 35 years of age) are not allowed to leave Paris, the national guards have been authorised to post guns on the ramparts.

A CORRESPONDENT sends us a letter, originally addressed to him "Poste Restante, Angers," which he has received back through the post endorsed, "Returned on account of the approach of the enemy."

A CURIOUS INVENTION.—We were lately shown a French-made envelope with a little string running just inside the upper edge, and of which the end protruded; on taking hold of this end and giving a gentle pull the envelope is ripped or rather slit open along the edge. By this mode of opening, all danger of destroying the envelope to get at the letter, or of injuring the letter itself, is done away with. The string is secured under the edge of the flap at each end by two little points of wax.

HOW "THE TIMES" WAS SENT TO PARIS.—Attempts to establish a ready communication between the beleagured inhabitants of Paris and their relatives and friends beyond the German lines, have given rise to many contrivances which are not unlikely to make a new era in the history both of aeronautics and photography. Among them may be mentioned the ingenious device by which the matter of two whole pages of *The Times* has been transmitted from London to Paris. This has been accomplished by photography. Those pages of the paper which contained communications to relatives in Paris, were photographed with great care by the London Stereoscopic and Photographic Company on pieces of thin and almost transparent paper, about an inch and a half in length, by an inch in width. On these impressions there could be seen by the naked eye only two legible words, "*The Times*," and six narrow brown bands representing the six columns of printed matter forming a page of the newspaper. Under the microscope, however, the brown spaces become legible, and every line of the newspaper was found to have been distinctly copied, and with the greatest clearness. The photographs were sent to Bordeaux for transmission thence by carrier pigeon to Paris. When received there they were magnified, by the aid of the magic lantern, to a large size, and thrown upon a screen. A staff of clerks immediately transcribed the messages and sent them off to the places indicated by the advertisers. The success of this experiment gives rise to the hope that the new art of compressing printed matter into a small compass will not stop here.—*The Times.*

CORRESPONDENCE.

THE OPINIONS OF MR. TITUS B. QUICK, OF NEWFORD, MASS.

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

SUR,—There is a tide in the affairs of men, as your play-writer, Mr. Shakspeere says, which, taken in the flud, leads on to bankrupcy, and it strikes the riter of these few lines that stamp kollecting is a shootin the streem. I heve only resently enlisted as a subscriber to yure valuable jurnal, and though I dont want to make eny individuous comparisons, there air sum contribewtors to it as goes to extreems. I'm not above respekting a stamp writer, but I reckon some of em makes a good deal too mutch of their kalling. I konsider myself a kollectur, but unanimusly refuse to be called a flatelist—I leave that name to the enlitened persons as goes wild over perforations and such like.

Over here in Ameriky we hev just enuf common sense to steer clere of the absurdeties you air sweetest on. We air not, it is trew, altogether without fault, espeshully in the matter of bunkum, as you frekwently and playfully call it, but as a citizen of the United States, I'm not ekwal to believin in all the varieties you innocently katalogue, and I raythor guess if there was fewer varieties, there wood be more kollectors.

Speekin of myself brings to mind what I was a goin to say when I sat down to rite you. I've alwis been remarkable in the villidge of Newford, Mass., for tryin to find out the reeson of things—cawsality, the frenologist calls it. There's a well in my father's garden, and I used to spend hours leanin over the edge, mewsing and throwin stones into it in a filosozic manner, but I never cood make out how deep the water was, until one day I got to the bottom of it by a lucky chanse. My father thrashed me for going so far to slake my thirst for knowlege, but the passion for gettin to the bottom of things has stuck to me all through life; and perhaps its through that that I'm not so high up in the ladder as I ought to be. However, let me not be autobiograficul, as the poet says. P.S.—The foregoin will serve to explain how I came to think over the causes of varieties.

My idea is jest this. Yew Englanders air a slow set in matters of bisniss. Yew don't go into the thing hartily; you aint to be put in the same catalog with us; you've forgotten the way to go ahed; and so when yuve done yer work, yuve too mutch energy left for play; the consikwence is, yew slave away at yur play insted of enjoyin yurselves in an unsofisticated manner. Some years ago yew hit on stamp collectin, flateletisin as yew call it now, and not content to pursoo the hobby in a

quiet way, you must needs ride it to deth. You look at yer stamps imaginin varieties until you get haf blind over them, and you call that amusement—why one'd think you were Germans. And then you can't call it a persoot or a pastime, but you must needs christen it a sience, and hunt through the dictshunary to find a hard word for it. Now, don't yew think, Mr. Editor, it ud be more sensible to let all these crack terms slide, and let the crack varieties go with em?

I daresay youll answer, that to be lodgical and-setera, one ought to study the stamps through all their fazes, but when I amuse myself I want to fling lodgic to the dogs (agin quoting from your respekted friend Shakspeer). Stamp collectin is like whittlin a thing to ease the mind and trankilise the feelins. What sensible man ud think of spilin his whittle by spekulashuns as to the grain of the wood? Do yew see the drift?

When I've got a few minits to spare, I takes down my kolleckshun, which I may as well tell yew is a book built after my own plans, and I settles down to a quiet half hour's pleasure, in arrangin my new stamps in my own manner. I've got a catalog jest to show me what not to kollect, and with the help of that I can easily get my stamps into line. I never looks at their backs unless to see if there's enuf gum left to stik them on to the book with, and I never xamines the paper excep to find out where it looks weak, or there's some appearense of a hole; yet I reckon my book's worth lookin at, and I know it pleezes me.

Now yew Uropean kollectors, yure alwis uneesy for fear yew havent got all the varieties. Its painful to hear how yew go on over trifles. Yew strain every nerve to make the passtime a punishment for them as tries it, and if yew do drive people off, its yure own fault.

I guess I'll stop: if I rite any more yew won't put it in; and if I dont mistake, my uncompermising frankness has sumwhat riled yew as it is. However, let's be frends. You'll hear from me again when I hev anything disagreeable to say; until which

I remane,
Yure obedient Sirvant,
TITUS B. QUICK.

[We insert the above letter simply in the hope that our readers may derive as much amusement from its perusal as we have ourselves. The arguments are not worth the trouble of refuting, and Mr. Quick need not fear that he has offended us by advancing them. We merely wish him a little more—discrimination.—ED.]

CAUTION
TO POSTAGE-STAMP DEALERS & COLLECTORS.

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

SIR,—It having come to the notice of the undersigned, that the postage stamps of the South African Republic are sold on the Continent and in England, below facial value, and in fancy colours, without the authority or sanction of the government, the public are hereby warned not to purchase any stamps of the Transvaal or South African Republic, unless they are forwarded by the undersigned or his agents direct from here; and unless issued in the undermentioned values and colours, being those authorized by this government.

1st issue, 1869; Handstamped Envelopes.

1.—Large single-lined circle, enclosing inscription, POTCHEFSTROOM, Z.A.R., G.P.K. 1869. Black impression.

2.—Small single-lined circle, enclosing inscription, POTCHEFSTROOM, Z.A.R. ZUID AFRIKA 6 PENCE, '69.

2nd issue, May 1, 1870. Adhesive Stamps.

Arms of Republic in oval shield, surmounted by eagle; value on margin on both sides, POSTZEGEL above; Z. AFR. REPUBLICK below; motto, EENDRAGT MAAKT MAGT, on a ribbon below the coat of arms. Col. imp., rect., rouletted and imperf.

One (een) shilling, green; six (zes) pence, blue; one (een) penny, red.

3rd issue, October 1, 1870.

Design as above. Col. imp., rect. rouletted.

One (een) penny, black.

4th issue, March 1, 1871.

Design as above, but with improved eagle and broader ribbon. Col. imp., rouletted and imperf.

Three (drie) pence, violet.

FRED. JEPPE,
Postmaster general of the Republic.

General Post-office, Potchefstroom,
South African Republic.
February 15, 1871.

ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS.

JOHN P. C., Falmouth.—The Bolivian stamps you describe are commercial ones, and have been known for some time past.

F. C., Saxmundham.—We are sorry we cannot find room for the article on "Cap of Liberty" stamps.—No genuine Costa Rica exist with a cap of liberty design.

B. T. N., Torquay.—The Cuban stamps are now used in the Philippine Islands. Probably the Baden, Wurtemburg, and Bavarian stamps will give place to an imperial issue next year.

Rev. R. B. E., Birmingham.—We inserted your communication respecting the halfpenny wrapper, and must acknowledge that, together with our correspondent, J. C., we were in error as to the motive for the issue of the new and undated variety.

C. O. W., Uttoxeter.—Of the halfpenny adhesives, the vertical row on the right hand side of the sheet are the only ones which have the outward edge (*i.e.*, the edge next the border) imperforate, in consequence, no doubt, of the manner in which the perforating machine is arranged.—With reference to the halfpenny wrapper, we beg to thank you for your correction, and to refer you to our reply to our correspondent, R. B. E.

M. S C., Scorton.—The Oppen's album, edited by Dr. Viner is a good one, and the catalogue is reliable.—There is a place in it for the Mulready envelope represented on our frontispiece, but you most of course fold the envelope.—"Essay" means a stamp submitted for the approval of the postal authorities of any country, but not issued.—Yes, send stamps for the remaining numbers.—Our publishers still have some bound volumes for 1870 on hand.

G. W. B., M.—I. We see no cause to doubt the Greek 5 lept.—II. also seems genuine, but III. and IV. look suspicious. We have known the lilac-grey Spanish 2 c. of 1860 for a long time, but have never had proof of its official origin, and should not like to accept it without such proof. We have some recollection also of having seen the Nevis which *may* be an unperforated proof.—V. to XII. we notice in our article on new stamps.—We hardly think the small 4 sk. Danish (XIII.) is rouletted; the 16 sk. (XIV.) has the appearance of being so, but we are inclined to doubt that it is.—XV. and XVI., both belong to the 1862 issue.—Accept our best thanks for numbers 17 and 18.

PAPERS FOR BEGINNERS.—No. XII.

BY OVERY TAYLOR.

EUROPE.

Belgium.

In matters postal the Belgian authorities have always moved slowly. The coming stamps have generally cast their shadows a long way before; years have elapsed between the publication of decrees authorising changes in the type and their execution; and some stamps, of which supplies have been struck off, have never seen the light. We find this strange hesitation has characterised the Belgian post-office from the beginning. In 1841 the department sent over to this country an envoy—Monsieur L. Bronne—charged to examine and report on the cheap postage system which had just before been established. What may have been his verdict, history, in the shape of M. Moens, to whom philatelists are almost exclusively indebted for their knowledge of the Belgian stamps, saith not; at any rate it was not until six years afterwards, that the authorities decided on following in the wake of England, and even then they could not summon up the necessary courage to give immediate force to their decision.

By a law dated the 24th December, 1847, the emission of postage stamps was authorised, but it required another enactment, dated the 22nd April, 1849, to bring the system of prepayment into actual use, and the employment of stamps did not commence until the 1st of July following.

On that day the first series was issued, consisting of two stamps:

10 centimes brown
20 „ dark blue

both showing a three-quarter face bust of the then king Leopold I., in military uniform. The portrait is finely engraved on steel, and presents a very fair resemblance to the wise old monarch. The design is of the simplest, and is open to the objection that the numerals of value are not large enough. On the 20 c., to the left of the king, is a kind of scroll ornament, which is not found in the 10 c., though a close examination of the ground in this latter value will show faint traces of a similar device. Both stamps possess a watermark, formed of two L's interlaced; and M. Berger-Levrault states that the letters are sometimes found separated by horizontal and vertical lines, which I understand to mean, that the monogram is framed in.

It is extremely difficult to meet with really clean used copies either of this or of the succeeding series, as they all bear the impress of a very heavy handstamp, which remained in use until 1864, when the postmark now in use was adopted; and as unused specimens of the first pair of stamps are almost unattainable, collectors have to content themselves in general with poor representatives of a really interesting design. Reprints, however, can be bought at from five to six shillings a-piece, and, as the originals are not to be had, and used specimens are so poor, this seems to me a case in which collectors may fairly have recourse to "posthumous" impressions. Besides the reprints, there are also essays, or rather proofs, printed in black on white, and also, if I mistake not, in black on yellow; but these are mere fantastic productions, which belong to the superfluous class.

The two stamps issued in 1849, were at that time quite sufficient for a postal system into which conventions with foreign countries scarcely entered. The ten-centime stamp prepaid the postage on single-weight letters over a distance of 30 kilometres, and the 20 centimes covered the postage on superior distances. Whilst, however, these stamps were being fabricated, namely, on the 29th April, 1849, a treaty was signed with France, regulating the postage between the two countries, on the basis of a forty-centime rate for single-weight letters, and this treaty necessitated the emission of a 40 centime stamp. Instead of continuing the series, which had been already commenced, the government gave orders for the preparation of a new type, and the stamp which bore it made its appearance on the 18th October, 1849. The French stamp of the same value, it may be here remarked, was issued in the following December.

The new Belgian type was evidently more favourably regarded by the administration

than its predecessor, for we find the latter definitively suppressed in 1850, after a currency of hardly more than a twelvemonth. New 10 c. and 20 c. stamps appeared on the 10th August of that year, identical in design with the 40 c., and forming with it a new series.

10 centime sepia.
20 „ prussian blue.
40 „ carmine-rose.

All three of these stamps bore the LL watermark, and were printed at first on thick paper, like the first series; afterwards they appeared on a thinner paper. The design was of at least ordinary merit, and to be fairly judged, the earlier stamps must be examined; later on, after years of wear, it naturally deteriorated.

In 1861, a fresh impression took place on unwatermarked paper, on the occasion of the issue of a one-centime stamp for journals. Berger-Levrault gives the date of the issue of the three higher values as the 1st March, and that of the one cent as the 1st June. With regard to the latter, he is in accord with Mons. N. Rondot, who also gives the date of the royal decree authorising its emission—the 23rd March, 1861.

The new edition was formed as follows :—

1 centime dark green, blue green.
10 „ sepia, light brown.
20 „ light blue, dark blue.
40 „ carmine, vermilion.

The one-centime stamp was issued for the express purpose of prepaying journals and printed matter, but soon after its emission many persons began to use it for their letters. Some of those who did so were actuated by no malicious intention, but others gave the one-centime stamp a preference over the others for the purpose of giving the postal *employés* more work, and hence it happened that the sorters had sometimes to impress thirty or forty postmarks on a single letter. The administration, however, soon put a stop to these tricks, by issuing a notice restricting the employment of this stamp to printed matter, and declaring that it would tax, as unpaid, any letter which should thereafter bear it. This law remains in force with regard to the current newspaper stamps.

Perforation was adopted only in 1863. The system had then been in use nine years in England, and for about the same period in France; but the Belgian administration, with the effects of the invention before their eyes, took no steps to employ it, and at length Messrs. Gonweloos frères, of Brussels, struck by the negligence of the government, proposed to it to construct a perforating machine,* but the minister required time for reflection. MM. Gonweloos, fearing that the minister might take years to come to a decision, determined, meanwhile, to give notice to the public that they were ready to perforate the stamps at a charge of five centimes per sheet; and for this small outlay it would have enjoyed the benefit of perforation before it was officially adopted. This effort of private enterprise, however, woke up the government, which hastened to name a committee, which, in its turn (following an inevitable law), named a sub-committee. The sub-committee went in a body to the manufacturers, for the purpose of examining the proposed machine. One of the engineers flung a disdainful glance at it, and did not hesitate to put his veto on it, because, according to him, it was not worthy of the country; he wanted something big. The machine being only a trifle larger than a sewing machine, could not suit his elevated views, and, besides, 2400 francs (£96) was the price asked for it. The remaining members of the committee sustained their chief's veto, and the proposal to purchase was rejected.

The public, however, which had got wind of the innovation, seeing it postponed to the Greek calends, clamoured for it all the more, and the prudent government, to get out of the difficulty, instead of buying a machine, entered into a contract with MM. Gonweloos for the perforation of a certain number of sheets of stamps, which was not to fall below five hundred per day. It also agreed to acquire the proposed machine, if, by its success, the fallibility of the committee should be proved. Perforation, therefore, was officially adopted, and put in practice on the 11th April, 1863.

* I am here quoting almost word for word from an interesting article, entitled *De la Figure des Timbres en Belgique*, published in No. 50 of *Le Timbre-Poste*.

All the stamps of the existing series were then perforated, and the same shades of the 10, 20, and 40 c. exist as in the 1861 edition. The one centime, however, shows greater variation; it is found in no less than four shades, namely,

green.
dark green.
light ,,
olive ,,

So extensively was this value used, and so constantly were the plates employed to renew the stock, that they soon wore down, the finer lines of the design disappeared, and the last impressions show but slight resemblance to the type in its pristine state. Another proof of the extent to which the plates were used, is found in the damage which the *cliché* in the upper left-hand corner sustained; thereby the letters in CENTIME were battered and rendered illegible, and it became necessary to retouch or recut the letters CENT. This job being roughly performed, they are very unshapely, and encroach on the border; the N in UN also appears to have been touched up and spoilt. In the other stamps the design shows less deterioration, but, in all, it is easy to recognise the effects of fourteen years' wear, and the government at length decided on the issue of a new series.

Generally speaking, postal administrations patronise one particular engraver of their choice; in his ateliers its designs are mysteriously worked out, and it is only when the stamps are on the point of appearing, that the public are informed that a change in the type is contemplated. In this instance, however, the Belgian post-office decided to offer a prize for the best design, and to open the competition to all the world. At the beginning of the year 1864, formal notice was given of the opening of the competition, the length and breadth of the stamps was prescribed, and it was also stipulated that the portrait should be in a circle, the value in the lower corner in figures, and that the inscription should consist of the words BELGIQUE above, and POSTE below; lastly, a prize of 5000 francs (£200) was to be awarded to the successful competitor. The 1st July, 1864, was fixed as the last day for the deposit of the dies, and before it arrived eleven artists had submitted their conceptions to the Minister of Public Works.

It is not necessary to describe their productions—are they not chronicled in the pages of *Le Timbre-Poste?* Moreover, they are known to us simply as essays. Not one of the proposed designs was accepted, and an examination of the engravings reproduced in the Brussels journal proves that only one of them was in any degree worthy of acceptance. M. Moens, speculating on the failure of the "*concours*," argues that men of first-rate ability will not enter into such competitions, as, if they do not win the prize, they lose entirely the result of months of labour, and are wounded in their *amour propre* by the success of some, perhaps, inferior artist.

The government, finding that no good came of the competition, addressed themselves to the well-known firm of De La Rue & Co., and ordered of them the "head" stamps of the 1855 series, namely,

10 centimes grey.
20 ,, blue.
30 ,, brown.
40 ,, carmine.
1 franc lilac.

Of these the 30 c. and 1 franc were the first to appear, and the first sheets of the 30 c. were only perforated down the sides—such was the haste with which they were got ready. These half-perforated stamps are now become rare.

(*To be continued.*)

OUR CONTEMPORARIES.

April 20.*

The Philatelist.—The last two numbers are fully up to the usual standard, and contain very interesting reading. "The Envelope Stamps of Great Britain" form the subject of a lucid article, from the pen of the well-known "Parisian Collector," in the March number, and the same writer is represented in the April number by a further instalment of "The Envelopes of Germany." The "Spud Papers" run through both numbers, and in the second the author favours us with an explanation of the grotesque, but, as we must now admit, appropriate explanation of the

* Crowded out of last number.

title. These papers are accompanied by specimens of the forged stamps described; in the March number the dangerous Liberian counterfeit, with the stereotyped "Monrowa" postmark is given; in the April number the coarser imitation of the current Bolivian, and the very deceptive copy of the Servian, are given. We hope all collectors will read these papers; they will do more to open the eyes of the philatelic public to the necessity of circumspection in buying, than all the written descriptions in the world, unaccompanied by copies of the forgeries themselves.

In the course of his comments on a prize essay on the advantage of rejecting varieties, the editor good-naturedly defends his frequent use of the term "Pendragonite," on the ground, that "were all words more than fifty times uttered or printed to be expelled from the language, he would soon be rather hard up for means of expressing his thoughts."

Le Timbre-Poste.—An interesting article on the Peruvian stamps runs through the last two numbers, and our translation thereof is the best proof we could give of our appreciation of it. M. Moens has sometimes been the subject of covert sarcasm on account of his so frequently rendering official documents *verbatim et literatim*, but, for our own part, we consider he is entitled to the thanks of the community for the care he takes to register those departmental acts which affect stamps; and we, in common, doubtless, with many of our readers, are interested in the perusal of decrees whereby the emission of little-known series has been authorised. In this instance, the solemn style of the regulations connected with the printing of the Peruvian is most amusing. The custody of the Lecocq machine is made the subject of twenty different precautions; a perfect round of formalities are ordered to be gone through whenever a supply of stamps is printed off, and, altogether, it is evident that the authors of the decree felt and rose to the dignity of the occasion.

By the documents which M. Moens transcribed, it is made evident that the sudden withdrawal of the 5 and 10 c. llama, was not due to the effects of an earthquake, but to a change in government, which same change gave occasion for the issue of the queer locomotive 5 c. stamp now in use, and for the reissue of the old 1 dinero, printed in green.

It is rather humiliating to find that, notwithstanding the spread of collecting, and the means which now exist of obtaining information, so long a period as three years should pass away before the truth respecting the emission of the llama stamps could be discovered. However, better late than never; we now know that the dictator's government (by the way who *was* the dictator?) had the sense to order a series of finely-designed stamps from New York, and that its successor, acting upon a mere legal quibble, has suppressed them, in favour of far inferior types.

Mason's Coin and Stamp-Collector's Magazine gives two pages to stamps, from one of which we make the following rather interesting extract, illustrative of the trade in New York:

THE STAMP TRADE.—A week's visit to New York among the dealers in postage stamps has convinced us that this traffic is increasing rapidly. In one large establishment, we witnessed a pleasing sight. Seated at a long table were persons of every age, enthusiastically scanning the dealer's stock. Three persons were constantly engaged in assorting and counting the stamps, while a cashier behind a wire-protected desk was busy taking in the fractional currency. Albums of every kind and value lined the shelves; some particularly fine ones retailing for the modest sum of fifty dollars! In the show window front was a huge inverted cornucopia, from whose capacious mouth thousands of postage stamps were protruding. From the crowds entering and leaving this establishment, daily, we should suppose the business unusually profitable. Other dealers, in stores and at the street stands, were crowded with customers, and we left New York strongly and strangely impressed with the encouraging state of this new and infatuating trade, destined to take equal rank, at some day, wth the more important branches of trade in this country.

It is to be hoped that as the proprietor of *Mason's Magazine* is now convinced of the growing importance of stamp-collecting in the States, he will take measures to increase the space allotted to his philatelic department.

The American Journal of Philately.—The number before us is a readable one. Among the leading papers may be noticed the continuation of the "History of the United States Post-office," and of the article on "United States Local Stamps." This latter we should like to see published in a separate form on its completion, as it is the

only analytical essay on the subject in existence, and is evidently written by a competent hand. We notice that among other stamps the Winans are described this month, and the design on them is described as a "bottle." It has generally been understood to be a winged shell; but neither shell nor bottle are particularly appropriate as a postage-stamp design, and it would be no waste of time on the part of the writer of the paper in question if he were to hunt up the history of the design, and the stamps themselves. We have seen it stated, though *where* we cannot now remember, that the Winan stamps were never in use: cannot Mr. J. W. Scott give some information on this point?

Besides the above-mentioned article, there is an interesting bit of light reading, entitled the "Commencement of the Confederate Postal Service," which we hope, later on, to transfer to our own columns. It consists of clippings from newspapers which appeared at the time of the secession, and of official decrees in reference to the service.

Since the foregoing has been in type we have received the March number of the *American Journal of Philately*. It is a readable number, but would have been none the less so had the list of revenue stamps been absent. We are surprised that American collectors, who are so very touchy about varieties and perforation, should fly off at a tangent in pursuit of revenue stamps.

The remaining contents of the number are the continued "History of the United States Post-office," in which the writer treats of money orders, and an amusing article on "The Profits of the Stamp Trade in the United States." It seems that the thorn in the flesh of the "seven persons or firms," who give their principal attention to the business, is the prevalence of small boys who will begin trading in stamps on a capital of from 50 to 75 cents. It is true there is a quick succession of dealers: "the good boys get advanced in their situations, and then give up the business for want of time;" whilst the bad ones "are compelled to relinquish their evil ways by their parents or employers;" but the worst of it is that others rise up in their places. The breed of small boys is ineradicable; if it ever should be stamped out, the United States will cease to prosper.

But there are other evils in the way of the seven stamp dealers of the United States, or rather *two;* for of the seven only five are now in business, and of the five only two "have over ten thousand dollars invested in the business." These two find there are many difficulties in the way of selling stamps cheap. When they buy they never pay less than 25 per cent. over the facial value for their stamps, and often 50 to 100 per cent., and the exchange and freight is "about one thousand per cent. more than the dry-goods dealer pays." Moreover, they have to purchase so many varieties that the outlay is large and constant. The article finishes with the following lamentation:

> It is a safe calculation to say that it takes an hour to sell one dollar's worth of stamps; and as a salesman cannot wait on and answer the questions of more than three at once, a large number of hands have to be employed, and large stores occupied to accommodate the customers, and as these have to be in good locations, one thousand (dols.) per year is about the lowest rent paid, some paying double that figure.
>
> We think if anyone will consider the above, they will come to the conclusion that stamp dealers do not make such large profits after all, and will join with us in the opinion that, taken altogether, considering the difficulty of obtaining stock, and the class of people who disgrace the business, and are able to make as good a show in the country as the richest dealers, that it is the most tiresome and poorest-paying business in which a man can invest his money.

The delicate hints thus freely thrown out as to the large extent of *some* stamp-dealers' stores are quite amusing. Is it to be wondered at, if we dream of palatial edifices crammed with stamps from floor to garret, a crowd of young gentlemen in irreproachable costume, employed in gracefully showing off the stock, whilst the proprietor walks about with his hands in his pocket, wearily declaiming that "it's the most tiresome, poorest-paying business" under the sun, and he hopes to goodness no one will be stupid enough to set up in opposition to him!

El Averiguador.—Our Madrid contemporary, in the current number, increases the space allotted to the discussion of matters connected with postage stamps. One writer, Senor Rentero, gives the derivation of the word *philately*, and also minutely describes some "habilitado" stamps in his possession.

In another part of the number is found a "Philatelic Chronicle," in which the emission of the new Helsingfors stamp is referred to, and its inscriptions given. Following this comes a paragraph on false stamps, referring to certain forgeries of the Y$\frac{1}{4}$ stamps; but we regret our slight knowledge of Spanish will not permit us to hope to be able accurately to render the information contained therein.

In the two preceding numbers are found notes from the pen of Senor Pardo de Figueroa, on the 12 cuartos, 1857, respecting which he inquires if it ever was really in use, and if any reader can produce a copy, and also on the 2 cuartos of 1854,* of which specimens are said to have been found printed on the loop-watermarked paper of the 1855 series. The learned writer pertinently asks how such an *erreur d'impression* could possibly occur. Another writer discusses the French equivalents for watermark—*filagramme* and *filigrane*—with a view to decide which is really the more important. Altogether there is an earnest air about the contributions to this journal; and though philately is now in its infancy in Spain, it will rapidly mature if only it continues to be studied in the same spirit as it is at present.

The American Stamp Mercury.—The copy before us consists of three single *Mercuries* rolled into one, and is correspondingly bulky. It is principally composed of reprints; but there is one article in it,—the "Hints on Collection," by Mr. Tiffany, reproduced in the present number,—which, after a pretty long acquaintance with American periodicals, we have no hesitation in declaring to be the best-written paper which has ever appeared in an American stamp journal. It is distinguished by an entire absence of that inflated style which generally characterises the writings of philatelists over the water; and, coupled with this, there is such clearness of expression, and attention to grammatical rules, as to render the article pleasant reading, even to those who may differ from the opinions it enunciates.

* [Copies of the 2 cuartos of 1854, on the loop-watermarked paper of the 1855 series, exist in the collections of Baron A. de R—— and of Mr Philbrick.—Ed.]

NEWLY-ISSUED OR INEDITED STAMPS.

Sarawak.—In further reference to our last month's chronicle, we append an illustration of the new Sarawakian type. We need only repeat that the impression is in brown on yellow paper.



Alsace and Lorraine.—We noticed in our last the appearance of the 2, 10, and 20 centimes, with inverted ground. We have since received information, from various correspondents, that this variety is found also in the other values, and hence an entire "inverted" set exists. It appears that a new series of adhesives has already been prepared for these provinces, and they are described as follows by our Brighton contemporary:

"They are rectangular, rouletted, colour on white. A frame broken at each angle by small squares, placed lozengewise, and containing Prussian eagles, bears ELSASS on the left, UND at top, LOTHRINGEN on the right, and the value, in centimes, at bottom. The upper portion of the frame is broken by a laurelled circle enclosing the imperial crown. The centre holds a portrait of the emperor, King William. The colours are dull. Lorraine is officially defunct; letters thence being postmarked LOTHRINGEN."

We know not whether our contemporary has certain intelligence that the above described design is the adopted one; we are almost inclined to think that they are only a projected set, seeing that, according to our information, it is in contemplation to issue a series of the prosaic "numeral of value" type for the German empire. If the German authorities put the emperor's portrait on the special set for the conquered provinces, it can only be with intent to familiarise the inhabitants with their new ruler's features. However, as the official Strasburg journal of the 14th April last contained a request to the Alsatians and Lorrainers to use up their French stamps as quickly as possible, as new ones were to be issued on the 1*st May*, we

presume it will not be long before the accepted types are issued, and our doubts set at rest.*

GERMAN EMPIRE.—In continuation of the foregoing remarks we may mention that one of our correspondents states that the new set of stamps for the empire will come into use earlier than had been anticipated; he is informed they will see the light on *July* 1*st*. Another correspondent, writing from Berlin, sends us rough sketches of two proofs of the new stamps, which he has obtained from a good source. They are almost identical in design with those now current in the North German Confederation, but the legend, in consequence of the change in government, is shortened to DEUTSCHER POST BEZIRK. On the groschen stamp there is an imperial crown in the inscribed circle, under the figure of value; but even this symbol is absent from the kreuzer stamp in the sketch before us. A third correspondent, at Carlsruhe, informs us that the 1st July is specified in the official journals as the date of the emission of the new series, and the Carlsruhe government paper adds that therefore no more Baden stamps will be printed. Wurtemburg and Bavaria will, it appears, still keep their own stamps.

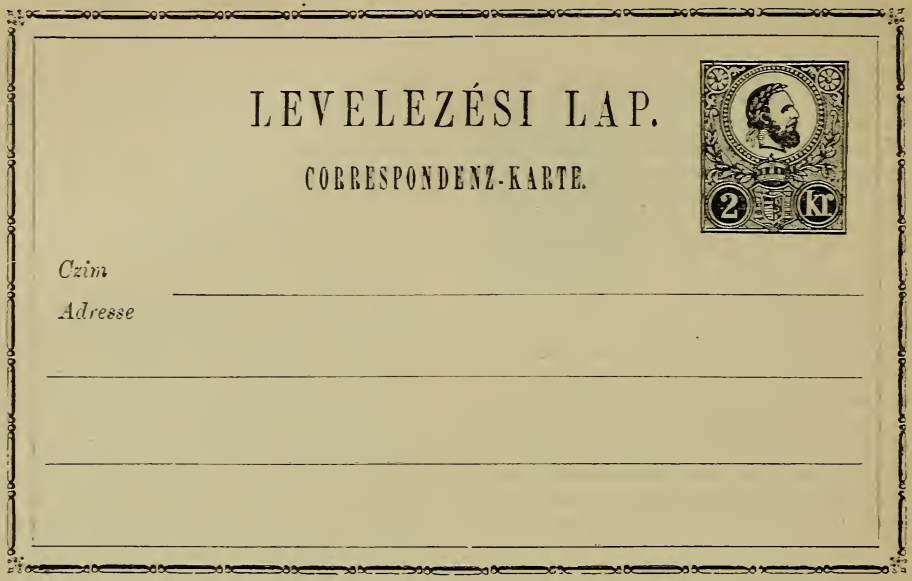
FRANCE.—From St. Petersburg a correspondent sends us *perforated*, or rather rouletted specimens of the Bordeaux printed 1, 2, and 10 centimes, which he had received on letters from Lille. These are curiosities in their way, and have probably been rouletted by private persons. M. Moens, however, has been informed by a postal *employé* at Bordeaux, that some postmasters who had in their possession rouletting machines, which they had formerly used to facilitate the separation of money-order forms, receipts, &c., had applied the system to the imperforate Bordeaux stamps. Among others (says the *employé*, in the course of his letter to M. Moens) you will find enclosed a series of perforated stamps, which came from Autun.

Collectors must be on their guard against forgeries of the perforated republic stamps, Paris-printed issue. We have already had specimens sent us of a brown and a blue. They are very poor imitations, on a clear white paper, and are postmarked with a star-shaped mark, formed of dots, in the centre of which is a numeral,—"16" on the stamps before us. The colours do not resemble those of the originals, and the forgers have made one lithograph serve for the two colours, so that both bear the *same value*, viz., 20 centimes.

The Belgian journal notices a very apocryphal series of field-post cards, for the late French army of the North. Our contemporary expresses the grave doubts he has respecting them, and we can confirm him in his suspicions of them. We have known both officers and men in that army, and none among them have any knowledge of such; moreover, we have seen various notices emanating from the postal officials charged with the direction of the field-post of that army, in which the necessity of indicating the regiment, battalion, and company of the soldiers was insisted on, but there was never any reference to envelopes or cards having been specially prepared for their correspondence. M. Moens refers also to cards having been issued for the use of the armies of the East and the Loire. Respecting that of the East, we cannot speak from personal knowledge, but having been in correspondence with soldiers in the army of the Loire, we know that their letters always came in ordinary closed envelopes, and unstamped; the words *armée* sufficing to free them.

We have had for a long time past in our possession an envelope bearing a kind of unpaid stamp, which we believe to be unique. It consists of the postmark with the value, 30 centimes, in the upper part. The postmark is formed of a double ring. In the upper half is the word PARIS, in the lower the name of the post-office, R. DE CLERY; in the middle is the date—6$^{E.}$ 8 NOV., 69—and, breaking the inner ring, just below the word Paris, is the denomination—30 c.—in thick figures. The uselessness of an unpaid letter stamp incorporated in the postmark is proved from the fact that the postman did not collect the unpaid postage. The letter

* In the current number of *Le Timbre-Poste*, just to hand, M. Moens states that he has been informed by the Berlin post-office that it is not intended to issue a new series at present.



was addressed to a northern French town, to which the postage could only be 20 centimes; we therefore cannot think that the "30 c." represents a sum paid by the sender, and the letter itself bore no stamp whatever.

HUNGARY.—The above card has just been issued for use in the Hungarian kingdom, and forms its first postage "stamp." It will be observed that below the portrait of the emperor-king is the royal crown and the Hungarian arms. The stamp itself is in yellow, varying from bright to pale, on a kind of buff paper, and the inscriptions, which are in the two languages, are in black.

SANDWICH ISLANDS.—We are now able to present to our readers the annexed engravings of the three new Hawaiian stamps. The portrait on the one cent is decidedly the most striking and life-like female portrait of all that are found on postage stamps, but we regret that our illustration but imperfectly represents the original. The Princess Kamamulu was evidently a lady of prepossessing



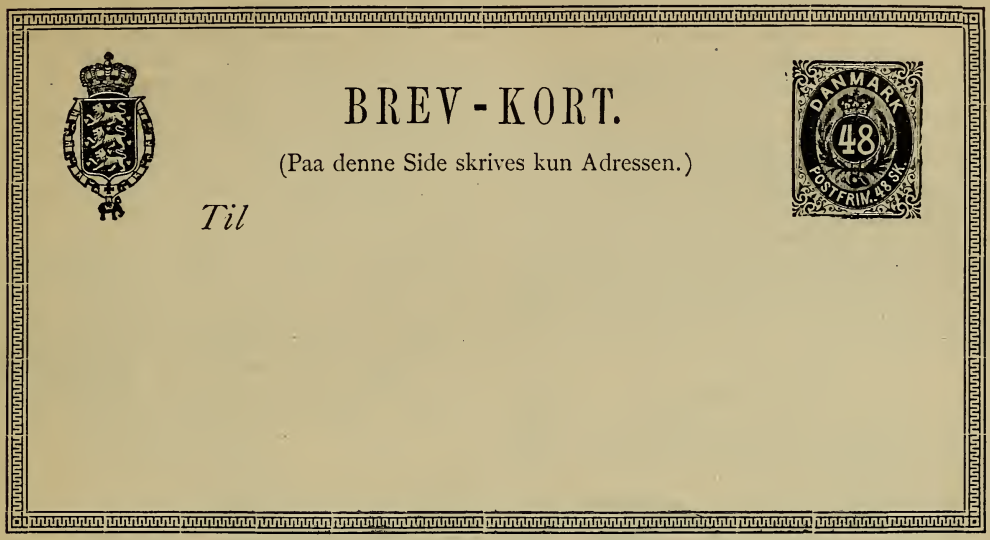




appearance, who, in her day, must have bewitched the Hawaiian beaux.

NEW GRANADA.—*Antioquia.*—The stamp depicted in annexed illustration has just been discovered, and forms the second of that value; but whether it is an old or a new emission is unknown. It is printed in rose-carmine on white paper. The other stamps, the $2\frac{1}{2}$, 5, 10, and 20 c., now arrive on much thicker paper, and the 10 c. is no longer lilac-slate, but reddish violet.





RUSSIA.—We subjoin an engraving of the Tver stamp, described last month, and which, like the Longa, has become common. The engraving of the Berdiansk will only be ready for our next number. M. Moens has received a 5 kop. Soummy, vermilion on grey paper.



UNITED STATES. — The new seven-cent stamp is now in use, and it turns out to be a very satisfactory addition to the current series. It presents a likeness, in profile, of a gentleman whom nature has blessed with a beard of unusual length, whose name we know not, and of whose particular "walk" in American political life we find no indication in the severely simple ernaments which surround the oval frame. The colour of this fresh comer is a brilliant scarlet. The envelope series has received an addition in the shape of a one cent head of Franklin, of the usual type, and coloured bright blue, like the postage stamp of the same value.





In addition to the one-cent envelope, the 24 c., with effigy of General Scott, and the 30 c., with that of Alexander Hamilton, have made their appearance. The annexed engravings render description unnecessary.





We have only to state that the colours are as follows:

24 c. bright violet on yellow and on white.
30 c. black " "

The 24 c. is as charming as its adhesive equivalent.

DENMARK.—The following values of the service stamps, of which the type was given in our April number, are now current:—

2 sk. bright blue.
4 „ bright carmine.
16 „ green.

They are all perforated, and form together a very pleasing trio.

On the preceding page is the type of the new Danish post cards; but it is difficult to reproduce the beauty of the external Greek border. Altogether, these Danish cards are entitled to take rank as the neatest which have yet appeared. The cards themselves are white, and, being slightly glazed, are superior to those of other countries. The values are—

2 sk. blue.
4 „ carmine.

There are also official post cards, identical in design, but inscribed TJENESTE-BREVKORT (official correspondence card).

The annexed design is that which appears on the flap of the Danish returned-letter envelopes, and notice of it is due to M. Moens, who gives a translation of the inscriptions printed on the back, which are of the usual class. The stamp and legends are printed in black, the envelopes themselves being white.



PHILIPPINES.—The series of stamps similar to the Cuban series of 1870, has not yet been issued, but it probably will be in the course of the present year, and the values are now known. They are as follows :—

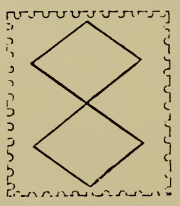


5 cent de escudo		blue.
10	„ „	dark green.
20	„ „	bistre.
40	„ „	bright rose.

They differ from the Cuban only in being undated, the lower scroll being occupied with the denomination of value, Cs DE ESCo, alone. The stamps are perforated, but M. Moens has a 10 centimo variety unperforated.

SPAIN.—It is said that the new series, with effigy of King Amadeus, will make its appearance on 1st July, and M. Moens refers to a report that a type has been submitted by a Turin engraver. Senor M. P. de Figueroa sends us a clipping from *La Correspondencia*, a Cadiz paper of the 30th March last, in which, in the course of a few remarks on the coming series, it is stated that the bust of the king is extremely well executed, and that the designs have much greater artistic merit than their predecessors.

BAVARIA.—We are indebted to M. Moens for notice of a new Bavarian watermark, which is found on the current perforated stamps, and consists of two lozenges, one above the other. Probably the adoption of a watermark is due to the difficulty of working the silk thread in stamps which are half separated from each other by the dents of the perforation.



Bavaria now possesses a post card, and one of very simple design. It bears no impressed stamp, but a dotted square indicates where the adhesive is to be affixed; and, with true German practicality, dotted circles are added, wherein the postmark of the receiving and delivering offices, respectively, must be struck. In the upper part of the card are the words BAYERN—CORRESPONDENZ-KARTE—following which come the lines for the address; below which, and covering more than a third of the entire space, come six lengthy regulations in connection with the employment of the post card. The impressions are in black, the card itself buff.

WURTEMBURG has likewise issued post cards, value 1 and 3 kr., respectively, bearing the impressed envelope stamp in the colours usual to those values. In a curved line in the upper edge of the card are the words KÖNIGL WURTEMBERGISCHES POSTGEBIET; then come the national arms, as on the adhesives; and below that, in a straight line, CORRESPONDENZ-KARTE. Then come the usual lines for the address, and below, six regulations as on the Bavarian cards, but more concisely worded. The cards are blue, and the inscriptions black. On the reverse are traced a number of fine dotted lines to aid the writer. Besides these cards there are also

money-order envelopes, and money-order post cards. The envelopes are on buff paper, of the values of 4 kr. yellow, 6 kr. blue, 7 kr. green, 9 kr. brown; and the cards are 3 kr. rose, 6 kr. blue, 7 kr. blue, 12 kr. violet, 14 kr. lilac; this latter value being formed of two 7 kr. struck side by side.

GUATEMALA.—The design here represented was drawn in 1867, by M. Hulot, the celebrated Parisian engraver; and the annexed illustration appeared in our number for January, 1868. It now appears, that after a delay of more than three years, the Guatemalan government has employed the type, and issued four values, viz.:—



1 centavo bistre.
5 „ brown.
10 „ blue.
20 „ carmine.

They are printed in colour on white paper, and perforated. Of their genuineness, according to M. Moens, there is no question.

A FEW HINTS ON THE SELECTION OF SPECIMENS AND THE ARRANGEMENT OF A COLLECTION.

BY J. K. TIFFANY.

(*Reprinted from "The American Stamp Mercury."*)

COLLECTIONS of any kind are chiefly valuable in this, that they are in some sort illustrated histories, and as such their comparative value depends largely upon the wisdom of the collector and the arrangement of the specimens. A small collection, where each specimen is a representative of a class, and each class is found represented in its proper order, may tell us much more than many of the largest collections, where, too often, specimens are selected only because of their variety, or the attempt is made to procure everything possible, and everything is thrown together, as it were, without any system. Now, if our stamp-collecting friends, who have so many protests to make about the multiplication of varieties, would adopt this view, there would be less useless discussion as to what should be collected, and without any great increase in the number, their collections might be made much more valuable; for instead of collecting all their specimens on the same kind of paper, with the same watermark and perforation, they might be induced to adopt some such selections as the following for New Zealand, for example. Of this country we usually find in small collections the six values of the same type, and perhaps two or three varieties of shade of the one penny, threepence, sixpence, and the two colours of the fourpence—all these with the star watermark, and perforated. Now suppose their owners had selected instead the

1d. light red	on blue paper,	no watermark	or perforation.			
2d. blue	„	white	„		„	„
6d. brown	„	pelure	„		„	„
1s. light green	„	white	„	star	„	no „
4d. rose	„	„	„	„	„	machine „
4d yellow	„	„	„	„	„	„ „
3d. violet	„	„	„	„	„	roulette „
1s. dark green	„	pelure	„	„	„	machine „
1d. dark red	„	white	„	N Z.	„	„ „

—then all the leading varieties of this country would be indicated by its representative, and no addition to the number of specimens made, while the additional study bestowed on making such a selection would eventually be a great gain to the science of philately. Other countries should be represented in the same way, the plan being to indicate not only every type and value issued, but also every mode of perforation, paper, watermark, &c.: such a collection would be as near complete as perhaps it is possible for any of us to get, but would leave much to be inferred. The next step is to get, not only a single representative of each variety, but all the various values of each variety; and could one obtain them all, then nothing would be left to inference.

Such has been the course we have pursued in forming a collection of between five and six thousand specimens. About eleven years since we began by getting every type and value we could; we then added one representative specimen of each watermark and perforation of which we could hear; the collection now being enlarged by the addition of as many representatives of each variety as we can procure. During this time we have had some four albums, and examined a great many others, and perhaps our present ar-

rangement, which is our own adaptation of all the ideas and suggestions we could get, may be of value to others of less experience. We place but one set, or at most two, on a page, giving as many pages to each country as are necessary, and as we employ movable pages, can add to them whenever necessary. Our New Zealand stamps (we use this country as a convenient illustration) are arranged in sets, as we call them, thus:

1st page,	1st line,	blue	paper, no wmk., no perf.
	2nd ,,	soft white	,, ,, ,, ,,
2nd page,	1st ,,	hard ,,	,, ,, ,, ,,
	2nd line,	white paper, various perf. of above.	
	3rd ,,	,, ,,	,, ,, ,, ,,
3rd page,	1st ,,	pelure ,,	no wmk., imperforate.
	2nd ,,	,, ,,	,, ,, perforations.
4th page,	1st ,,	star watermark,	no perforations.
	2nd ,,	,, ,,	,, ,, cont.
5th page,	1st ,,	,, ,,	roulette ,,
	2nd ,,	,, ,,	machine ,,
6th page,	1st ,,	,, ,,	pelure paper, no perf.
	2nd ,,	,, ,,	,, ,, roulette ,,
	3rd ,,	,, ,,	no perforation.
7th page,	1st ,,	N.Z. ,,	machine & oblique ,,
	2nd ,,	,, ,,	roulette ,,
	3rd ,,	,, ,,	machine ,,

so that all the specimens upon the page have the same watermark, and those in each line the same perforation. We were surprised when we had made this arrangement to find how much our collection had gained in mere beauty, while we have room enough for many additions to each variety, if they turn up hereafter.

But what we claim as the great merit of our album is the peculiar construction of the several pages, which consist each of two sheets of cardboard of the desired size (eleven inches by fourteen is the size we have adopted), the upper sheet slightly tinted and cut out like the mat of a photograph, and pasted to the under one, which is white, so as to form a contrasted raised border to it, about two inches wide. The name of the country is printed above on this border, and on the sides may be indicated the peculiarities of the stamps on the page. This page is then attached to a narrow strip about half an inch wide, as thick as the two sheets forming the page, with a cloth hinge, much as photograph albums are sometimes made. In these strips are inserted eyelets, through which the cords pass which fasten the pages together. Our pages, so prepared, are strung together in their order in one of Emerson's patent binders as a cover. By this plan we can add a new page when and where we please with little trouble, and when the album is shut, the edges come close together, keeping out all dust, and preventing any rubbing or compression of the stamps by the opposite pages. When the fancy takes us we can arrange our whole collection anew,—geographically to-day, alphabetically to-morrow, and chronologically when we please.

In order to expose the under side of the stamp to view, show the watermark, &c., we thought at first of mounting the stamps on a hinge, so that they could be raised, but finally decided to cut out a hole of the shape of the stamps, but a little smaller, securing the stamp by gum at the corners only. On the right side of the page we mark the date under each stamp, indicating the watermarks on the reverse side. Our envelopes, when entire, we arrange on similar pages, which are, however, composed of three sheets of cardboard, the upper and lower like those described, but the middle one cut into four bands, with five narrow slips about half an inch wide cut out. The flap of the envelope is slipped under one of these slips, and the bottom of the envelope under the next lower one, which keeps them in place, and makes it easy to remove them, when desired, for examination. By this arrangement we can have three rows on a page.

A FEW NOTES ON THE STAMPS OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA.

BY EDWARD L. PEMBERTON.

(*Continued from page 55.*)

COLOURS.

THESE I have done my best to describe thoroughly in the list given. I have termed the 6d. 1861 purple-brown, after Mr. Taylor; it seems the best term, and is more distinct from the succeeding shades when thus described. There is so much difference in the shades of the 6d., which follow this, that it is difficult to distinguish each *clearly* by name. It will be seen I omit the 6d. blue-green of 1861: I have never met with one meriting the name. In the following list great care has been taken not to encumber it with shades too minutely distinct from each other.

THE LIST OF VARIETIES.

If the reader will turn to p. 176 in your 1869 volume, a rough list will be found of Barbados, on a plan which I have attempted to work out thoroughly in the following list. I believe a catalogue on this principle would be a wonderful success, but the labour in compiling it is excessive. In the list of varieties, no shades are given separately which are not clear and distinct from the others; nothing vexatiously bewildering is given in tints, for I can now see the impossibility of chronicling them clearly. Distinct primary tints are chosen. Where much variation exists, a v. denotes "varying;" there are the clear extremes given; and let the collector of varieties take more if he likes, to make intermediate shades, but I shall not again fill up my lists by trying to describe tints which are indescribable, and of which the very catalogue is overwhelming.

In conclusion, the error, No. 17 a., is catalogued, but I never saw it. Have any of your readers a copy?

DESIGN.

Swan swimming, named, various frames: typographed, coloured impressions.

Types I. Reeds and sun's rays; solid octagonal frame.
II. Netted background; solid octagonal frame.
III. Netted background; solid oval frame.
IV. Netted background; netted oblong frame.
V. Netted background; solid oblong frame.

SPECIES.

I. Im. & Ro. ? 1857. 1.—Twopence, black-brown on red.
2.—Sixpence, bronze.
II. 3.—Fourpence, blue.
III. 4.—One shilling, red-brown, pale brown.
IV. ? 1860. 5.—One penny, black.
V. 6.—Twopence vermilion.
7.—Fourpence, blue.
8.—Sixpence, green.
IV. M. 1861. 9.—One penny, rose.
V. 10.—Twopence, blue.
11.—Fourpence, vermilion.
12.—Sixpence, purple-brown.
13.—One shilling, dark green, bright green.
IV. 1862. 14.—One penny, brown-carmine.
V, 1863. 15.—Sixpence, light violet, dark purple-violet.
IV. 1865. 16.—One penny, olive yellow, olive brown.
17.—Twopence, yellow.
18.—Fourpence, carmine.
19.—Sixpence, deep violet, mauve.
20.—One shilling, deep green.

VARIETIES.

I. Im. ? 1857. (1) 1.—Twopence, black brown v. on light red.
(Swan wmk.) 2.— ,, ,, on deep red.
(2) 3.—Sixpence, bronze on white. } from wear, approaching to black and grey at times.
4.—Sixpence, bronze on yellowish. }
Ro. 12½ (1) 5.—Twopence }
(2) 6.—Sixpence } various shades.
Ro. 13½ (1) 7.—Twopence }
Ro. 14 (2) 8.—Sixpence }
II. Im. ? 1857 (3) 9.—Fourpence, blue v. on white.
10.— ,, light blue on yellowish.
11.— ,, deep dull blue ,,
12.— ,, dull indigo ,,
13.— ,, indescribable tints ,,
Ro. 9½ 14.— ,, }
Ro. 12½ 15.— ,, } various shades.
Ro. 14 16.— ,, }
Pin perf. 17 17.— ,, }
Error 17a.- ,, Swan upside down.
III. Im. ? 1857 (4) 18.—One shilling red-brown or sienna }
19.—One shilling deep warm brown } paper more or less yellowish or greyish.
20.—One shilling dark cold brown v. to }
21.—One shilling pale cold brown thence to }
22.—One shilling dull cinereous tints }
Ro. 9½ 23.—One shilling }
Ro. 12½ 24.— ,, } various shades, except 18.
Ro. 14 25.— ,, }
IV. Im. ? 1860 (5) 26.—One penny, black on white. } paper sometimes thick.
27.—One penny, black on yellowish } paper sometimes thin.
Ro. 12-13 28.—One penny }
Ro. 14 29.— ,, } black, as above.
M 14 sq. dents 30.— ,, }
V. Im. (6) 31.—Twopence, vermilion }
32.—Twopence, orange vermilion } paper white to yellowish, and from nearly pelure and transparent, to thicker and opaque.
33.—Twopence, pale red }
Ro. 9½ 34.—Twopence }
Ro. 12½ 35.— ,, } shades as above.
Pin perf. 17 36.— ,, }
(7) 37.—Fourpence, light blue, v. to } on thin blue faced paper
38.— ,, intense blue }
(8) 39.—Sixpence, deep yellow green.
40.— ,, pale yellow green.
Ro. 9½ 41.— ,, } shades as above.
Ro. 12½ 42.— ,, }
IV. M 14 16 1851 (3) 43.—One penny, dull rose, light } paper white or yellowish
44.— ,, dull rose, dark }
44a.- ,, vinous brown } ? if a natural shade
V. (10) 45.—Twopence, blue, light } paper white or yellowish.
46.— ,, blue, dark }
(11) 47.—Fourpence, vermilion, light } ditto.
48.— ,, vermilion, dark }
(12) 49.—Sixpence, purple-brown, v. ditto.
(13) 50.—One shilling, dark rich green.
51.—One shilling, deep green. } paper white or yellowish, and colours varying slightly.
52.—One shilling, bright green. }
(no wmk.) (15) 53.—Sixpence, light violet.
54.— ,, lilac, on blued paper.
(13) 55.—One shilling, dark rich green.

IV. (M 13 no wmk.)	(14)	56.—	One penny, brown-carmine v.
		57.—	,, brown-lake v.
		58.—	,, vinous brown.
V.	(15)	59.—	Sixpence, light violet.
		60.—	,, dark violet.
		61.—	,, dark purple-violet.
IV. M 12½, 1865 (swan wmk.)	(16)	62.—	One penny, olive-bistre.
V.	(20)	63.—	One shilling, green (? two shades).
IV. M 12½, 1865 (cc & c wmk.)	(16)	64.—	One penny, olive-bistre
		65.—	,, olive-brown.
		66 —	,, olive-yellow.
		67.—	,, indescribable tints.
V.	(17)	68.—	Twopence, golden yellow, v. to.
		69 —	,, gamboge.
	(18)	70.—	Fourpence, rose carmine, v. to.
		71.—	,, very dark carmine.
		72.—	,, rose-red.
	(19)	73.—	Sixpence, very light clear violet, v. to
		74.—	,, very dark ,,
		75.—	,, intense mauve.
	(20)	76.—	One shilling, bright green, v. to
		77.—	,, deep green.
Error.		78.—	,, bistre (see *The Stamp-Collector's Magazine*, 1870, p. 14).

THE CIVIL WAR AND THE FRENCH POST OFFICE.

As, notwithstanding the repeated declarations of the Commune that regular communications are about to be opened between the capital and the departments, Paris still* remains in a state of postal isolation, a great many merchants and others, who continue in Paris, get their letters addressed to one or other of the suburban offices, "to be left till called for," and thither it is they carry and post their own correspondence.

The most popular of the outlying towns is St. Denis, and there, as also at Versailles, where the presence of the army and the government has caused an extraordinary influx of visitors, the demands on the postal service far exceed the existing accommodation in those places. Hence it has become necessary to take exceptional measures to meet the emergency, and these are graphically narrated in the following lines, translated from *La France du Nord.*

"The letters addressed *Poste Restante, St. Denis*, are no longer delivered at the regular post office, of which the *personnel* was soon found insufficient for the additional work imposed on it; but, at the Casino, before which German sentinels are posted the whole day long, to maintain order among the formidable and heterogeneous crowd of Parisian claimants.

Up to within the last few days it was the practice to distribute the letters in the theatre at St. Denis, where a sufficient number of persons were admitted at the time to half fill the pit. The interior of the edifice, which is even more ill-conditioned than little provincial theatres usually are, was decorated with some old tricolour flags, and in the roof was an enormous hole, made by a Prussian shell. On the stage might be seen, supported on empty casks, a number of long planks, on which thousands of letters lay classed. As soon as the public had taken their places, the postal *employés*, each representing several letters of the alphabet, advanced one after the other to the foot-lights, and cried one particular initial. Those whose names began with that letter then held up their cards or papers, and after due verification, each one received the epistles addressed to him.

At the Casino the arrangements are different. Placed behind a strong barrier are as many compartments as there are letters of the alphabet, all duly distinguished by their respective initial. The claimants present themselves before the compartment of which the letter commences their name, and one of the many *employés* now on service hands them their letters.

The mass of correspondence addressed to Versailles is so great, that the postal administration has found it necessary to set up its offices in the palace, and to appropriate, as sorting-room, the great "gallery of battles, which is about 400 feet long, and whose walls are covered with the beautiful productions of Delacroix, Gerard, Ary and Henry Scheffer, and Horace Vernet.

If the Commune has not issued any stamps, it has at any rate asserted its sovereignty by striking about six thousand pounds worth of gold pieces. They bear, according to *Le Moniteur des Communes*, the effigy of the Commune, as on the silver money; but whether by this is meant the head of liberty, or some other figure symbolic of the present Parisian government, we know not. On the

* 16th May.

edge of the coin is inscribed DROIT ET LIBERTE. Should an issue of red stamps occur, we may predict that they will bear the same legend. If the Commune lasts, such an emission will probably take place, as the Hotel de Monnaies is now under the direction of one of its delegates, who has set the stamp printing-press to work again.

In *Le Petit Moniteur*, of the 15th ult., we find the following paragraph in the course of a report on the proceedings of the National Assembly:—

M. Adenet laid on the table a bill, having for object to secure to all soldiers and sailors engaged in the present campaign the gratuitous carriage and distribution of their letters by the post-office, and to extend this privilege, after the campaign, to the wounded. The orator observed that the law of the 24th July last, which sanctioned these privileges as regards the army of the Rhine, had been virtually annulled by the peace; whilst the operations against Paris constituted, in fact, a veritable campaign.

The chamber supported the proposition, and pronounced it to be urgent.

It has been asserted that Gambetta had his *cabinet noir* at Bordeaux, which he placed under the direction of a confidential friend; and it appears from the *Moniteur des Communes* that the present rulers of Paris have re-established it there. In the good old times, letters which passed through the *cabinet noir*, or dark chamber, were manipulated with such skill as never to show any trace of having been opened; but the Commune acts more openly, or more roughly. Every letter addressed to persons in their bad books is pitilessly opened, without the least precaution being taken, and ill does it fare with its author if he has expressed the shadow of a doubt of the infallibility of the communal government. It is in consequence of a mishap of this kind that M. B——, of the Rue Blanche, has just been arrested and imprisoned, and yet his letter was a confidential one, for it was addressed to an intimate friend.

POSTAL CHIT-CHAT.

OCEAN PENNY POSTAGE.—Mr. Seely, last month, moved in the House of Commons—that the postage between this country and America should be reduced to a penny. Mr. Monsell, however, declared that such reduction would be impossible at present.

A LUMINOUS IDEA.—Not a bad suggestion is offered for the benefit of the Chancellor of the Exchequer. 'In this rage for stamp-collecting let Mr. Lowe sell the £1000 worth of useful match stamps to the public, for their stamp albums, and not only will he get back the thousand pounds, but the competition to possess a "match stamp" will be great.—*Globe*.

POSTAGE-STAMP ALBUMS.—An ingenious Philadelphia philatelist is about to apply for a patent for a mechanical postage-stamp album, on the revolving plan, which has two advantages over the ordinary album—self-securing, or a new method of holding the stamps without gumming; and a new plan of exhibiting the stamps; novel, if not useful.—*Mason's Coin and Stamp Magazine*.

PHILADELPHIA COUNTY.—A correspondent writes us as follows:—In the article on the Philadelphia post-office, in *The Stamp-Collector's Magazine*, you emphasise the word *county*. The city of Philadelphia now includes all of what was the *county* of Philadelphia, making our city as large (or nearly so) as London. All the county being in the city limits, the postage is, of course, but 2 cents.

IT IS RELATED in the German papers that during the siege of Paris a boy who had a passion for collecting postage stamps, and had read in the newspapers that others had obtained French balloon stamps from the royal head-quarters, wrote from Potsdam to the Crown Prince, asking for some of them. Some weeks ago seven balloon letters were sent to him from the chancelry of the Crown Prince; some of the stamps bear a portrait of Napoleon, and others a figure of the goddess of the Republic.—*Globe*.

THE UNITED STATES ENVELOPE.—The printing trade of the United States has strongly remonstrated with the government against the sale of stamped envelopes at their facial value. It suggests that the manufacture and sale of such envelopes should cease, and that "agencies" should be established at convenient points for the purpose of embossing or engraving the post-office stamps of such envelopes as may be sent to them for that purpose by envelope makers, printers, and others, upon prepayment of the value of the stamps and expense of affixing the same. This is just the system in vogue in England, except that we only have one "agency" for the impression of the stamps.

FRENCH IMPERIAL STAMPS UNRECOGNISED IN GERMANY.—That the stamps of one country should be virtually suppressed by another is hardly credible, yet, if we may believe the assertion of a German-French paper, such suppression has actually taken place in respect of the French imperial stamps. *Le Courier du Bas Rhin* contains the following notice:—The Baden post-offices consider as unpaid the letters arriving from France which are prepaid by means of stamps bearing the emperor's portrait; the rate charged on these letters is double, *i.e.*, 12 kreuzers for single weight, and 20 kr. for those which are over 15 gr. It is reasonable to suppose that a large number of imperial stamps remain in the hands of French correspondents; and we should recommend them not to use any more for letters to Germany, as, double postage being charged, a great many of these letters have, to our knowledge, been refused by the addressees.

CORRESPONDENCE.

THE BAVARIAN ONE KREUZER BLACK.

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

DEAR SIR,—Mr. Overy Taylor's "Papers for Beginners" are so admirable, that it might almost seem ungracious to criticise them; but as both he and myself are earnest philatelists, and desire only to get at the truth, he will I am sure, pardon me when I say that I cannot agree with all his remarks upon the 1 kr. black of Bavaria.

The date of the issue of this stamp has been taken by Mr. Overy Taylor from M. Berger-Levrault, who in this is at variance with Dr. Gray, as also with Moens and other continental catalogues.

It is not easy to abandon preconceived notions, except on the plainest proof that they are erroneous; and certainly I should not be disposed to accept the date given by M. Berger-Levrault, without some evidence, of a most satisfactory nature, that he had very solid reasons for assigning a different date to its issue, and that of the 3 kr. blue and the 6 kr. brown, than has been given to them by any other catalogue. The dates given by M. Berger-Levrault are not always to be depended upon; I could cite dozens of instances; but if there is a doubt, refer only to the dates of the first issues of the Tour and Taxis stamps.

The usual dates assigned to the issue of the early Bavarian stamps are as follows:—

5th June, 1849	1 kr. black.
1st October, 1850	1 kr. rose.
	3 kr. blue.
	6 kr. brown.
	9 kr. green.
19th July, 1854	18 kr. yellow.
1st July, 1858	12 kr. red.

With the exception of the 1 kr. black, the whole of these stamps were printed on Dickinson paper. Specimens are, however, known of the 1 kr. black printed on Dickinson paper; but these specimens are very rare: or at any rate unimpeachable copies are; much more so than Mr. Overy Taylor's remarks would induce one to think.

Now M. Berger-Levrault gives the date of the 1st November, 1849, as that of the issue of the 1 kr. black on plain paper, 1 kr. black on Dickinson paper, and of the 3 kr. and 6 kr., also on Dickinson paper. Apart from all other considerations, it might well be asked if it were probable that a simultaneous issue of the 1 kr., both on plain and on Dickinson paper, should have been made.

But Mr. Overy Taylor supports M. Berger-Levrault's dates as to the issue of the 3 kr. and 6 kr. at the same time as the 1 kr., by a suggestion that "it is hardly to be supposed that the postal authorities would have introduced the postage-stamp system by the issue of a single low-value stamp, which must have been used either for local letters, or, as is more likely, for circulars only." To this I think might well be replied, that, bearing in mind that Bavaria was the first German state which issued a postage stamp, there would be nothing improbable in supposing that the 1 kr. should have been issued as an experiment, most probably for local purposes, before the system was applied to letters circulating within the limits of the state. Instances are not wanting of this having been done in other countries; an envelope for local purposes was employed in Russia in 1845, before the issue of a general series of values; and in the case of Saxony we have an instance much more in point. In this latter country, the issue of a single stamp of the lowest value preceded the issue of the general series by twelve months.

Mr. Overy Taylor further remarks, that of the 1 kr. black there exist four varieties, two dependent on differences in the design, and two on the presence or absence of the silk thread. How far there may be two varieties of the impression on Dickinson paper, I am not able to say, having never been able to see a sufficient number of these stamps to enable me to form any judgment. It is certain, however, that there are differences in the design in the impressions on plain paper; or, rather, there are portions of the design wanting. Whether this difference arises from the one being an engraving and the other a lithograph, I am not sufficiently versed in the subject to distinguish, but I have never seen an obliterated copy of these faulty specimens; and I think we may pretty well suspect that what Mr. Overy Taylor calls the "marvellous remainder" did not exclude this variety of the 1 kr., both without and with silk thread, if this latter exists.

As the case stands at present, it seems to me that all the probabilities are against the issue of the 1 kr. black, on plain paper, simultaneously with the 3 kr. and 6 kr. on Dickinson paper; neither is it probable that it was issued along with these values and a 1 kr. black, on Dickinson paper. Speaking from personal knowledge of Dr. Magnus, I know that he does not give utterance to suppositions without reflection; and in many of his suppositions he has shown how shrewd he is. I do not think, then, that he was far wide of the mark when he stated, as his own belief, that the 1 kr. black, on Dickinson paper, was printed subsequently to the copies on plain paper, the paper having been prepared for the general issue.

One word more as to the question whether the impression on Dickinson paper is to be regarded as an essay. An essay of what? not of paper; for essays are not made of different kinds of watermarks; and the silk thread may be classed with watermarks, as it is all but invisible, unless the stamp is detached. Not an essay of design. Were the case reversed, and the impression on Dickinson paper regarded as the stamp, while the plain paper impression is regarded as the essay, or the proof, I could understand the position which the advocates of the Dickinson paper impression being an essay take up. If it is an essay, I should rather be inclined to class it within the same category as the impressions *de fantaisie* of Wurtemburg; and, if I recollect rightly, the collectors of essays have not found that Bavaria has been to them a country altogether barren in essays on their credulity.

In the absence, then, of any positive evidence, I am inclined to think that the supposition of Dr. Magnus is nearer the mark than he appears to have received credit for.

I am, yours faithfully,
A PARISIAN COLLECTOR.

ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS.

Senor M. P. DE FIGUEROA.—Nous regrettons d'être forcés de remettre vos articles au mois prochain.

F. CAVELL, Saxmundham.—We have suppressed that portion of your letter which replies to "Philatelist's" reference to the Cuban stamps, as it was founded on a misunderstanding. Philatelist speaks of the present series issued *this year*, which bears a symbolic full-length figure.

B. T. N., Torquay.—The Philippine series of 1865 is still in use, but is to be superseded by a series of four values, identical in type with the Cuban and Spanish of that year, but without date, the denominations being expressed in "c^s de e^s" in lower margin.—We presume the stamps of the South German states will be suppressed.

COMPLETE AND AUTHENTIC LIST OF THE RUSSIAN LOCALS.

BY OUR ST. PETERSBURG CORRESPONDENT.

THE following list has been compiled from the collection of a Russian official at St. Petersburg, who has been at great trouble to obtain specimens of all the stamps issued by the local or district courts in Russia; and it may be accepted as being, conformably to its title, at once complete and authentic.

CHARKOFF GOVERNMENT.

Charkoff.—Oval centre, with arms in upper half, and figure of value in lower, on dotted ground; inscription on white ground round about, CHARKOFF DISTRICT RURAL POST; 5 in each angle. Col. imp. rect.

5 kop., red.

Soummy.—Description already given.

3 kop. red-brown.

CHERSON GOVERNMENT.

Cherson.—Oval centre, with sheaf of corn, rake, and scythe lying on ground, 10 kop. above, and STAMP OF CHERSON DISTRICT RURAL POST inscribed below; figure of value in each corner. Col. imp., rect.

10 kop. yellow. Now obsolete.

Cherson.—Present issue, postman on horseback, in round centre, RURAL POSTAGE STAMP inscribed above, CHERSON DISTRICT below, and 10 KOP. on each side; numeral in each corner. Col. imp., rect.

10 kop. red.

Elizavetgrad.—Archway in centre, with shield between columns; spread eagle in upper half, and star in lower, surrounded by round frame with inscription RURAL POSTAGE STAMP, book standing on edge below (all the above between columns); sheaf of corn, with scythe and quill pen entwined on each side of archway, 5 KOP. inscribed on each column; the whole enclosed by round frame, with inscription ELIZAVETGRAD DISTRICT RURAL POSTAGE STAMP. Col. imp., rect.

5 kop. mauve.

EKATERINOSLAW GOVERNMENT.

Pavlograd.—Arms in centre; star above, and numeral and value below arms; inscription in surrounding oval frame; roman figure of value in angles of outer octagonal frame of crossed waved lines.

Rostoff-on-Don.—Value and inscription in oval central frame, on white ground; outer frame of vertical lines; figure of value in angles. Col. imp., rect.

5 kop. blue on white.

KAZAN GOVERNMENT.

Kazan.—Hand-stamp struck on flap of envelope; inscription PREPAID ENVELOPE OF KAZAN VILLAGE POST. Col. imp., oval. No value mentioned.

6 kop. blue.

KOURSK GOVERNMENT.

Dmitrieff.—Imperial eagle in centre; inscription in surrounding circular frame. Black imp., rect. Inscription DMITRIEFF RURAL COURT, 3 KOP.

3 kop. white.

Fatejh.—Hand-stamp struck on flap of envelope. Arms in centre; inscription in surrounding oval frame. Col. imp., oval. Inscription FATEJH DISTRICT RURAL POST; no value.

Blue 4 kop., for letters going to post towns.
6 kop. red, „ in district.

MOSCOW GOVERNMENT.

Bogorodsk.—Description already given. 3 varieties.

1 kop. red on white.
5 „ blue „
10 „ red „

Bronnitzi.—Numeral and value in oval, with ground of vertical lines; inscription in outer oval frame; figure of value in each angle. Col. imp., rect. Inscription, RURAL POST OF BRONNITZI DISTRICT.

5 kop. red on white.

Kolomna.—Arms in centre; inscription in surrounding oval frame; figure of value in each angle. Col. imp., rect., perf. Inscription VILLAGE POST OF KOLOMNA DISTRICT.

5 kop red on white.

Podolsk.—Arms in oval vertical lines; inscription in outer oval frame; figure of value in each angle. Col. imp, rect., perf. Inscription RURAL POST OF PODOLSK DISTRICT.

5 kop. green on white.

NIJNI NOVGOROD GOVERNMENT.

Vasilsk, or Vasilkursk.—Embossed hand-stamp. White imp., circ. Inscription, VASILSK RURAL POST.

5 kop.

NOVGOROD GOVERNMENT.

Belozersk.—Description already given.

2 kop. rect. black.

Borovitchi.—Description already given.

5 kop. red-brown.

Cherepovetz.—Known for some time to collectors, and described in the January number of *The Stamp-Collector's Magazine* for 1870, as the Usrusskajo stamp; the inscription is in Slavonic characters, and reads, CHEREPOVSKAYA RURAL POST. The colour is *light* blue on white paper, not *dark* as mentioned there.

3 kop. light blue.

Kiriloff.—Inscription on dotted ground, FOR ENVELOPES 1 LOTH 2 KOP, surrounded by circular frame; also with inscription, KIRILOFF DISTRICT COURT; ornaments in each angle. Black imp., rect.

2 kop. brown.

N.B.—One loth is about equal to half an ounce.

Novgorod.—Arms in centre, under imperial crown, with inscription in surrounding oval frame, RURAL VILLAGE POST; outer frame rect., of vertical lines; above this inscription, NOVGOROD; below, DISTRICT. Black imp., rect.

5 kop. rose-pink.

Tichvin.—Inscription in oblong frame; no value mentioned. Col. imp., obl.

5 kop. red.

Valdai.—Centre divided into two halves; left half, imperial crown on ground of ermine-like dots; right half, a mountain with peak; inscription in surrounding rectangular frame; figure of value in each angle of frame. Black imp., rect. Inscription, VALDAI DISTRICT RURAL COURT.

2 kop. pink.

OREL GOVERNMENT.

Livni.—Numeral of value in centre, with two stars, one below and one above; inscription in circular frame, LIVNI RURAL POST. Col. imp., circ.

3 kop., red.

Maloarchangelsk.—Arms in centre, with inscription in circle, round about, MALOARCHANGELSK DISTRICT RURAL COURT. Black imp., circ.; no value mentioned.

5 kop. white.

POLTAVA GOVERNMENT.

Peerjatin.—Numeral and value in centre; inscription in circular frame. Col. imp., rect. Inscription, PEERJATIN RURAL VILLAGE POST STAMP.

3 kop. scarlet.

Perejaslav.—Stamp similar to that of Peerjatin.

3 kop. yellow.

PSKOF GOVERNMENT.

Toropetz.—Hand-stamp on envelope; arms with inscription in rectangular form, round about, TOROPETZ VILLAGE POST [6 and 11 kop., according to distance]; no value printed on stamp.

RIASAN GOVERNMENT.

Egorieff.—Similar to that of Riasin.

3 kop. blue

3 kop. black.

Riasin.—Description already known; 2 varieties.

2 kop. blue

2 ,, black.

Sapojok.—Arms in centre, with crown above; surrounded by rectangular frame, with inscription, SAPOJOK RURAL POST; numeral in each angle. Black imp., rect.

5 kop. white.

Skopin.—Arms in centre, with crown above; surrounded by inscription in form of horse-shoe, numeral and value below; figure of value in each angle. Col. imp, rect. Inscription, SKOPIN RURAL POST.

3 k. blue.

ST. PETERSBURG GOVERNMENT.

Louga.—Description already given.

2 kop. blue.

SARATOFF GOVERNMENT.

Atkar.—Arms in centre, with crown above, in rectangular frame; no inscription or value mentioned. Black imp., rect.

2 kop. white.

Saratoff.—Sheaf of corn in centre, and year of issue (1869) below; surrounded by inscription in oval circle, with arms above and number of stamp below; figure of value in each angle. Col. imp., rect.

5 kop. blue.

TAMBOFF GOVERNMENT.

Tamboff.—Arms; bee-hive, and bees flying round about, in centre, surrounded by oval frame, with inscription; numeral in each angle; TAMBOFF DISTRICT RURAL COURT, PRICE 3 K. Black imp., rect.

3 kop. white.

Schatz.—Bee-hive, with bees, in upper part of centre shield, and sheaves of corn; inscription in form of horse-shoe, round about, SCHATZ DISTRICT RURAL COURT STAMP, PRICE 3 K.; the whole enclosed in rectangular frame. Black imp., rect.

3 kop. white.

TAURIDA GOVERNMENT.

Berdiansk.—Description already given.

Dnieproff.—Centre inscription, FOR LETTERS, with numeral and value; outer frame with inscription RURAL STAMP OF DNIEPROFF DISTRICT. Black imp., obl.

5 kop. white.

Melitopol.—Imperial mantle and arms as on government stamps, with inscription MELITOPOL RURAL POST in oval frame on same; numeral and value below; FOR LETTERS inscribed above; figures of value in two lower angles. Col. imp., rect.

3 kop. red.

TCHERNIGOFF GOVERNMENT.

Koseletz.—Figure of value in centre, with inscription POSTAGE STAMP above, and KOSELETZ RURAL POST below, enclosed in rectangular frame. Inscription and frame bronze on white ground.

TULA GOVERNMENT.

Kropeevna.—Arms in centre; shield with crown above; inscription round about in form of horse-shoe, KROPEEVNA RURAL POST, THREE KOP.; numeral in each angle. Col. imp., rect.

3 k. blue

Tchern.—Arms in centre shield; two sheaves of corn, with crown above, surrounded by rectangular inscription, TCHERN RURAL POST, 3 K. Col. imp., rect.

3 kop. blue.

TVER GOVERNMENT.

Rjeff.—Arms in centre; crown on stool or cushion in upper half, rampant lion in lower, enclosed by rectangular frame, with inscription, RJEFF RURAL POST 2 K.; lower side of frame made in form of buckle. Black imp., rect.

2 kop., centre red, remainder white.

Tver.—Description already given.

2 kop. blue and rose.

VIATKA GOVERNMENT.

Kotelnitch.—Numeral and value in centre; inscription in surrounding circular frame; and figure of value in angles. Black imp., rect. Inscription, POSTAGE STAMP OF KOTELNITCH RURAL COURT.

3 kop. blue, for letters in district.

3 ,, yellow, ,, to other districts or governments.

Nolinsk.—Numeral and value in centre of circle; inscription in outer oval frame; figure of value in each angle. Col. imp., obl. Inscription, POSTAGE STAMP OF NOLINSK RURAL COURT.

2 kop. green.

VORONESH GOVERNMENT.

Boguchar.—Hand-stamp, black imp., oblong. Inscription, FOR BOGUCHAR DISTRICT.

5 kop. white.

From this list it will be seen that the local postage is established in forty-seven towns or districts, which are spread through twenty-one "governments," or departments; and fifty-one stamps, of which three are envelope, have been issued. These stamps, ornamented as most of them are with the arms of the issuing province, show great variety of design; few indeed are very artistically executed, but all are of the highest degree of interest to the collector, and are of no inconsiderable value to the historian. It is a significant proof of the vastness and, we might say, the unwieldiness of the

Russian empire, that the imperial postal service proper is insufficient for the extent of ground it has to work over, and therefore requires to be supplemented by a series of auxiliary offices, in order that its benefits may be made available to the dwellers in the truly "rural" districts. It is also marked evidence of a progressive spirit on the part of the Russian administration, that the supplementary service should have been authorised, as it must tend eventually to enlighten and bring into connection with the great towns the ignorant inhabitants of the far-removed villages; but it is worth noticing, on the other hand, that the initiative in the matter is not due to any paternal watchfulness on the part of the central government. The first stamps were issued by certain local tribunals "to meet a want long felt," without any preliminary sanction being required from the higher authorities, and these latter, in afterwards legalising them, only did so after their utility had been tried and proved.

Originally regarded with doubt and distrust by many leading philatelists, especially on the Continent, they are now universally accepted as being what they profess to be. In our last volume (p. 171), we published a translation of an article in *The St. Petersburg Official Gazette*, sent us by the same able and industrious correspondent to whom we are indebted for the foregoing list, wherein are given the regulations established in respect of these local posts. In the last number of *Le Timbre-Poste* the imperial decree containing these regulations is published at length, and its date given as the 3rd September, 1870. That so few of the stamps come over is far from astonishing, as the greater part are used in remote districts, and never get beyond the chief town of the government. The Louga stamp, issued in the St. Petersburg province, has at once become common, because it has been easy to get, its local habitation being but a comparatively short distance from the seat of government, and the 2 kop. Tver has likewise ceased to be rare from a similar cause. In course of time the others will no doubt get cheaper and more easily obtainable, and the pages they will fill, if not adorn, will be amongst the most interesting in our albums.

ON SOME RECENT CHANGES IN THE SPANISH POSTAL REGULATIONS.

BY SENOR M. P. DE FIGUEROA.

In this country one moves on slowly, still one moves. On the 17th March last, a new tariff was issued, whereby the following objects may be cheaply transmitted through the post:—

1.—Commercial papers	10 grammes for 3 cent de peseta
2.—Tracings	10 ,, ,, 3 ,,
3.—Blank paper sent for the purpose of showing its watermarks	10 grammes for 3 cent de peseta
4.—Printed announcements of births, marriages, or deaths	10 grammes for 1 cent de peseta
5.—Printer's proofs	10 ,, ,, 1 ,,
6.—Visiting cards	10 ,, ,, 6 ,,
7.—Photographic portraits	10 ,, ,, 6 ,,
8.—Medicines in powder, grain, or hard paste	10 grammes for 12 cent de peseta

These articles should be sent under bands, or in such way as to give facility for the examination of their contents by the postal *employés*.

The privileges thus conferred are at present limited to the mother-country, and do not extend to her colonies. Their author is one of the ablest and most competent officials of the general post office at Madrid—Senor Emile C. de Navasqües. The postmaster general, Senor Victor Balaguer, and the Minister of the interior, Mr. Sagasta, have been good enough to approve of these excellent reforms. Not a word, however, is said in the tariff respecting the prepayment of used or unused stamps. It is true that there are in Madrid several dealers in obsolete and current stamps, both Spanish and foreign, who trade openly; that philately is discussed in special and in ordinary journals; that timbrophily has, in fact, sprung up in the country of the hidalgos; but, notwithstanding, there exist two laws (see *The Stamp-Collector's Magazine*, July, 1870, p. 111), which forbid trafficking in postage stamps, and, hence, as a logical sequence, the government discreetly keeps silence, on its new tariff, respecting the forwarding of these stamps.

The "too-late" English, or the French "*après le départ*," hand-stamps till recently had no equivalent in Spain, but the system of thus indicating the time of posting

has just been introduced, and annexed is the fac-simile of the stamp employed. The translation of the words is, "After the departure." The first time that I observed it on the envelopes of letters and newspaper wrappers, was the 23rd March last.

DESPUES DE LA SALIDA

A RESUSCITATED UNITED STATES LOCAL.

Mr. W. P. Brown, of New York, has discovered what has every appearance of being a *bona-fide* American local, issued during the year 1845 by the postmaster of New Haven, Connecticut, Mr. E. A. Mitchell, before the emission of the government series, and for the convenience of persons who wished to post their letters after the office was closed—a thing which before adhesive stamps were issued could not be done, as the postage had to be paid in cash across the post-office counter. The stamp in question was impressed on white envelopes, and consisted of a very simple design, if design it might be called. Within a large rectangle, with notched corners, were the following words:

POST OFFICE,
NEW HAVEN, CT.
5
PAID.
E. A. Mitchell, P.M.

The signature was written by the postmaster before issuing. The stamp itself was printed in red.

Dr. Petrie, having hunted up and written to the postmaster for information respecting it, received the following obliging reply, which, together with the preceding information, we extract from the current number of *The American Journal of Philately.*

New Haven, Ct., Mar. 15, 1871.

J. A. Petrie, Esq., M.D.
Dear Sir,

Yours of the 6th and 13th are at hand. Being extensively engaged in business, I have but little spare time to devote to the postage-stamp matter. My object in getting up this stamp was simply to accommodate the public, as I charged no profit. The postage was uniform, 5 c., for all distances, and weight I think half an ounce—same as at present, but prepaid.

As no letters could be paid after business hours or Sundays, these were convenient for that purpose as well as others.

Many brought their own envelopes, and I only charged 5 cents for the postage.

The business of the office was so limited, that, to prevent objection by the P. O. Department, or forgery, I signed each one.

The stamp (or die) is a small hand-stamp, and was made by F. P. Gorham, then the principal engraver of New Haven, but now deceased. I considered the whole matter at the time of so little importance, that many minor facts in the case are entirely gone from my mind. I think all were printed on white envelopes, stamped in red ink and signed in blue ink. Red ink (vermilion) was used as the office ink in stamping the letters, and I think that must have been the colour.

It is possible that buff envelopes were used for a few, but probably not.

I have no way of knowing how many were printed, or when commenced and ended, as all my papers and accounts of current business of the office are destroyed. The number was small, and probably not over 2000 all together. They being done by hand, and with no motive of profit, they were not generally offered for sale. I was appointed postmaster, Sept. 12th, 1844, and was succeeded by John B. Robertson in 1852.

I cannot state the cost of the plate.

The plate or stamp is a single short hand-stamp. The stamp is of brass. There was only one denomination, that being 5 c. The impression was always on envelopes. I had not thought of the stamp since leaving the post-office, until I received a letter from Mr. Brown, and after hunting up the stamp, I printed a few myself and sent him, writing on them, "cancelled." Thinking, possibly, there might be some objection by the P. O. Department to my striking off impressions, I enclosed a copy to the Post Master General, giving a short history of it, and asking if there would be any objection to my furnishing some to friends and stamp collectors. Unlike his predecessors, C. A. Wickliffe, Cave Johnson, and Mr. Collamer, under whom I served, who always required any respectful letter to be answered, he has not given me a reply.

So far I have not had over twenty impressions issued. If I had any on hand when I left the office they were destroyed, as stamps came into use in the latter part of my term. I have had three applications for the die, and am offered as high as one hundred dollars for it. Parties also want a stereotype plate made, and others want 1000 of the impressions.

As the original purpose was not to make money, I shall *positively refuse* to sell any impressions, or dispose of the stamp.

As the stamp seems to possess a certain kind of value quite unanticipated by me, I have decided to place it in the possession of the New Haven Colonial Historical Society.

I shall in a few days have a pad ready, so that I can print a few perfect impressions, when I will send you a few more.

I have not as yet heard of any of the old envelopes coming to light. As all originals had my own signature, of course I cannot furnish lots to dealers, even if I wished.

I am yours,
E. A. Mitchell.

ON THE 12 CUARTOS SPANISH OF THE 1857 TYPE.

(*Translated from "El Averiguador" of 1st May.*)

BEFORE examining whether this postage stamp was ever current, it will be as well to refer to the issues of 1855, '56, and '57, as this value was not printed till 1859.

The postal administration, in a circular dated 28th December, 1855, gave notice to the post offices in the country that the stock of postage stamps on blue paper was very short in the royal factory, and that having no paper of the same class, the stamps would in future be printed on white paper. This notice was circulated in order that the officials might recognise and accept the white paper stamps as genuine, provided they possessed all the other requisite conditions. This paper was watermarked with lines forming a kind of square.

In April, 1856, by another circular, the general post-office gave notice that the supply of stamps printed on this watermarked paper being nearly exhausted, the series would thenceforth be printed on plain paper; and all those possessing the other prescribed signs, whereby the genuine might be distinguished from the forged, printed on unwatermarked paper, might be accepted. In this circular instructions are given for the detection of forgeries; and it is a singular thing that they did not change this type, as they had previously done every year.

Of the issue begun in 1855 there were only four values, viz.:—

2 cuartos green
4 „ rose to carmine
1 real blue and blue-green
2 „ violet, of different shades;

and the issue of these values, on plain paper, continued until the 31st January, 1860.

The 12 cuartos stamps of the earlier issues had served only to prepay letters of double weight, 6 cuartos being the rate for single-weight letters. In 1854 the rate was reduced to 4 cuartos; the 12 c. stamp was then, as a matter of course, withdrawn, and throughout the period of the currency of the 1855 type the absence of this value had not been felt.

A treaty with France was, however, signed on the 5th August, 1859, in which it was agreed that 12 cuartos should be the rate for all letters from Spain to France, weighing 4 *adarmes*, or quarter of an ounce; and the regulations for the service between the two countries, together with the date when they should come into force were thereby settled. By a decree signed the 25th November, 1859, notice was given that the said treaty would come into operation from the 1st of February, 1860.

It is but natural to suppose, that on or about the time when the treaty was signed, the order was given for the printing of a stock of the 12 cuartos stamps, necessary to frank letters to France, and nothing was said about changing the type. Doubtless it was intended to maintain the existing series at the time, and thus it happened that a supply was then and there printed of the current design.

After this, either because forgeries became more frequent, or in consequence of a wish to revert to the rule which was in practice till 1854, of issuing new postage stamps every year, it was decided to create a new series; and in a circular of the 17th January, 1860, the general post-office gave notice that it had resolved on changing the type of the stamps used for franking and registering letters.

On the 13th of the same month the department issued another notice to all the governors of provinces, stating that the new postage stamps would be of the value of 2, 4, and 12 cuartos, 1 and 2 reales; that their employment would commence on the 1st of February; and that during the first fifteen days following, and until the old designs were exchanged for the new, the public might use both indiscriminately.

It results from the foregoing that the 12 cuartos stamp of the 1857 type was assuredly never in circulation; as the only time it could have been circulated would have been during the first fifteen days of February; and this only supposing it had been in circulation before, which in fact it never was.

[*Vide* Article, "Two Spanish Stamps," in *The Stamp-Collector's Magazine*, vol. vii., p. 180. The conjectures therein advanced are now fully borne out.—ED.]

SUCCESS OF THE HALFPENNY POSTAGE RATE.

Nearly nine months' experience of the halfpenny postage does not appear to have belied the anticipations respecting it. There are no such signs of serious diminution of postal revenue as had been predicted—although a loss of £50,000 was caused by the abolition of the newspaper stamp—whilst the development of the postal service has only been in proportion to public requirements. It is clear that post-office administrators were prepared for a large addition of work. In the first six months of the new rates, upwards of 58,000,000 post cards and about 110,000,000 halfpenny labels and stamped wrappers were issued. In one direction, however, the anticipations of the authorities appear not to have been verified by results. The quantity of paper sent in by the public to receive the impressed stamp appears to have fallen short of the estimate, the number of stamps impressed being only in the proportion of 10 per cent. to the wrappers supplied at Somerset House. The six months' issue of the halfpenny postage was as follows:—

	Number.	Duty.
½d. postage labels	77,215,680	£160,866
½d. post cards	58,485,960	121,845
½d. wrappers	33,048,420	68,850
Total,	168,750,060	£351,561

Thus it would appear that the consumption of halfpenny stamps of all denominations has in round numbers amounted to six and a half millions per week, or nearly a million a day. Who shall say that the advocates of halfpenny postage do not now stand justified?—*Globe.*

THE PONY EXPRESS.

AN EXTRACT FROM "MARK TWAIN."

In a little while all interest was taken up in stretching our necks and watching for the "pony rider," the fleet messenger who sped across the continent, from St. Joe to Sacramento, carrying letters nineteen hundred miles in eight days! Think of that for perishable horse and human flesh and blood to do! The pony rider was usually a little bit of a fellow, brimful of spirit and endurance. No matter what time of night his watch came on, and no matter whether it was winter or summer, raining, snowing, hailing or sleeting, or whether his "beat" was a level, straight road or a crazy trail over mountain crags and precipices, or whether it led through peaceful regions, or regions that swarmed with hostile Indians, he was always ready to leap into the saddle and be off like the wind.

There was no idling for a pony rider on duty. He rode forty miles without stopping, by daylight, moonlight, starlight, or through the blackness of darkness, just as it happened. He rode a splendid horse, that was born for a racer, and fed and lodged like a gentleman, kept him at his utmost speed for ten miles, and then, as he came crashing up to a station, where stood two men holding a fresh, impatient steed, the transfer of rider and mail bag was made in the twinkling of an eye, and away flew the eager pair, and were out of sight before the spectator could get hardly the ghost of a look. Both rider and horse went "flying light."

The rider's dress was thin and fitted close; he wore a "round about" and "skull cap," and tucked his pantaloons into his boot-tops, like a race rider. He carried no arms—he carried nothing that was not absolutely necessary, for even his postage on his literary freight was worth two dollars an ounce. He got but little frivolous correspondence to carry; his bag had business letters in it mostly. His horse was stripped of all unnecessary weight too. He wore a little wafer of a racing-saddle, and no visible blanket. He wore light shoes, or none at all. The little flat mail pockets strapped under the rider's thighs, would hold about the bulk of a child's primer.

They held many and many an important business chapter and newspaper letter, but these were written on paper as airy and thin as gold-leaf nearly, and thus bulk and weight were economized. The stage coach travelled about a hundred to a hundred and twenty-five miles a day (twenty-four hours); the pony rider two hundred and fifty. There were about eighty pony riders in saddle all the time, night and day, stretching in a long scattering procession from Missouri to Cali-

fornia—forty flying eastward and forty toward the west, and among them making four hundred gallant horses earn a stirring livelihood, and see a great deal of scenery every single day in the year.

We had a consuming desire from the beginning to see a pony rider, but somehow or other, all that passed us, and all that met us, managed to streak by in the night, and so we heard only a whiz and a hail, and the swift phantom of the desert was gone before we could get our heads out of the windows. But now we were expecting one along every moment, and would see him in broad daylight.

Presently the driver exclaims,

"Here he comes!"

Every neck is strained further, and every eye wider. Away across the endless dead level of the prairie, a black speck appears against the sky, and it is plain that it moves. Well, I should think so! In a second or so it becomes a horse and rider, rising and falling—sweeping towards us nearer and nearer—growing more and more distinct, more and more sharply defined—nearer and nearer, and the flutter of the hoofs comes faintly to the ear—another instant, a whoop and a hurrah from our upper deck, a wave of the rider's hand, but no reply, and man and horse burst past our excited faces, and go winging away like a belated fragment of a storm.

So sudden is it all, and so like a flash of unreal fancy, that but for the flake of white foam left quivering and perishing on a mail sack, after the vision had flashed by and disappeared, we might have doubted whether we had seen any actual horse and man at all, may be.

INVERTED WATERMARKS.

BY THE REV. ROBERT B. EARÉE, BIRMINGHAM.

THERE has been a good deal of opposition manifested, until lately, to the growing desire for the possession of stamps with abnormal watermarks; but now, "philosophical philatelists" seem to have very generally accepted the said stamps as fit and proper objects for collection. In the term "abnormal watermarks," I include all those which are the result of accident or necessity (such as the Victorias, with figures or words of a different value from that on the *face* of the stamp); but, as these have been, or will be, catalogued by men knowing a hundred times more than I do about philately, I intend to offer to your readers a list of inverted watermarks alone, and of those only such as have been, or are in my own possession. But let me offer, first of all, a few remarks in favour of the collection of inverted watermarks. We collect the 1855 Italians, with *inverted head* (by the way, I have never seen them postmarked); we accept—when we can get it—the United States 1869-70 15 cents, with reversed vignette, &c., &c.; and these are no more, or rather, no less, authentic than the once despised inverted watermarks; therefore, it seems to me, that if the first are deemed worthy of a place in our albums, the others should not "be left out in the cold,"—the cold of indifference and contempt. I have stated my reasons as shortly as possible, in order to avoid encroaching too much upon your space, and I will now proceed to my small list.

Chili (second issue), five cents vermilion, inverted "5."
Great Britain (1855). Sixpence lilac embossed, inv. "v.r."
,, (1864). One penny red, inv. "*crown*"
,, (1870). Halfpenny red, inv. "*halfpenny.*"
India (1865). Two annas yellow, inv. *elephant's head.*
Jamaica (1863)? Threepence green, inv. *pineapple.*
New South Wales (1854). Sixpence cinnamon, inv. "6."
,, (1854). One shilling dark rose, inv. "12."
,, (1856). Threepence bluish green, inv. "3."
,, (1862). Twopence light blue, inv. "2."
,, (1864). One penny red, inv. "1."
Straits Settlements (1867). Eight cents green on orange, inv. *elephant's head.*
Tasmania (1862). Twopence green, inv. "2."
,, (1862). Fourpence blue, inv. "4."
Victoria (1862). One penny green, inv. "1."

I am aware that this list will be thought a very meagre one, but, so far as it goes, it may be relied upon; and I doubt not that when the attention of painstaking philatelists has once been directed to this part of our science, we shall soon have very much more extended catalogues. All the stamps described are in my own possession, with the exception of the English penny, with inverted crown, and that I have seen and examined.

NEWLY-ISSUED OR INEDITED STAMPS.

VICTORIA.—Another stamp may now be added to the list—already too long—of so-called "provisional" stamps, which often linger long enough to acquire the right to be considered as fixtures. This latest arrival is the current tenpenny of Victoria, transformed into a ninepence. The change is effected by surcharging the necessary word across the lower margin of the stamp, and by obliterating, with the figure 9, the numeral which has hitherto done duty on each side of the oval as an indication of the value. The added inscription and figures are in deep blue ink; the colour of the stamp itself is unchanged. Our copy bears the old watermark—the figures 10.

BOLIVIA.—A correspondent, writing from Falmouth, sends us, in communication, three commercial stamps, which paid the postage on a letter he recently received. He adds, "I have received several of them regularly postmarked; in fact, two or three firms in this town, having correspondents in that country, inform me that they have received no other stamps on their Bolivian letters for the past two months." With the example of the Peruvian series, issued under the dictature before us, we are inclined to argue that the recent disturbances in Bolivia may be in some manner the cause of the adoption of the commercial series into the ranks of the great army of postage stamps. The stock of postage stamps proper may have run short in some particular towns, and the state of the country may have prevented the procuring of fresh supplies. These are but conjectures, it is true; but it may be in the power of the obliging correspondent who, by the intelligence he sends us, has occasioned them, to ascertain how far they are founded.

The fiscal stamps—which have been pressed into duty for the prepayment of letters—are very handsomely designed. They are of the same size as the postals, are perforated, and bear in the centre of an oval, inscribed TRANSACCIONES SOCIALES BOLIVIA, the full-length figure of Justice holding the scales; the value is indicated by numerals, on variously disposed labels, at the four angles, and by the word CENTAVOS, which runs along the lower margin. The values we have received are the 10 c. green, and 5 c. black. The engraving of these stamps is evidently the work of one of the New York companies.

HUNGARY.—The post card represented in our last number turns out to have been but the forerunner of a series of adhesives and envelopes for the kingdom. The type, which we annex, is identical with that used for the cards. The values and colours, for both envelopes and adhesives, we understand, are to be the same as those of the Austrian series, and the stamps will be issued, value after value, as the existing stock is used up. The only one at present in use is the 5 kr., reddish rose, which has been seen obliterated. It is not a very brilliant nor artistic design, but perhaps the entire series may have a good effect.



In addition to these adhesives there is also a newspaper stamp of a different design—a stamp like the current Austrian Mercury, without inscription or indication of value. The design consists of the Hungarian crown (we *believe*, but borrowing a phrase from the Tichborne case, "it would not surprise us" to learn it is some other crown), and below it is a post-horn; the whole in an uncoloured circle. The rectangle is completed by a slightly ornamented marginal frame, and lined spandrels. It is printed in red, and the execution is very poor.

FRANCE.—The half sheet of 150 of the 20 c., head of Liberty, perforated, contains no fewer than three reversed stamps. The following are their positions:—

10th row down, 2nd stamp from left.
11th ,, ,, right-hand stamp.
Last ,, ,, 3rd stamp from right.

These errors no doubt occurred in making up the plate for the new emission. The unperforated stamps are now getting scarcer, the 10 and 20 c. being the only ones which are at all freely used. In many places the laureated one-centime of the empire has been brought back into currency. M. Moens notices a 40 c. imperforate very pale yellow.

He also has been informed, by one of his correspondents, that proofs exist in Paris of the head of Liberty (engraved) stamps, on which the inscription COMMUNE DE PARIS has taken the place of the old REPUB. FRANC. It is not at all unlikely that the Commune intended issuing stamps, seeing that at one period of the siege its officers entered the tobacco shops, and pounced on all the stamps they could find, the stock at the post-offices being even then so short.

RUSSIA.—*Novgorod.*—We give an engraving of a new stamp for the district of Novgorod. It has been kindly forwarded by the correspondent who furnishes the list of Russian locals, which it is our good fortune to be able to give our readers in the present number. It represents the value of 5 kopec, and is printed black on rose.



LIVONIA.—The once-doubted stamp, bearing a griffin in oval, has at length given place to the stamp herewith represented, which may be described as the same design, *without* the griffin in oval, in this particular greatly resembling the first rectangular stamp issued. Like its predecessor, it has the centre green and the frame red, or carmine.



PORTUGAL.—Of the new issue there are now in existence the

5 reis black
10 „ yellow
20 „ bistre
50 „ green
100 „ pale lilac

AZORES.—The new series for the mother-country is at present represented in these islands by four values—

5 reis black, surcharge red
10 „ yellow, „ black
25 „ rose, „ „
50 „ green, „ „

JAMAICA.—Specimens of the threepence pale green, and sixpence mauve, have appeared, according to our Belgian contemporary, with CC and crown watermark, instead of the old familiar pine-apple.

TASMANIA.—Two more values of the new type have been issued, the

Threepence, reddish brown
Five shillings, bright violet.

These are watermarked with the letters TAS running diagonally from left to right.

SWITZERLAND.—Newspaper wrappers bearing impressed stamps have just been issued for the Helvetic republic; only two values are as yet in circulation, viz.—

2 centimes rose.
5 „ „

but others will be issued if the public are found to appreciate the system. The paper makers and stationers have no cause of complaint, inasmuch as these bands are issued at prices above their facial value, according to their size, to cover the cost of paper. The design is formed of the figure of value, with a cross above, and CENTIMES on a label below, surrounded by wreath.



NEWFOUNDLAND.—The handsome one-cent adhesive has been superseded by another stamp formed from it and almost identical in design, coloured a kind of brownish violet. The portrait is *probably* the same, but the background has certainly been re-made, and the pointed oval frame has also been re-cut. The inscriptions and, notably, the letters N. F. are smaller, and there are differences in the disposition of the foliage easily observable on comparison.

SPAIN.—The new series of stamps may be expected to see the light very shortly; and according to our Spanish contemporary, *El Averiguador*, the first values to appear will be the 6, 10, 12, 25, 40, and 50 centimos de peseta. The colours are not yet known, but it is certain the stamps will bear the king's portrait, the face turned slightly towards the left. The 1, 4, and 10 peseta will be from a different die from the others, and the 1, 2, and 5 centimos de peseta alone will bear a numeral; of these latter only the lowest value will appear on 1st July, and even that may be delayed.

The Averiguador, criticising the description

given of the forthcoming issue in *Le Timbre-Poste* (and quoted by us), says there is no doubt that the editor of the Belgian paper has seen proofs of a rejected design, and has been deceived by his correspondent into believing them to be of the adopted type. The Spanish paper, however, believes that M. Moens, whilst acknowledging, will not regret his error, on learning that the accepted design is even finer than the one of which he has spoken so highly.

CANADA.—The first of our possessions to follow our example in issuing post cards is the dominion of Canada. The dominion has had the design executed by the Montreal Bank Note Company, and the cards are now in circulation. They are rather smaller than our own, and the device, though very finely engraved, has a somewhat heavy appearance. There is, first, a broad exterior engine-patterned border; in the right-hand corner is the impressed stamp, which has the Queen's profile, as on the *first* series of the dominion adhesives, but in a kind of indented scroll frame; and below the portrait, in a straight line, are the words ONE CENT. Across the upper part of the card, in two lines, runs the inscription—

CANADA POST CARD.

THE ADDRESS ONLY TO BE WRITTEN ON THIS SIDE.

To _____

The whole is in blue ink, on pale buff card.

FIJI ISLANDS.—*The Philatelist* contains the following:—

"Mr. Pemberton possesses, on dice-pattern watermarked paper, black on pale pink, two additional values to those previously described; making the complete set of penny, twopence, sixpence, and shilling, all pin-pricked on a coloured line."

"KOORSHEDJAH."—Our Brighton contemporary also contains the following correction of a somewhat curious error:

"In our article on the advantages of philatelic study, entitled "Paper Medals," which will be found in the first volume of this magazine, we instanced its necessitating attention to geography, among other requirements, and referred to the mystery once existing with regard to the Bergedorf and Thurn and Taxis stamps, in the early stages of what was then called timbromania. The impressions known under the above name, were first described and figured in our fourth volume; and we own ourselves (and believe an overwhelming majority of collectors fell into the same error) that we concluded the outlandish looking individuals in question, took their cognomen from some district, city, or province of Hindostan. Wishing to get some inkling of the situation, &c., of the same, we hunted over all the gazetteers, atlases, and geographies we could find in the reading-room of the British Museum, but in vain. At length, on applying where we ought to have gone at first, viz., to the party whence we received some, the astounding information came, that the name was not derived from a place, but from a man! They represent the signature of His Highness The Nawab Koorshed Jah Bahadoor, Hydrabad, Deccan; and consequently, though not strictly speaking, postals, must be classed with the other Deccan stamps."

SOUTH AUSTRALIA.—The two-shilling stamp now comes over of a rich carmine-lake tint.

NOTES ON THE UNITED STATES LOCALS.

BY W. DUDLEY ATLEE.

I.

I FEEL great diffidence in commencing a series of papers on this (to me) most intricate of all philatelic subjects; and must, at the very outset of my undertaking, ask the indulgence of my readers for any shortcomings of which I may be guilty.

For several months past I have been groping my way through a perfect labyrinth of facts and fiction, and am still far—very far—from out of the maze. I have had many valuable suggestions from numerous correspondents, but although the said suggestions were everything that could be desired in theory, when they had to be put into practice, the result was not nearly so satisfactory.

One friend argued, that as the stamps were local, they ought to be classified by localities. This I entirely agree with, were such a proposition feasible; but I regret

to say it is not. As I cannot adopt this system of arrangement, or even assign to every local its correct place of nativity, I am constrained to abandon all idea of making at this time (and I fear at any other) a complete history of the United States locals. I have therefore decided to publish the result of my researches under the more modest guise of *Notes*.

I intend not only to describe the genuine emissions, but any forgeries, or "bogus" productions that may come under my notice; and I may here repeat, that I shall always be happy to receive any information or suggestions that my brother philatelists may be pleased to favour me with.

American locals have been so often abused, that I think a few words should be penned in their defence. I know several amateurs who have discarded these stamps "because they are so endless," or for the reason that "they are so difficult to understand." To me, in this last objection lies their greatest charm; the more complicated a subject is, the more I like to study it; and I should say this ought to be the feeling of everyone who takes a really sincere interest in the science.

There are weeds in every garden, but that is no reason why we should refuse to plant flowers. If we can only manage to root out the weeds, surely the flowers will be worth retaining. Ever since the birth of philately, there has been far too much apathy upon the subject of United States locals; for had each variety, upon its appearance, been traced to its source, we should long ere this have had fuller particulars as to which were genuine and which impositions.

Leaving the Californians out of the question, I think we shall find that more than two-thirds of the chronicled locals have emanated from the teeming brains of unprincipled dealers, or—in the case of fancy colours—of speculative proprietors. If we can only manage to separate the tares from the wheat, we shall find the show of really good locals a most presentable and interesting one.

The issue of locals was caused in the first place by the mismanagement of the posts by the government, who not only charged very high prices for the carriage of mail matter, but were far from accommodating in their system of delivering the same. The earliest stamp was the well-known vignette with the courier crossing over buildings, issued by D. O. Blood & Co., for use in Philadelphia only. This was brought out in 1843, and in the succeeding year Messrs. Blood's example was followed by Hale & Co., of Boston, who carried between that city, Philadelphia, and New York. Brainard & Co., and W. Wyman, of the last-named city, also started private posts, and adopted stamps about the same time.

The establishment of these local posts spread so rapidly, that almost every city could boast of at least one, although all did not issue stamps.

I will now commence my notes by describing the various issues of

BOYD'S CITY EXPRESS POST.

This undertaking was established in 1846, by Mr. J. T. Boyd, of New York, for the delivery of letters and circulars within that city. The company is still in existence for the conveyance of printed matter, but the carriage of letters is now, of course, a carefully-guarded government monopoly.



No less than six types of the adhesive stamps have been engraved; all having the same design as a basis, but differing in minor details.

As no information can be obtained from the issuers, it is impossible to give to each die its date of emission; but I am quite certain that they were brought out in the order of their arrangement in the following list. There is no doubt that the earliest type was only in use a short time, as copies are not easily attainable. I have an envelope dated 1848, bearing a 2 cents of the first issue, postmarked with a "gridiron" cancellation. Upon the cover is struck an oblong oval handstamped impression in red, containing the name of the express; and in the centre an oblong frame with the date, May 25—2. This last figure probably re-

fers to the second delivery, or to the time of day. In the lower corner of the envelope is another red handstamp, reading PAID, with J.T.B. underneath. The cover under notice has been dated in full by the sender, so we may reasonably surmise that the first type had a run of two years at least.

The following catalogue has been compiled with the kind assistance of Mr. Bentham, to whom my sincere thanks are due.

The generic design of the several series may be described as :—

Within a double-lined upright oval an eagle, with expanded wings, surmounting a globe; the whole surrounded by an outer frame inscribed BOYD'S CITY EXPRESS POST; 1. (or 2) CENTS. All are imperforate.

TYPE I. (*a*)—Tail of eagle, long: extending to the utmost limit allowed by the frame. Head of the bird *regardant*. The right wing is raised, and the left droops; neither of them touch the border. The shading of the background is faint and fine. A small crack is apparent in the plate, extending from that portion of the border near to C of CITY, to the top of the right wing. Figure 2 is small, fine, and light, but imperfectly formed. No stop after CENTS.

2 cents black on green *glacé* paper.
2 „ dull gold on creamy white *glacé* paper.

(*b*) (Same plate retouched, and *not* improved). Both the wings *nearly* touch the border, the space between being scarcely discernible. The feathers on the eagle's throat are heavily marked, and the whole outline is heavily defined. The shading in the background is coarser and heavier than in (*a*). The crack in plate has disappeared. The figure 2 is strong, and perfectly formed. No stop after CENTS.

All the lettering in these two plates is alike.
2 cents black on green paper, slightly *glacé*.

(*c*) (Same plate, again touched up, and again further spoilt). Wings much the same as *b*, but heavier, and blotchy. The body covered with scratches, probably intended for feathers. The shading of the background is very heavy, and comparatively coarse. The base of the figure of value is longer than in the preceding plates. The lettering is degenerated, being thin and feeble. A small period after CENTS.

2 cents black on pale green (dull paper).
2 „ dull gold on creamy white (*glacé*).

II.—Breast of bird almost hairless; tail short (but wide), and cut straight off above the level of the globe. The loop of the 2 is rounded into the upstroke of the figure.

The S of CENTS being imperfectly scratched out of the 2 cents, to make that die serve for the 1 c., a portion of the letter is visible upon all stamps of the lower value.

2 cents black on green (*glacé* paper).
Var. 2 cents black on green (*glacé* paper) punched out oval.
1 cent black on green (*glacé* paper).

III.—This is apparently type II. renovated, and (according to the rule in these stamps) deteriorated. The expression of the "fowl" is languishing and absurd, and its tail is indefinite. The lettering is very heavy; figure 2 large and open.

2 cents black on coarse bluish green.
Var. 2 „ „ „ „ punched out oval.

IV.—Eagle, with small head and beak, and violent expression of countenance; tail short and thin; left wing pressed against the border.

2 cents black on vermilion.
1 cent black on lilac *glacé* paper.
The S in 1 c. removed as in II.

V.—*Regardant* eagle. A triple border. The head flat, and beak long and hooked; right wing suggestive of beckoning. The background is perfectly solid.

2 cents black on dull green.
2 „ red on white.
2 „ black on deep orange.
2 „ black on vermilion.
Var. 2 „ „ „ punched out in diamond form.

VI.—The oval frame narrower and more elongated. Eagle fronting, with general appearance of dancing a hornpipe. Lettering and drawing of bird very bad. A Roman figure I.

1 cent black on lavender *glacé* paper.
1 „ „ dark blue „ „

ENVELOPES.

TYPE 1.—Eagle, *regardant*, sitting on boughs and thunderbolts, circumscribed * BOYD'S CITY POST,* 39, FULTON ST., COR. OF PEARL. In oval frame; embossed (*see cut*).

Vermilion on white, yellow, and buff.
Dull red „ „ „
Mazarine blue „ „ „
Sky blue „ „ „

II.—Small eagle, *regardant*, circumscribed BOYD'S CITY DISPATCH, * 39, FULTON ST. *; in oval; the whole within a fancy frame; 2 C. in each corner.

(*a*) Eagle's left wing scoops *inwards* towards the body. The ornaments of three points upon each side of the frame are blotchy. The one on the left has a solid circular smudge at the end of the middle point, and a slight curl jutting out from the upper one; the middle of the right-hand ornament is long and thick at the point.

2 cents red on white.

(*b*) The left wing scoops *outwards*. The ornaments are plainly drawn, and not at all blotchy.

2 cents red on white, yellow, and buff.
2 „ lake „ „ „
2 „ violet-red „ „ „
2 „ chocolate „ „ „

I have postmarked copies before me of

every stamp mentioned in the above list, so there cannot be any question as to the genuineness of each and all of them.

Some few years since a friend of mine, then residing in New York, inquired at Boyd's office for their stamps; he obtained some of the 1 cent of the fifth type, and some vermilion 2 c. of the preceding die, with the addition of the latter value in gold on green, on blue, and on claret,—all of the fourth series. Now these stamp were certainly sold to frank through Boyd's post, but as I have never been able to come across a used copy of either of the golden-hued trio, I have thought it best to leave them unenumerated in my catalogue. Where locals are concerned, I think it particularly desirable to omit altogether when there is the *slightest* doubt.

It is worse than useless to turn to any published work (whether American or British) for information respecting Boyd's or (with a *very* few exceptions) any United States locals. In my endeavours to make one compiler coincide with another, I have tried every list, from Booty's downwards, and have only succeeded in getting my ideas so mixed up that I resolutely refuse to undertake the task of unravelling them.

Kline, of Philadelphia, agrees with Mount Brown, even to the extent of chronicling the sham 3 cents; but this is not very wonderful, if we remember Mr. Kline as the gentleman who looked upon plagiarism as only an economisation of his own labour. Abandoning *all* catalogues and so-called "guides" as absolutely worthless, we have nothing further to help us, except a short monograph by Mr. Scott, in *The American Journal of Philately;* this I will first transcribe, *verbatim*, and then comment upon.

Boyd's City Express Post 2 Cents in oval band, eagle on globe in centre large size, black impression on green glazed paper. This stamp was used in 1846. The stamp this description is taken from, is supposed unique.

1857-60.—Boyd's City Express Post, One Cent, eagle in oval; altered from same date two cent stamp. Black impression on green glazed paper.

1860-70.—Altered from same date two cent stamp; variety reading 1 CENTS. Black impression on pale blue glazed paper.

1870.—Different [*sic*] engraved, no period after cent. Black impression on blue glazed paper.

1848-50.—Boyd's City Express Post 2 Cents in oval band, eagle in centre on globe. Globe slanting, thin narrow figure 2, black impression on green glazed paper.

1851-2.—Same as last, but inside oval much heavier; figure 2 better shaped. Black impression on green glazed paper.

1853.—Same as last with period after cents. Black impression on green glazed paper. Gold impression, glazed paper, white.

1854-5.—Similar to last, but eagle's wing different, and globe upright, broad figure 2. Black im. on green glazed paper.

1855 —Similar to last, but eagle's right wing does not touch the side; broad white line inside. Black impression on green paper.

1857.—Same as last. Black impression on vermillion [*sic*] glazed paper, and colored impression on white paper, red.

1857-60.—Part of eagle's wing covered by oval; large headed figure 2. Black upon green glazed paper.

1860-70.—Similar to last, eagle's right wing curved against side of oval. Black impression, glazed paper, vermillion [*sic*]. Gold impression on glazed paper, green, crimson.

It will be noticed that the stamp heading the list is described as "eagle on globe in centre large size." Absence of all punctuation leaves us in the dark as to whether it is the eagle, the globe, or the centre which is large; probably the size refers to the entire label; if so, it is quite unknown to me. Perhaps Mr. Scott will give a fuller description of this rarity, and so set all doubts at rest.

According to our American authority, we must give the annexed dates to the several types.

Type I. (*a*)—1848.
(*b* or *c*) 1851 (2 cent green on black).
(*c*) 1853 (2 cent gold on white).
II.—1854.
III.—Not given.
IV.—1860 (2 cents).
V.—1870.
VI.—1856 (2 cent black on green).
,, —1857 (2 cent red on white, and black on vermilion).

The date 1857 for the earliest 1 cent must be an error, as that stamp is from an altered die of type II., which were issued (*ante*) 1854. What Mr. Scott terms "pale blue" for the second type of the lowest value, is in reality a lilac. He omits the lavender 1 c. of the current issue, although it undoubtedly exists.

Type IV. is said to have been emitted *after* type VI., but this cannot be altogether correct, as the 2 c. vermilion of the latter die is now current. It is, of course, possible that the red on white, and black on green 2 c. of type VI. preceded the vermilion 2 c. of the fourth type. If so, when the use of the last-named die ceased, the old one must have been reverted to.

In types II., III., and V., varieties are mentioned as "punched out." An oval punch was made the size of the design, and was used, after the manner of the Guadalajara, upon the stamps of the two first-named emissions. Quite lately, copies of the present 2 c. have appeared, upon small diamond-shaped paper, evidently punched from a larger sheet. The stamps being printed with considerable space between them, easily admit of this mode of separation.

The envelope impressions are struck upon different sizes of paper, to suit the taste of wholesale purchasers.

Several forgeries of the adhesives are about, but I do not know of any imitations of the envelopes.

All Boyd's of a higher value than 2 cents, may be instantly discarded; and so may any labels that do not answer to the descriptions given in the preceding list.

Mr. Scott gives the gold on green and gold on crimson of the fourth type as emitted stamps; this seems to clinch the assertion of my New York friend; but my advice is, retain these labels until the question can be definitely settled.

In concluding my notes on these stamps, I may devote a few lines to the means by which they were obliterated.

The earliest postmark seems to have been a six-barred oval; this was followed by one inscribed PAID, J.T.B., in two lines, and another having NEW YORK in a semicircle, with date (*not* of year) in centre. A small oblong oval, lettered PAID, is sometimes found upon the fourth type. Upon the current 2 c. we have a large circular mark, with BOYD'S DESPATCH, 89, FULTON ST., and date.

ERRORS OF ENGRAVING AND PRINTING.—VI.

BY W. DUDLEY ATLEE.

UNITED STATES.—A few copies of the lately-defunct 24 cents have passed the post, which show the central view in a "topsy-turvey" position. We have also seen a 3 c. envelope of the new type embossed without colour.

VICTORIA.—This colony possesses quite an *olla podrida* of errors, but they are nearly all in the watermarks. The only mistakes in engraving occur among the stamps of the earliest type, with half-length portrait of Her Majesty. The ordinary twopenny are lettered T.H. in the lower angles; in the stamps with coarse ground and border there are two errors, having T.B. and T.R. respectively; and in the fine border labels we find one inscribed VICTOPIA. Another curious variety of this stamp is one having the place usually appropriated to the value left blank. A few of these passed the post, so they were evidently from the sheets issued to the public.

Although they can scarcely be given as errors, still we must chronicle the differences existing upon the black sixpenny, with head in plain oval. Side by side upon the sheets we have noticed one stamp in which the ground of the central oval is quite solid, and another wherein the white ring is very prominent; the latter is probably due to the deterioration of the die. These differences are found both upon the stamps watermarked SIXPENCE, and upon those with numeral of value.

In the type having figures at each side of the central oval, there is a numeral-watermarked sixpenny, having an evident flaw in the right-hand 6; and in the current twopenny, copies are common showing the letters of value shaded.

Some specimens of the earliest shilling show the two final letters in the inscription of value much battered.

WESTERN AUSTRALIA.—Among the earliest fourpenny a few copies have been discovered with the swan *renversé*, but one of the most interesting errors is the shilling of the present issue, printed in the bistre colour of the penny. This rarity is obliterated, and in the collection of the secretary of the Philatelic Society.

WURTEMBURG.—There are not any errors among the adhesives of this kingdom, but specimens of the 6 kr. envelopes with large green lettering exist, inscribed DREI and NEUN kreuzer respectively.

To bring our papers on errors down to the present time, we must add a few varieties which have been found too late for insertion in their proper order.

BAVARIA.—*Regensburg*.—The returned letter labels used by this city contain numerous varieties and errors; among these latter we have OHERPOSTAMT, for "oberpostamt," and ROTOURBRIEF, in lieu of "retourbrief."

ALSACE AND LORRAINE.—All the values exist with inverted network. These stamps seem lately to have been so carelessly printed, that had the error originated at the commencement of the issue, it would be a question as to which was the right way of the *burelé*, and which the wrong.

FRANCE.—The 30 c. imperial, with horizontal lines in disc, is well known. A trustworthy correspondent lately mentioned a 40 c. with perpendicular lines.

GREAT BRITAIN.—*The American Journal of Philately* lately noticed an almost unique variety of the present shilling adhesive "with large letters in the upper and small ones in the lower corners." As it was obliterated, one sheet at least must have been printed.

MONTEVIDEO.—In addition to the previously described errors in the 5 c. labels, there is one which has lately appeared with the centre stroke missing to the first E in *Montevideo; Diez* is also turned into *Dizz* upon the cipher in some of the 10 c. stamps.

SPAIN.—We have seen a one-real stamp of 1857 inscribed CORRFOS, instead of the orthodox word; and we are informed that some of the same value in the 1855 set are lettered CORRLOS.

REVIEWS OF POSTAL PUBLICATIONS.

Oppen's Postage Stamp Album and Catalogue. Fifteenth Edition. Revised, corrected, and brought up to the present time, by DR. VINER. London: W. Stevens.

IT is not very difficult, though it may be painful, to dilate on the deficiencies of an old acquaintance; but when one has nothing but good to say, a few well chosen and pregnant words of recommendation suffice. Thus it is with us, in respect of our old friend, *Oppen's Album*, now half way through its teens. When we have repeated our old objection that it is not printed on one side only, we have said all we *can* say against it; and, *per contra*, we are happy to bear testimony to the combined excellence of its arrangements, type, paper, and binding. Externally it is a most attractive book, and its beauty is very far from being only skin (or cover) deep; and it may certainly claim to have been brought up to the present time, seeing that it includes spaces for the stamps of Mozambique, which as yet have been heard of, but not seen; and the stamps of the Fiji Islands, which are as yet hardly known.

In conclusion, we can very cordially recommend this old-established favourite to all our readers who are in want of a ruled album.

POSTAL CHIT-CHAT.

PERSONAL.—Senor M. P. de Figueroa writes us as follows:—"I have received a number of letters from Europe and America, from persons who have no doubt seen my name in this magazine, or in *The Philatelist*, requesting me to send Spanish stamps in exchange for foreign ones, or against remittances. As I cannot reply to them all, permit me to make use of your columns to inform my correspondents that *I am not a dealer in stamps*."

POCKET POSTAL WEIGHTS.—Among the host of things not generally known, or at least not remembered at the proper moment, is the fact that most of us are in the habit of carrying postal weights in our pockets. They exist in the pleasant shape of current coins of the realm, and are therefore usually at hand at any and all times. The bronze penny is a kind of universal coin, but who knows its weight avoirdupois? The fact is, however, that 48 pence go to a pound, and that three such coins weigh just an ounce. A letter, then, which weighs over three pennies, and less than four pennies and a halfpenny, requires three penny stamps; and one weighing less than three halfpennies, or half an ounce, must have a penny stamp affixed to it. All our silver coins are safe postal weights. The pound troy of this metal is cut into 66 shillings, or a proper number of other coins equal to that rate. The crown piece is therefore just under the ounce in weight, the half-crown just below the half-ounce, and any number of subordinate silver pieces equal in nominal value to those coins, is also equal to them in weight. A letter which does not weigh more than a florin and a sixpence, or five sixpences, or ten threepences, for example, requires a penny stamp only. As the pound troy of standard gold produces forty-six sovereigns and the fraction of a sovereign, those coins, when used as postal pocket weights, may each without risk be taken to weigh a quarter of an ounce. A letter which does not exceed the weight of two sovereigns, will therefore pass unchallenged through the post-office with one penny Queen's head affixed to it. For foreign postage, wherein the quarter-ounce letter is common, a sovereign letter-weight is just the thing.—*Mechanics' Magazine.*

CORRESPONDENCE.

PETER WILLIAMSON AND HIS PENNY POST.

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

SIR,—I think the following (extracted from No. 24 of *Chambers' Miscellany of Useful and Entertaining Tracts*), will prove interesting to many of your readers.

"Peter Williamson, born at Hirnley, in the parish of

Aboyne, Aberdeenshire, about 1730, was, when ten years of age, abducted, and sold into bondage in the British American plantations in Pennsylvania. He was captured by Indians, lived with them, and at length effected his escape. After serving in the army, being taken prisoner by the French, and undergoing many hardships, he at length settled in Edinburgh, where he at first exhibited himself as an Indian warrior, and afterwards set up a tavern near the large hall where the Scottish Parliament had met. Here Peter sold copies of his book, containing a narrative of his life and adventures, as also of other tracts of a more aspiring kind, which he wrote from time to time upon the politics of the day; but the whole of which have long since passed into oblivion. Afterwards he removed to more spacious apartments in the neighbouring street, where his trade was less liable to be affected by times and seasons, and where his occasional exhibitions as a Delaware Indian furnished an attraction of considerable interest. But Peter was of too lively and ingenious a mind to be contented with such ordinary resources. Aided by the knowledge he had acquired in scenes more bustling than the Scottish capital then presented, he became a projector of schemes, locally new and unheard of; some of course visionary, but others practicable, and likely to be generally useful. About 1772 we find him commencing the biennial publication of an Edinburgh Directory, being the first compilation of the kind which had appeared in that city. The greatest of this singular person's projects was that of *a penny post* for the city and suburbs. More steady than projectors usually are, he had the address to establish and conduct this institution, much to the satisfaction of the community, and with considerable advantage to himself. It is gratifying to know that he was not unrecompensed for his contrivance of the penny post. When the institution was ultimately taken under the charge of government, a pension was bestowed upon Peter Williamson, who was thus satisfactorily provided for to the termination of his career. Indian Peter died on the 19th January 1799, in his sixty-eighth or sixty-ninth year."

In this number of the *Miscellany* there are many interesting particulars of Peter's life and adventures, but nothing further respecting his penny post. Cannot some of your numerous readers give us a little information upon the subject?

I am, Sir,
Yours faithfully,
Manchester. GAMMA-BETA.

HEAD AND FIGURE OF LIBERTY STAMPS.

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

DEAR SIR,—I am much obliged to Senor Mariano Pardo de Figueroa for his communication in the April number of your valuable magazine. The insertion in my paper of the current Spanish series is, I see, quite a mistake; and I must thank your Spanish correspondent for his valuable information concerning them.

Over the subscription of "Philatelist," the author of a letter in the same number of your magazine says that "the writer of 'Head and Figure of Liberty Stamps' omitted noticing the interesting impressions of Liberia." Now, the figure represented on the stamps for that colony is *not* the profile of Liberty; it is the figure of Britannia, wearing the Phrygian bonnet, and grasping the spear of Minerva. Although it is not to be desired that Britannia should ever stoop to wear a Republican emblem, yet in this instance, and also on the stamps of Trinidad, Barbados, and Mauritius, she does so. If, as has been cautiously hinted by some writers, the ornament on the heads of the figures in the above-mentioned colonial stamps is not the cap of Liberty, or the Phrygian bonnet, what is it? Take the stamps of Liberia, and compare them with the emissions of Trinidad, Barbados, and the Britannia Mauritius. Look well at the caps surmounting the heads, and see what the difference is. You will find that just as the cap varies in some *minor* points in several stamps of the same issue, so will the whole issue of one of the already-mentioned colonies differ slightly from the stamps of another colony or of Liberia, and no more.

Compare also the other parts of the stamps; the figure in the beautiful stamps of Liberia is seated on a rock. So also is the figure in the Mauritius, Trinidad, and Barbados stamps. The rock is close to the sea, and in view of it in the Liberian series; so also is it in the colonies in question. A ship is sailing on the waters in the stamps for Liberia; so also there is one in the stamps of Trinidad, Mauritius, and Barbados.

The figure in the Liberian series is grasping a spear in her *right hand;* so also is the figure in our Britannia stamps.

The cap on the head of Liberia's figure is slightly bent downwards, and does not remain upright. So also the cap on the head of Britannia in the Barbados, Trinidad, and Mauritius stamps, instead of ending in an upright peak, hangs slightly down.

Turn to the volume for the year 1866 (page 20), where Fentonia, in her article on "The Goddess represented on some of the Anglo-colonial Stamps," well describing Britannia's claim to the Liberian stamps, says, "In one of our old prints, Britannia, though wearing her helmet, has the cap of Liberty hoisted on one of the prongs of her trident, with LIBERTAS inscribed upon it; therefore to put it on and wear it appears only a suitable alteration, in compliment to the *peculiar antecedents of the settlement.*"

Although the freed slave state of Liberia is neither under the protection of Great Britain, nor one of her colonies, yet, as a maritime nation, it is not very surprising that it should appropriate the figure of Britannia, until then impressed only upon British colonies and dependencies.

I am, dear Sir,
Yours obediently,
Saxmundham. FREDERICK CAVELL.

ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS.

INQUISITOR.—1. We believe the only separate work now extant on forged stamps, is Mr Stourton's "Postage Stamp Forgeries," published at a shilling by Trübner & Co., London. An excellent series of papers on the same subject by Mr. W. D. Atlee, is now running through *The Philatelist.*—2. We can only suggest that you commission our publishers to obtain for you the first two volumes of *The Stamp-Collector's Magazine* when opportunity offers, at a price to be fixed between you and them.—3. The stamp on the cover of the third volume is a fac-simile.—4. Your Italian is unquestionably a revenue stamp.—5. We doubt the genuineness of the lilac 2. c. Spanish of 1860.—The 4 c. 1865, with pink centre, is one of a series of proofs.—6. Your regret at having mutilated the Thurn and Taxis envelope is well founded.—7. We should recommend you to cut up your album, and put sheet after sheet in a basin of warm water, the "stamped" side upwards; and after a few minutes damping in this manner, you will be able to peel off the stamps without damaging them in the least; then lay them back upwards to dry, and they will thus retain their gum. You can afterwards arrange them in a Moens album, or in one of your own making.

PAPERS FOR BEGINNERS.—No. XIII.

BY OVERY TAYLOR.

EUROPE.

Belgium.

(*Continued from page* 83.)

THE new series was not well received in Belgium. In the first place it was of foreign manufacture, and patriotic Belgians considered this a slight on their country; in the second place the designs were considered very poor, and the portrait anything but a likeness. Furthermore, the supplies printed in Belgium were far from being successful. The first batch of stamps was printed and perforated in London, and is distinguishable from the succeeding editions by its greater clearness and neatness. The first Brussels *tirage* would seem to have taken place immediately on the arrival of the dies, and all the values, except the 20 c., appeared in darker, thicker colours. The non-success of the Belgian printers seems to have crowned the dissatisfaction then felt, and one of the members of the parliament—M. L. Hymans—addressed an interpellation on the subject to the Minister of Public Works, to which the latter replied as follows:—

"M. Hymans says that the stamps recently put in circulation are as ugly as they possibly could be. Those previously in existence could be easily counterfeited. When it became necessary to carry out a reform, I addressed myself to one of the first Belgian artists, who submitted to me, some time since, a die with which he himself was not satisfied. I then opened a competition, with a prize of 5000 francs destined for the winner; a dozen artists took part in it, and, I must say, the designs submitted to me were perfectly ridiculous. After this second disappointment, I reflected that if it were necessary to apply successively to all the Belgian engravers, it might be years before I should finish, so I addressed myself at once to a foreign house, whose speciality is the manufacture of stamps. That house submitted to me a stamp which is *perfection* itself; not one of the members of the Chamber to whom I have shown it will contradict me, and the first artist whom I had consulted was also of opinion that it was perfect. How is it that with this perfect die the administration has not been able to print irreproachable stamps? It is because the administration does not know how to print. This is the whole affair; we must learn to print, and then we shall have perfect stamps. As the die is destined to be replaced by the effigy of Leopold II., I do not think it is necessary to make any changes in it."

The opinion of the minister as to the excellence of Messrs. De La Rue's design, will hardly be borne out by the judgment of philatelists accustomed to the critical comparison of the stamps of all countries. The engraving is good—fineness in execution is, in fact, Messrs. De La Rue's strong point—but as for the design as a whole, it has nothing either elegant or forcible in its composition; and those who ought to know best declare that the effigy is very far from being correct.

The difficulties connected with the printing of Messrs. De La Rue's types, at Brussels, far from disappearing with practice, appear to have augmented. The deterioration in the designs was rapid and marked, more especially in the 10 and 20 centimes; of these many impressions are mere blotches as compared with the first copies. These rough specimens are, to my mind, well worthy of collecting side by side with the fine ones, as they illustrate the history of the series. Furthermore, they are evidence of the Belgian printers' inability to produce surface-printed stamps. The higher values of this country are all surface printed, and whatever may be said of the designs, it cannot be denied that the impressions are uniformly satisfactory, notwithstanding that they are from dies which have been for years in use; if, therefore, the Belgians, from equally fine dies, cannot produce equally fine surface-printed copies, it must be their fault, and not the engravers'. So utter a failure was the 10 c. in their hands, that it became necessary to introduce some modifications into the design, consisting, no doubt, in a deepening of the lines, and probably the 20 c. was operated on in the same manner. Whilst noticing these stamps, it is also necessary to observe that one edition came out on a thick

paper, which might almost be termed card. The colours are as follows:

10 centimes dark grey.
20 „ dark blue, pale blue.
30 „ bistre.
40 „ carmine.
1 franc deep lilac.

After they had been some time in use they were replaced by thinner paper. At this last stage there appeared the 20 c. pearl-grey blue, which is so distinct from the others as well to deserve collection, even by beginners.

We now come to the newspaper stamps which accompanied this series, viz:—

1 centime grey.
2 „ blue.
5 „ brown.

The lowest value made its appearance on the 1st June, 1866, the 5 c. on the 1st September of the same year, and the 2 c. on the 1st January, 1867. All three stamps were designed by a M. Delpierre, and engraved by M. Dargent; the plate came from Antwerp; the paper, ink, &c., from Messrs. De La Rue's manufactory. Thus, whilst patronising native art, the government still managed to give a share in the business to their old and much abused London friends.

The design for each stamp differs slightly in detail from those of its companions, and it can hardly be questioned that the 2 c., with its light ground of horizontal lines, is the most successful of the trio; but it has been justly observed that there was no necessity for having three different types for stamps which were sufficiently distinguished from each other by their colours: by means of a transfer, in the usual manner, one design might easily have been made to serve for all the values.

The one cent had only been in use a couple of months when it began to make its appearance unperforated, and continued to do so until the end of the year 1866. The cause is rather a curious one, and worth relating. I have duly given the history of Messrs. Gouweloos' contract with the government, in 1863, whereby they undertook to perforate at least five hundred sheets per day, and the government promised to buy their machine if it were found to work satisfactorily. On these terms the perforation was continued, but the government always drew back from the performance of its promise. In 1865, however, M. Gouweloos had some hope of its being at length realised, but this hope soon disappeared when they found that Messrs. De La Rue, after delivering the printing material for the series of stamps manufactured by them, had been consulted as to the price of a perforating machine. The reply was not long in coming; they asked 1500 francs (£60), against £96, the price of Messrs. Gouweloos' perforator. A thousand francs gained, and the preference given to a foreigner; was it not all profit? The order was sent to London, and when the machine arrived the committee met to examine it. After having done so they were forced to acknowledge themselves incompetent to decide on it. One of the members proposed that Monsieur Gouweloos should be called, and there and then he was sent for. As soon as he saw the machine he perceived that what Messrs. De La Rue had sent was only the machine whereon are fixed the cylindrical needles; but perforators there were none. Required to explain, Messrs. De La Rue alleged that they had properly executed their order, which was for a machine to perforate stamps; in effect, the object received from London was intended for that purpose, but it would be impossible to work it without first receiving all the perforators necessary to be used. For 8000 francs more (£320) the vendors were willing to complete it. This put a stop to negociations; the committee had the machine always before their eyes to reproach them, and Messrs. Gouweloos, furious at having been played with, notified the government that they would thenceforth perforate only the minimum quantity of five hundred sheets, as stipulated in their contract. As the daily consumption was a thousand sheets, the administration had to decide on abandoning the perforation of one of the stamps, and their choice fell on the one-centime, which brought in less, and was more employed than all the other values.

Such is the history of the issue of the imperforate 1 centime, as related by the Belgian journal; and, of course, the lesson it

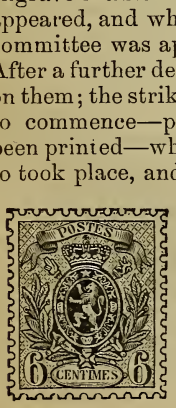
inculcates is, that one should beware of employing committees and foreigners. However, the government got out of the matter at last more creditably than might have been expected. It bought a machine whereby the 300 stamps comprising the sheet could be perforated in one single operation, whilst Messrs. Gouweloos' machine could only perforate one row of stamps at a time, on three sides.

The three newspaper stamps are found on thick card-like paper, like their (facially) more valuable brethren. Probably the supply of paper furnished by Messrs. De La Rue was exhausted, and after the dissatisfaction which their employment had caused, and the misunderstanding respecting the perforator, the government felt rather shy of entering into fresh contracts with them, preferring rather to use such materials as the country afforded.

In further conformity with the changes which occurred in the higher values, the 1, 2, and 5 c. made their appearance again on ordinary paper, and the two centimes was issued in the same peculiar shade as its companion the 20 c.

2 centime pearl-grey, blue.

On the 14th March, 1867, a royal decree was published, authorising the issue of 6 and 8 centime stamps, and they were accordingly prepared, but were never issued, as meanwhile a change had occurred in the ministry, and the incoming ruler of the department of public works was in favour of the issue of an entirely new series. The stamps were not engraved until long after the decree had appeared, and when the types were ready a committee was appointed to examine them. After a further delay they reported favourably on them; the striking off of a supply was about to commence—proofs, indeed, had already been printed—when the change above alluded to took place, and the designs were set aside.



The annexed engraving of the 6 c. reproduces the type of both the intended stamps, as they were identical, except in the ground pattern. It will be observed that they differ in some respects from the stamps actually issued, and principally in the greater size of the corner figures.

We now come to the existing series. It was sanctioned by a royal decree of the 13th November, 1869, and two days afterwards the issue commenced, the 1 c. and 10 c. green being the first to make their appearance. Those now in use are as follows :—

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

NEWSPAPER STAMPS.

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

There was to have been a 6 centimes carmine; but, for some unexplained cause, it has not yet been issued. With the various designs my readers are sufficiently well acquainted to render lengthened comment on my part unnecessary. Belgian writers abuse the likeness; but without venturing an opinion on so delicate a point, we may be permitted to admire the *tout ensemble* of the types, and especially of the low values. The designs are by a Belgian artist, Monsieur H. Hendrickx, and they were engraved on wood by Monsieur A. Doms. The initials of both artist and engraver appear on the lower edge of the stamps; those of the former on the right, those of the latter on the left-hand side, in microscopical characters.

ENVELOPE STAMPS.

Up to the present time Belgium remains without envelopes, but so long since as 1864 it was rumoured that a series was about to be issued, and in 1867 a bill, or *projet de loi*, was brought in by the government, whereby (Art. 29) liberty was reserved to issue envelopes and bands, and put them on sale in the same way as adhesive stamps; and to fix the sum to be charged in excess of the facial value, to cover the cost of the paper and making. This was followed up by a royal decree of the 26th October, 1868, which says that stamped envelopes will be put at the disposal of the public, and leaves it to the Minister of Public Works to decide on the

type, colour, form, facial value, date of emission, and selling prices. The minister has not said anything about the matter during the three years which have now intervened, but, perhaps, like the famous parrot, he thinks the more.

POST CARDS.

If, however, the Belgian administration has shown great hesitation in the matter of envelopes, it has, on the other hand, accepted the Austrian innovation of post cards with commendable alacrity. On the 24th December, 1869, the minister was charged to see to their emission, and on the 1st January of the present year the official cards saw the light, after unofficial cards had been for some time previously used by the public. As they have been so recently issued, it is hardly necessary to describe them; suffice it to say that the design is a rich but complicated one, and that the use of these cards is somewhat restricted (see current volume of *The Stamp-Collector's Magazine*, p. 24).

UNPAID-LETTER STAMPS.

The vacillation of the Belgian postal authorities has nowhere been more conspicuously shown than in its treatment of the unpaid-letter stamp question. Orders were given in 1869 for the preparation of a type for a stamp *à percevoir*, and in due time the annexed design was produced. Furthermore, and this is incomprehensible, it was approved of, and supplies were printed off and got ready for despatch to the different post-offices. On the 29th December, 1869, however, there came an order to destroy all these supplies; not on the ground that the authorities had repented of their intention to put such an execrable design in circulation, but because it had been decided not to employ any unpaid-letter stamps at all. Immediately afterwards that decision must have been rescinded, for, in the following September, two unpaid-letter stamps actually made their appearance, and are still in use. The design is really a charming one, and is, perhaps, sufficient in itself to explain the final resolution of the officials. The values and colours are—





10 centimes green.
20 „ blue.

Both are on white paper, and are perforated.

With the enumeration of these stamps we close our Belgian budget.

OUR CONTEMPORARIES.

The Philatelist.—In the June number a further instalment of the valuable article on the envelopes of Germany, and another of the "Spud Papers," appear. In the latter, Mr. Atlee points out that the Turkish impostors may be detected at a glance, from the fact that they are gummed on the face, and postmarked on the back. In another paper the editor sums up the merits of some half-a-dozen designs for a too-late stamp, which have been sent in, in competition for a prize offered by the publisher, and, with reason, argues that they demonstrate the tendency of philately to elevate art among its votaries. The designs are, it appears, composed either of the Queen's portrait, or the national arms; in this particular there seems to be some want of originality. Englishmen, in their stolid, patriotic spirit, never dream of adorning coins or stamps with anything else than the monarch's well-known countenance; or, perchance, some commonplace combination of our heraldic figures or emblems. Were we to follow the example of the United States, Newfoundland, or the Central American republics, by placing the portraits of famous men, or the representations of products, machines, or landscapes on our stamps, a great cry would surely arise, throughout the length and breadth of the land, that we were going to Americanise ourselves,—that we were becoming rabid republicans,—and it is very doubtful whether the postmaster-general, who could dare to sanction such an innovation, would long remain in office. Yet there are men and things innumerable in England deserving of such commemoration as a postage-stamp design would afford, and, in these economical days, the Parliament

which would refuse to vote a statue to a worthy man might cheaply immortalise him in defraying the cost of a stamp-die. However, a truce to anything like political allusions, and let us pass on to the July number of our Brighton contemporary, to notice the appearance therein of a very complete and well-written article on "Philatelic Literature in Spain," from the pen of Mr. Atlee, whence it is evident that stamp-collecting has taken firm root in the peninsula, and is likely to bring forth good fruit.

The American Journal of Philately.—The May number is remarkable chiefly for an article on a newly-discovered American local (the Newhaven 5 cents), from which we gave an extract last month; and in the June number appears the description of two more resuscitated stamps—the 5 and 10 cent of Fredericksburg, Virginia. Dr. J. A. Petrie, who seems to make the discovery of locals his speciality, has been the means of bringing them to light; and, in order to do so, he had first of all to find out Miss Thom, daughter of the late Reuben T. Thom, postmaster of Fredericksburg in 1861. "On looking over her father's old papers, she found, *inter alia*, a quantity of these Fredericksburg stamps, of two values, five and ten cents, in an envelope, marked Richmond, Sept. 26, 1861, and franked by H. St. George Offut, chief of Contract Bureau." They are described as being "type-set, printed in sheets of twenty stamps, 5 by 4, and no two of which are alike, having slight typographical errors, and the rules separating the different parts of the stamp being of different lengths. The five cents are printed in dark dull blue, and the ten cents in a dirty dull red. All are on thin French-ruled note paper, and inscribed FREDERICKSBURG at top, R. S. THOM in a line underneath, the figures 5 or 10 in the different values underneath again, and at the foot, POST-OFFICE, VIRGINIA."

The opening chapter of an article, in another part of the number, entitled, "The History of the Confederate States Post-offices," leads us to anticipate that many other locals, hitherto unknown, will shortly be described in the pages of the New York journal. Mr. J. W. Scott, the writer, who is a member of the firm of Scott & Co., has evidently taken great trouble to accumulate all the information obtainable respecting the Confederate stamps; and, in this first chapter of his history, he narrates his several attempts to get into communication with the southern postmasters. He first wrote to all his customers for particulars of any locals they might possess, or be acquainted with; this scheme proving fruitless, he interviewed the Mr. St. George Offut above referred to. His third effort was (and here we quote his own words) to print "an extra edition of *twenty thousand Journals*, each one of which was furnished with an extra four pages of advertisements, specially directed to postmasters, in large type, and offering them one dollar each for all the Confederate stamps they could get, other than those issued by the government. These were directed to every postmaster in the seceded states. These brought in a few of the common ten-cent stamps, accompanied by a note, requesting us to send the same number of dollars by return mail; but we did not succeed in getting a single local out of the lot. This was a loss of *over one thousand* dollars, the postage alone costing over four hundred." The italics are ours, and unless postmasters in the southern states are more numerous, and dollars in the northern states more plentiful, than we have any reason to suppose them to be, we must fain believe the italicised words represent typographical errors. If so, however, they are errors of a kind which detract *greatly* from the merit of an otherwise meritorious article; if not, then we can only say Mr. Scott would probably have got a better return for his thousand dollars by going south, and searching for himself; or, if he could not spare the time, he might have sent Dr. Morley.

After this experiment, which, if we accept the figures, cost over £200, and brought no result, an advertisement, identical in its terms, was inserted in every southern paper, offering 100 dollars each for "the stamps issued by the Confederate postmaster of this town in 1861." This, however, also proved a failure, and, finally, our author, "determined not to be beaten after the heavy loss

he had sustained," hit upon an original plan, which we have not the space to describe at length, but which has resulted in his "obtaining the dies of some of the stamps, and discovering a large quantity of another." The plan consisted in writing to the present postmasters of the southern cities, and enclosing a letter, to be handed by them to the gentlemen who were postmasters in 1861, or to their heirs. We shall now await the result of Mr. Scott's inquiries, and hope and believe they will justify the promises held forth in his initial chapter.

The American Coin and Stamp Review.—Of this paper two numbers only have as yet appeared, and they do not give much promise of that future excellence which we, nevertheless, trust it may attain. The experiment, however, of small four-page periodicals has so often been tried, and so often failed—both here and in America—that only success can justify a new attempt in this line.

The Stamp-Collector's Guide, another paper of the four-page class, which has reached its sixth number, has some original matter, and, together with the information that the editors propose to work diligently to make their journal as good as any, comes also the announcement that it will soon be enlarged, which is the most promising piece of news in the number.

The Timbrophilist.—We do not often go out of our way to notice this journal, happily the unique specimen in philatelic literature of its species; but in the sixth number occurs such an abominable and yet amusing piece of impudence, that we cannot refrain from referring to it. By way of preface we must first mention that in *Routledge's Magazine for Boys* there appeared, some time back, the following critique on Mr. H. Stafford Smith's Mulready Album:—

> These albums are invaluable to collectors of postage stamps, and from their very reasonable price are within the reach of any of our boys whose inclinations lean in that direction. They are got up in a neat and elegant style, and, unlike too many articles of the same sort, do not fall to pieces after they have been opened half-a-dozen times. In fact, without occupying space unnecessarily to indulge in ecstasies, we can heartily say that they are everything that can be desired.

Now, it appears that Mr. C. A. Lyford, of unenviable notoriety, and the publisher of *The Timbrophilist*, has recently brought out a stamp album of his own, and in the number of his paper before us it is described, and to the description is appended the following review:—

> *The Stamp-Collector's Magazine* says these albums are invaluable to collectors of postage stamps, and from their very reasonable price are within the reach of any of our boys whose inclinations lean in that direction. They are got up in a neat and elegant style, and unlike too many articles of the same sort, do not fall to pieces after they have been opened half-a-dozen times. In fact, without occupying space unnecessarily to indulge in ecstasies, we can heartily say that they are everything that can be desired.

Our readers will observe that it is a verbatim copy of the notice of the Mulready Album, with our name prefixed to it. To use a hackneyed phrase, comment is unnecessary.

Le Timbre-Poste.—The principal feature of the May number is an interesting article on the Moldavian stamps giving many fresh and authentic details respecting them, which we hope to reproduce in a future number. There is also an extract from the too-famous Communist paper, *Le Père Duchesne*, blaming the Commune for allowing the stamps of the Versailles government to remain current in Paris. The greater portion of it is untranslatable, but the following extract will give an idea of its style, whilst at the same time showing that had its suggestions been followed, there would have been a series of Communist stamps. The person addressed by *Le Père Duchesne* is the postmaster-general Theisz, who, it may here be observed, is said to have paid with his life for his refusal to allow the post-office to be fired in the last days of May, by his federal friends. After alluding to the fact that letters from the provinces, prepaid by the stamps of the republic, were delivered without extra charge in the capital, *Le Père Duchesne* continues—

> What say you to that, citizen delegate at the Post-office?
>
> You say you won't have that, don't you?
>
> You say that these rascally insurgents must be stopped from carrying on their little trade at our expense!
>
> Well, then, my old friend, if you are of the same opinion as Father Duchesne, this is how you will proceed:
>
> You will quietly order our brave Camelinat, who is our delegate at the Mint, to fabricate, without delay, new two-sou stamps.
>
> With a new effigy; not in any way resembling the old.
>
> Something good.
>
> A fine woman, with a smart look.
>
> And with the air of a good patriot.
>
> With a bright red bonnet on the head.
>
> And, above all, let it be carefully done.

So that it may give one a good idea of our Commune.

When that shall be done you will give notice to the Parisians that all those who have any of the old stamps by them, must exchange them before a certain day, after which they will be worthless.

In that way the Versailles thieves will not be able to get us to carry their letters for nothing, which, in fact, is an infamy.

Seeing that people who are fighting each other ought at least to have sufficient politeness not to steal in that way.

But those fellows respect nothing.

In the June number of *Le Timbre-Poste* the Moldavian article is continued, and the publication of Dr. Magnus' valuable series of papers on envelopes is resumed, the reprints of the Hanover envelopes being treated of. They are, however, prefaced by an explanation of the causes which led to the interruption in their appearance; and as all that relates to this eminent philatelic writer is interesting, we will not apologise for extracting his narrative, albeit it incidentally treats of affairs which have been almost too long before the public.

Things were following their usual course when the sad events occurred which will mark in history the end of the year 1870 and the first portion of 1871. Our beloved country was invaded by the German hordes, and the siege of Paris commenced in September. Inhabiting one of the suburban communes, we had to enter by order, and hastily, into the great city. It was hardly the time, during the siege to give one's self up to the study of stamps, and, besides, how was it possible to consult a collection packed up pell-mell in three or four cases;—how was it possible to send copy to Brussels, when the balloons would only carry missives weighing four grammes?

How could one keep *au courant* of the science when he had to remain for five months without news even of those dearest to him? At length the capitulation of Paris, and the resumption of business, permitted us to return to our old habitation. It was in the midst of our new installation that M. Moens agreeably surprised us, and brought us our first provision (revictualment) of stamps and envelopes. A few days after we were about to sit down to work, but on the morrow the terrible insurrection of the 18th March broke out, which was to cover with blood and ruins the unfortunate department of the Seine. Placed at one of the gates of Paris,* on the road to one of the few bridges which had been preserved intact, our commune became one of the theatres of the civil war. During fifty days (April 2 to May 22) the cannon roared in our ears, demolishing our houses, and striking down its victims. Notwithstanding the gravity of the situation, we drew from philately the patience to bear our forced inaction during the too-protracted periods of detention which elapsed between the visits of the wounded. It has thus been, amid the rattle of musketry, and the shrill whistling of shells, that the following lines have been revised or composed. Now all is over,—the flag of the national assembly, and of honest men, floats over such of the monuments of Paris as have not been reduced to ashes by the torches of the miserable incendiaries. God guard us, dear *confrères*, against the malefactors of the Commune, and the devotees of a universal republic.

* Neuilly.

The current number of our Belgian contemporary contains nothing of an extractable nature, but we are pleased to observe that it has reproduced the list of Russian Locals which appeared in our last impression.

ON INVERTED AND REVERSED WATERMARKS, &c.

BY G. W. B., M.

To the Rev. R. B. Earée's list of stamps with inverted watermarks, given in his paper in the last number of your magazine, I can add the following, selected from my own small collection.

Mauritius, current issue, one penny brown, inverted cc. crown.

Tasmania, late issue, imperf., one penny, brown-red, inverted 1.

Victoria, emblems, perf., twopence, slate, inverted TWO PENCE.

Ditto, laureated head, perf., tenpence, red-brown, inverted 10.

Ditto, laureated head, perf., ninepence, red-brown, inverted 10.

New South Wales, registered, perf., blue and red, inverted 6.

Ditto, large square, imperf., eightpence, gamboge, inverted 8.

Ditto, large square, imperf., one shilling, pale reddish fawn, inverted 12.

Ditto, large square, perf., fivepence, green, inverted 5.

Ditto, large square, perf., sixpence, purple-lilac, inverted 6.

Ditto, large square, perf., sixpence, watermarked in error, deep purple-lilac, inverted 5.

Ditto, large square, perf., eightpence, maize, inverted 8.

Ditto, diademed head, perf., threepence, yellowish green, inverted 3.

Besides these inverted watermarks, there are to be found some "reversed" ones. Of these I have the current twopenny South Australia, watermarked with crown and A.S., as well as the usual crown and S.A.; and the New Zealand penny and sixpence imperf., watermarked Z.N., in place of the ordinary N.Z. The registered New South Wales in the above list is reversed, as well as inverted. There are also the eightpence and five shilling New South Wales. If these reversed watermarks are to be collected along with the inverted, we shall probably find stamps showing four variations of the same watermark. We admit the Alsace with ordinary, and also with inverted network; and inverted water-

marks are no less interesting. I hardly think collectors in general will trouble about obtaining so many varieties; but to those who are anxious to show as many as possible, the collection of stamps with "inverted" and "reversed" watermarks, opens a larger field.

I have not seen it mentioned anywhere, that there are two distinct watermarks for the threepenny New South Wales. They are found both on the laureated and the diademed heads. One has the lower curl of the figure 3 projecting much further out in front than the top one; in the other the two ends of the curls are exactly opposite each other.

NEWLY-ISSUED OR INEDITED STAMPS.



HUNGARY.—Herewith we give an engraving of the new Hungarian journal stamp. It is of the value of one kreuzer, and is printed on thick unwatermarked wove paper.

TURKEY.—The 10 paras adhesive is now issued in pale brown, surcharged with black inscription, and with *pricked* perforations, and the Belgian journal notices a 2 piastre vermilion similarly perforated.

GREAT BRITAIN.—A proposal was made in the House of Commons last month, that its postmaster should be empowered to use a handstamp to mark prepayment of the members' letters, that the members may be saved the trouble of sticking adhesive stamps on them.

CEYLON.—One of our correspondents has sent us a used halfpenny stamp of a pink colour. It is of the ordinary type, is perforated, and shows no signs of having been chemically changed; we therefore presume that a new emission has taken place.

BARBADOS.—We have received from our old correspondent, Mr. Daniels, a specimen of the current blue stamp, star watermarked; and he informs us that the whole series with this watermark was issued several months since. The blue is of a peculiar dull slate tint, and probably the other values will be found to vary in colour from their predecessors.

UNITED STATES.—It turns out that the head on the new seven-cent stamp is that of the late Mr. Edwin M. Stanton, who was secretary of war during the administration of President Lincoln, and took a leading part in the conduct of the war with the southern states.

FALKLAND ISLANDS.—We have been favoured by one of our subscribers with a view of a handstamped envelope from these distant islands. It consists simply of the words FALKLAND PAID ISLANDS, in three lines, enclosed in a single-line oblong frame, as in annexed representation. This very simple design is handstamped on the right-hand corner of the envelope. The source from which we received notice of this novelty permits of our guaranteeing its authenticity.

FALKLAND PAID. ISLANDS

FINLAND.—New envelopes have at length appeared for this province. The design is that of the existing adhesive series, and the value is expressed in pennia.

20 pennia blue.
40 „ rose.

SPAIN.—The intelligence which arrives respecting the new stamps is very conflicting. The latest reaches us from a Madrid correspondent, and is to the effect that they are far from being on the point of emission. Several drawings have been printed, but the type has not been designated as yet.

PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND.—Our little American contemporary, *The Stamp-Collector's Guide*, says, "This province is about to present us with a completely new set of stamps, similar in design to the present issue, but with value expressed in *cents* in place of *pence*. The change will be occasioned by the adoption of the decimal currency."

SANDWICH ISLANDS.—From the same source we learn that the five-cent stamp of these islands has been withdrawn from sale; its use having been advertised to continue only until the 1st May of this year. The three new stamps recently noticed were designed by Thomas G. Thrum, Esq., and made by the National Bank Note Company.

BRAZIL.— Still borrowing from our neigh-

bours across the water, we come on the following interesting item in *The American Journal of Philately*. "We are pleased to note a very beautiful addition to the postage stamps of this country. The design consists of the head of the present emperor in a very handsome oval frame of engine-turned work; this is printed in green; the outer frame is printed in a rich violet. The value is 300 reis. From the appearance of this stamp we are led to expect a new set, as it is not likely the government would employ such a handsome stamp for this value, when the higher value is so much plainer. The new comer is from the *atelier* of the Continental Bank Note Company; the old set, and also the revenues, are the work of the American Bank Note Company."

We do not quite agree with our contemporary as to the probability of the new value being the forerunner of a new set, seeing that the plates of the present very striking series show no sign of deterioration. The simple fact seems to us to be, that the additional value is found to be wanted, and has been printed in two colours, because the existing one-colour stamps have used up all the brighter hues. It must also be borne in mind that there has long been a 300 reis envelope in circulation.

ROMAN STATES.—A correspondent sends us a circular stamp, the outer edge scalloped, with the papal tiara and keys in the centre, surrounded by the inscription, BOLLO STRAORDINARIO (ROMA); the whole struck in black ink on white paper, which looks like that of a journal. A similar stamp is noticed in *The Philatelist* as in use in Belgium; it is round, bears the crowned Belgian lion in the centre, and is inscribed TIMBRE A L'EXTRAORDINAIRE (BRABANT). This we are familiar with ourselves, and have seen it impressed on newspapers. Are these two stamps entitled to collection as postals? There is a Tuscan stamp of the same family, also round, and inscribed BOLLO STRAORDINARIO PER LE POSTE, with the value—2 SOLDI—in the centre, which is said to have been a *frank* stamp used in the post-office, and not obliterated by any defacing mark; and it has been, consequently, accepted and catalogued as a postage stamp. It is desirable to know whether the others, above noticed, are put to the same use, and do, in fact, represent postage paid; if so, they would become collectable, though at best they can only be regarded as hybrids. It will be noticed that the Tuscan bears a reference to the post, and has a *facial* value, whilst the others have not.

CONSTANTINOPLE.—We have seen a specimen of the round local post hand-impressed journal stamps, on coloured paper, on which the letters P. L. are in roman, instead of block letters.

UNITED STATES.—*New York*.—There is in New York a special-message post still in existence, and conducted by a Mr. Crosby. Its business consists in the distribution of "price lists, circulars, hand-bills, pamphlets, insurance notices, business, wedding, and invitation cards." It has been established six years, and has hitherto used an adhesive stamp which bears within an oblong oval the inscription, CROSBY'S SPECIAL MESSAGE POST, and address, in pink letters on a white ground. The remainder of a small oblong rectangle is completed by ornamentation of the same colour. This adhesive, fixed on a yellow envelope, is postmarked by an oblong oval hand-stamp, inscribed as above, with the addition of N. Y. It is now about to be superseded by a stamp designed and engraved by the publishers of *The American Journal of Philately*, and which has the figure 2 in a shield, CROSBY'S above, on waved labels, CITY POST on right and on left sides, and 10, WM. ST. below. The whole in an upright rectangle. They are printed in sheets of 25, and are unperforated; the colour is bright carmine. The *American Journal of Philately*, in a way tending to mislead, says they will pay "the *postage* on *letters* and circulars delivered anywhere in the city." In fact, the stamp must be put on a level with the emissions of our own circular delivery companies, and cannot be considered of any great importance from a philatelic point of view.

JAPAN.—According to the *Deutsche Briefmarken-Zeitung*, a paper published at Leipsic, there is actually a probability of stamps being issued for the Japanese empire. It states that Messrs. H. Engel & Son have obtained the contract, and are engaged in preparing

a supply. We give this intelligence *sous toutes reserves.*

United States Locals.—We, last month, gave an extract from an American paper, describing a 5 cents New Haven, Conn., and have now to refer our readers to the article in the present number on "Our Contemporaries" for a description of two more locals —the 5 and 10 cent of Fredericksburg, Virginia, issued by the postmaster of that town during the war of secession.

Angola.—Our Belgian contemporary announces that the 25 reis is no longer flesh coloured, but bright vermilion. The same authority furnishes us with the two following items, which we translate textually.

Bavaria.—We have just received the 6 and 12 kr., perforated 11½, and an unpaid letter stamp of usual type, with the same perforation, value 1 kr., and printed in black on white. They all have the watermark reproduced in our hundredth number.

New South Wales.—We have received a penny envelope on white laid paper, bearing a stamp identical in type with the adhesive of same value. The stamp is struck on right upper corner, and the envelope is of the ordinary shape. The flap bears a design which we shall reproduce next month.

One penny flesh.

France.—The *projet de loi* submitted to the National Assembly by the French finance minister, contained a proposition to raise the rate of postage on home letters (single weight) from 20 to 25 centimes. As our readers are aware, the minister has, in effect, withdrawn his budget; and the very retrograde measure above referred to, which would have led to the recal of the old 25 c. blue stamp of the republic, will probably not be insisted on. It is a pity the minister has not the good sense to take a leaf out of our book, and, by reducing the present rate by half, treble or quadruple the number of letters. Taking into account the new one-ounce rate, which will shortly come into force in this country, the French rate for home letters will be six times higher than ours; for twopence, our postmaster will carry a letter weighing 60 grammes, and for the same price, the French postmaster will only carry one of 10 grammes.

There is another proposal on the *tapis* which may lead to the emission of a 3 centime stamp. It is proposed to separate the duty on journals from the postage, instead of representing both as at present by one stamp, and the postage alone would be at the rate of 3 centimes. Again, it having been proposed that newspapers should be sent in packages by rail at a charge of 40 centimes per kilogramme (34 ounces), a counter suggestion has been made that the rate should be one franc, the former rate being too low, and this if acted on, as it probably will be, would necessitate the reissue of the 1 franc republic.

The unperforated republic are getting daily rarer; it is quite a chance to meet with even a 20 centime. The 20 c. perforated is showing signs of deterioration. The ground work in the angles is disappearing, and we have met with several copies in which it is barely visible. The error in the setting up of the sheet of the 20 c., appears to have been rectified.

Austria.—*Danubian Steam Navigation Company.*—The colour of the 10 soldi has been altered from lilac to orange-red.

A BATCH OF NOVELTIES.

COMMUNICATED AND DESCRIBED BY EDWARD L. PEMBERTON.

Deccan.—An entirely new series is before us, and, so far, quite undescribed, of which we annex an engraving of the 8 annas. If the reader will turn to our April impression, an engraving will be seen, on page 57, of a half-anna stamp, first chronicled by *The Philatelist* of the preceding month. On the appearance of that notice, inquiries were made in India, and through the courtesy of an officer at Hydrabad, a proof set was obtained, from which the following descriptions are taken. Since then the publishers have received a couple of the actual stamps—4 annas slate, and 8 annas brown; and, in addition, a 2 annas yellow-green of the "skeleton" type, on page 57. The proof set received is printed on stout toned paper;



some are imperforate; others perforated 12; all the values are alike in size and shape, and resemble the half anna first engraved, but the corners and centres are filled in with delicate tracery; and the general appearance is singularly good, the engraving being fine, and the colours well chosen; at least on the proof set.

The first adhesive stamp known to be used in the Deccan is the oblong one engraved at page 90 of the 1870 volume. Of this stamp a proof was sent marked "obsolete post stamp," in writing; it has always been given as three quarters of an anna; but, on examination, it bears, in Persian characters, YAK ANNA, the same as the 1 anna Cashmere and 1 anna of the new rectangular series. It also clearly bears the date 1283 (Hegira), as do the half and one-anna Cashmere; this, I believe, is our 1866, somewhat earlier than we are prepared to expect, taking into consideration that it was not chronicled until January of last year. The engraving in the last volume is very fairly accurate; the date lies between the two large transverse characters (which are clearly elongated for appearance sake), two to left, two to right; those to left can be identified in our engraving as 12, by comparing with the numerals 1 and 2 on the Turkish 1 and 2 piastre stamps. The other characters are not right; the first should resemble an inverted V (the Arabic 8), the second should be like the Arabic 2, with another loop added to form 3. The value is in centre at base, and can be identified by comparing the original with the 1 anna Cashmere (see *The Philatelist*, vol. ii., p. 135). The engraving is not quite accurate, but still the value can be recognised when one knows what to search after. This obsolete Deccan was engraved in London, and printed in sheets of one hundred-and-sixty stamps, perforated twelve; colour, olive-green on dull, slightly-toned paper. The proof is carmine on cardboard.

The set of which we have proofs may be described as follows: coloured impression, on toned paper; rectangular; there are:—

PROOFS OF CURRENT SET.

½ anna,	claret-red.	Imperforate.
1 anna,	deep lilac.	Perf. 12.
2 annas,	deep green.	Imperforate.
3 annas	yellow.	Perf. 12.
4 ,,	rich blue.	Imperforate.
8 ,,	slate.	Ditto
12 ,,	brown.	Perf. 12.

The two emitted stamps we have seen are:—

4 annas, slate.
8 ,, brown. } Perf. 12, on dull white paper.

In each value the frame and groundwork differ slightly; the centre inscription (in Persian characters) is on a different ground in each, viz.:—

½ anna,	engine turned.
1 anna,	horizontal lines.
2 annas,	waved ditto.
3 ,,	plain
4 ,,	concentric rings.
8 ,,	waved ditto.
12 ,,	horizontal net.

The edge of the circle and the rectangular edge of the stamp match in the same values, though unlike in each one; the variations being very chaste, though slight. It will be observed from our engraving, that there are four equal-sized labels round the centre, bearing the value in different characters; the lower ones we can all understand; the left one being English, the right being Persian, in full, and on ½, 1, 2, 4, and 8, resembling the values on the like denominations of Cashmere. The upper labels evidently bear the value in two different dialects; that to the left resembling Sanscrit in its characters, and so we will term it, though inaccurately (for Sanscrit is not a language now written, but bears the relation to the spoken dialects that the classical languages of Europe do to the present spoken tongues); the other (right hand) label, which we will term the dialect, contains a group of signs, of which two are constant in each value, but appear more like fancy characters than anything else.

On the ½ and 1 anna, or singular values, in the Persian and the dialect, the same characters are used for *anna*, as in the plural (2, 3, 4, 8, and 12) for *annas; i.e.*, there is no distinction between singular and plural: in the English and what we term the Sanscrit, there is the distinction; in the Sanscrit and dialect, the same characters represent ½, 3, and 4, in each value; and the same method of forming the double 12 is used in both. The central Persian inscription is exactly alike in each one; and the date 1286 is clear; the English at top, and

Persian in lowest curved label, are alike in each value.

We will now notice the skeleton, or outlined and obsolete series. The only specimens we have seen were on rather thin paper, slightly toned, perforated 12.

½ anna, brown.
2 annas, yellow-green

A whole set undoubtedly exists, as the President of the Philatelic Society informs us that he has seen a series of several values in the possession of Mr. Hayns, whose absence in Egypt alone prevents our getting the description of the series. As far as the half and two annas are concerned, the four labels round centre, and the top and bottom labels, are simply outlined, filled in with characters, all enclosed in a single-lined frame; and there we have the classic Deccan stamp! The central characters are the same as on the current stamps, and the date is also 1286; this gives the same year for two distinct emissions. Can it be that the skeleton set was provisional, and the first crude idea for the very handsome current set? Not at all unlikely. The disposition of the bottom characters differ, but they are the same in each type.

In the half-anna "skeleton" the Sanscrit "half" and dialect "half" are dissimilar, and also differ from the more finished type; in the skeleton half and two annas, the last characters in the dialect are not like those in the finished type, but seem more like actual characters, and less like fancy ornaments—the form which we have pointed out as indicative of their appearance on this current or finished set. Next month we hope to give further particulars.

Guadalajara.—The already extensive list of varieties has been extended by the discovery of a few new specimens of those peculiarly perforated monstrosities on which we all place such value, and which so few of us can obtain. The specimens are—

1 real green, 1868, *bâtonné* (thinnish).
2 reales rose, 1868, ,, (thicker).
4 reales blue, 1867, ,, (thin).
4 reales blue, 1867, *quadrillé* (thin).
1 peso lilac, 1867, ,, (thin).

The rarity is 4 reales on *bâtonné*, and next is the *peso* (*un*, not the unattainable *Un*); of 2 reales, also, very few specimens exist, by which we mean to say that a dozen will cover the quantity; the *peso* is only known in six copies, the 4 reales *bâtonné* is only known in two. These perforated things were evidently stamped out with a punch, as wanted, for we have had them in part sheets, some stamped out, some not touched.

"Fiji Times Express."—The set mentioned by *The Philatelist* (see page 106 of the July number) should read, one penny, threepence, sixpence, and one shilling, on *quadrillé* paper (*i.e.*, paper watermarked by crossed vertical and horizontal lines, forming small squares), black impressions perforated by roulette on line of colour (*i.e.*, black), the impressions being each black.

"Koorshedjah."—*The Philatelist* seems to say that this is not a postal, but simply a private *seal*; and also seems to have only just discovered that Koorshedjah is the name of the Nawab, though not of any specific place. A reference to page 31 of our 1870 volume may convince the editor of *The Philatelist* that his first hypothesis is not quite correct, and that the second piece of information is not quite so "astounding" as at first sight appears. We believe that it may safely be asserted, that the majority of the few copies which have been for sale, have been offered and bought as "the frank stamp of H. H. the Nawab Koorshedjah." We have had them sent upon letters so recently as January of the present year, when, if they were not postage stamps, or had no franking power, the letters would have required the presence of the current stamps for the Deccan, but there was nothing except the current Indian, and there was no extra postage to be paid here, which renders it quite certain that the stamp "Koorshedjah" prepaid the letter through H. H.'s dominions, our Indian stamps doing the rest, even as it may be observed upon Cashmerian letters unto this day.

United States Periodical Stamps.—Has it been observed that two varieties exist of these stamps? In one, of which there exists the set of three values, there is an outer ground of colour extending from stamp to stamp; in the other there is no outer ground or border, there being a blank space as in all other stamps. These latter are of a much darker blue than the others.

FINLAND.—The current 10 pen. amber is now printed upon a thinnish wove paper, in place of being laid vertically. The two stamps of the 1856 issue, which have recently been chronicled, viz., 5 and 10 kop. on blue paper, are found on two varieties of paper, at least the 10 kopec—on ordinary thin blue, and on blue *pelure;* they belong to the type without any pearl in the large open end of the horns.

SOUTH AUSTRALIA.—There are sundry varieties of the perforations of the stamps in use, showing various combinations of different sorts, and latterly the size of the perforation has been altered from 12 and 13 to 10½. The following is a list of the varieties known to us. "M." stands for *machine* perforated; "Ro." for roulette, as usual.

STAR WATERMARK.

I.—M. 12—13 compound, top and bottom; Ro. at sides

1 penny dark green.
,, grey-green.
,, deep rich green, v. to
,, light yellow-green.
4 pence, light and dark shades.
6 pence, light blue, v. on cartridge paper.
,, very dark blue, on ordinary paper.
10 pence, yellow, v.
1 shilling, claret-brown.
,, warm brown.

II.—M. 12—13 compound, all four sides.

1 penny dark green.
,, deep rich green.
2 pence, orange (old type).
4 pence, dark lilac.
,, dark violet.
6 pence, pale blue, v. to
,, bright blue.
1 shilling, puce-brown, v. to
,, rich warm brown.
2 shillings, light rose.
,, dark carmine.

III.—M. 10½, top and bottom, compound 12—13 at sides.
1 penny bright green.

IV.—M. 10½ all sides.
1 penny, bright green.
6 pence, dark blue.
1 shilling, warm brown.

CROWN AND S. A. WATERMARK.

I.—M. 12—13 compound, all sides.
10 pence, pale yellow.

II.—M. 10½ at top and bottom; Ro. at sides.
2 pence, light red (present type).

III.—M. 10½, all sides.
2 pence, light red (present type).

With roulette all sides, we find the twopence, present type, in various shades, first with crown and S. A. watermark and then the star, but the crown has been again reverted to. The tenpence star, rouletted all sides, exists with surcharging in black and in blue. On the provisional blue threepence the surcharging is in crimson and in black. Next month we will revert to this value, as our notes on its variations are incomplete. The crown and S. A. tenpence, perforated 12—13, is scarce, and the rouletted tenpence, with black surcharging, also seems uncommon.

PARAGUAY.—We have received the following information respecting the three stamps for this republic, which we translate for the benefit of our readers:—

In Calle de la Ribera, the capital of Paraguay, there is a postal adminstration under the care of a citizen of the Argentine Republic. There are in use, for prepayment of letters within the republic of Paraguay, and for foreign letters as well, three stamps, value 1, 2, and 3 reales, rose, blue, and black. They are not issued by decree, but verbal instructions and a provisional regulation have been given by the government to the person in charge of that administration, and on whom they are content to rely for the regularity of their postal service.

The arrangement is somewhat like that formerly adopted in Egypt, where the *Posta Europea* of Mr. Chini was the first administration to issue stamps (see vol. vi., p. 119, of this magazine). During the Paraguayan war, two envelopes were in use by the Brazilian navy, which may be described as follows:—

1st.—A plain transverse oval, inscribed, in Roman capitals, ESQUADRA BLOQUEDORA A. O. PARAGUAY, impressed in blue or black, on various envelopes.

2nd.—A plain rectangle, with rounded corners, contains the Brazilian arms on shield; under a crown, and supported by branches, FORÇA NAVAL DO BRAZIL NO PARAGUAY, disposed above and below in curved line, impressed in blue, on various envelopes.

THE GERMAN EAGLE.—The form of the Imperial German Eagle, as it is henceforth to figure in the arms of the Empire, and on stamps and official seals, has been determined by the Federal Council. According to the *German Correspondent*, it is to be the heraldic eagle with the head turned to the right, above which the Imperial crown will appear to hover. The shield on the eagle's breast will display the heraldic Prussian eagle, each wing containing six broad and five narrow feathers; the claws will be without the insignia they usually seem to grasp, and the tail in heraldic delineation.

NOTES ON THE UNITED STATES LOCALS.

BY W. DUDLEY ATLEE.

II.

BOYD'S CITY EXPRESS POST (*continued*).

As there are so many varieties of Boyd's labels, I think that a few brief remarks upon the best forgeries may be useful, more particularly to tyros.

The finest counterfeits are in imitation of the fourth type, and were manufactured upon this side of the water. They were usually sold in sets of six values (1, 2, 3, 5, 7, and 9 cents), each one of which was printed both in and upon several colours, including those of the originals. In the genuine, the point of the right wing, and almost the whole side of the left wing, touch the border; whereas, in the impositions, neither of the pinions go against the frame. The dots before POST, and after denomination of value, are in the middle of the inscribed band upon the archetype; in the forgery the full stop after CENT [S] follows in the ordinary way.

There are a pair of rather deceptive counterfeits, of American extraction, which we have known for some years, and which are at once condemned by possessing shaded dots, instead of solid ones, before POST and after CENTS. The other impostors are not worth troubling about, being too poor to deceive anyone.

I have discovered that some copies of the fourth-type 1 cent lack the dot after EXPRESS; but whether this was due to the deterioration of the die, or was the effect of design, I cannot say; most probably the former is the true cause. Anyhow, this variety deserves to be added to the list.

I must also add two rarities which exist in the Ph. collection, and which are undoubtedly genuine:

TYPE I. (*c*). 2 cent gold on orange.
„ V. 2 cent orange on white.

In the same priceless collection is a splendid proof of the second type in black, and also one of type I. (*a*) in the same colour.

To the envelopes of type II. (*a*) there must be added a

2 cent on yellow.

The current (*b*) die is also impressed upon blue.

From a careful study of the embossed envelopes, I have arrived at the conclusion that the only ones issued to the public were

Vermilion on saffron.
Mazarine blue on creamy yellow.
Sky-blue „ „

with *vergeures* always oblique.

The other papers were supplied to order, after the manner of our higher-priced envelopes.

AMERICAN LETTER MAIL COMPANY.

This company was started either at the end of 1843, or early in the following year, for the conveyance of letters between Philadelphia and New York, the principal office being in the former city. It was a branch of the firm carrying between Boston and New York, under the title of Hale & Co.

Two stamps were issued, both very finely engraved upon steel, the rarer being of the following design:—

Within a square frame is a circle containing the national eagle and motto; THE AMERICAN above, LETTER MAIL CO. below; the angles being filled in with plain wedge-shaped figures; at foot, in minute italics, *Engraved by W. L. Ormsby*. Printed in black upon thin white paper, with a slightly bluish tinge. No reprints or forgeries are known of this stamp, but an essay in drab is sometimes catalogued; it is probably a myth. The other label is the well-known oblong, inscribed with name of company above, and at foot 20 FOR A DOLLAR. In the centre is an eagle, with outstretched wings, standing on a rock: at the angles, leaves and flourishes. This stamp has not been reprinted, but a well executed counterfeit has been made, after the manner of the genuine. The most noticeable points of difference are as follows: The clouds in the original are represented by wavy lines, whereas the lines are straight and dotted upon the imitation. In the latter, the eagle's left wing contains a prominent break in the shading; the wings are shaded throughout upon the genuine. There is a straight line running through each of the corner ornaments upon the real stamps; upon the sham they are scarcely discernible. The counterfeits are printed upon

a dull white paper, and have a new look about them; the genuine are in black, upon paper like that used for the larger stamp, and also upon whiter paper, of a stronger texture.

From the difficulty in obtaining locals upon the packets which they franked, I have not been able to discover which of the two stamps was first emitted, but am inclined to think that they were brought out simultaneously; probably the larger stamp was of greater or less value than the other. I only offer this as a conjecture, not having been able to find out the facial worth of the first-named label.

Mr. Scott states that the large stamp was used in 1844, which seems from all accounts to have been either the first or second year of the company's existence. I possess a portion of a letter, addressed to New York, in February, 1845, franked by the large label, and another wrapper, with the date of February, 1844, prepaid by the smaller stamp. Therefore, as the latter was certainly used after 1845, I think my theory of a contemporary issue will hold good.

Both stamps are generally obliterated by pen-strokes or initials, but sometimes an undecipherable vermilion smudge is used. In New York the letters were surcharged with a large red transverse oval impression, giving the name of the company, and their office—50, Wall street.

It may be as well to add that the price of the smaller stamps was 5 cents each, retail, or 4 cents, wholesale, for any number under twenty.

WYMAN'S EXPRESS.

In 1844, a daily service of messengers was organised by Mr. W. Wyman, of Boston, to run between that city and New York. Only one stamp was issued, of which the following is a description:—

In the centre a locomotive, with car, surrounded by a thin oval frame, above which is 8, COURT ST. and 3, WALL ST., and below 20 STAMPS FOR ONE DOLLAR. Along the top of the stamp, W. WYMAN, and at the upper angles flower buds. The bottom is filled by two large bell-shaped buds, joined by a smaller one in the centre. Printed from steel, in black, upon white paper.

There is a very passable forgery, but it may be detected by the following differences between it and the original. In the latter, the buffer of the engine is at some little distance from the side of the oval; it almost touches it in the imposition. The points of the flower in the left-hand upper corner should be at equal distances from the frame, but the forgery has the lower one nearly against the border line.

U. S. MAIL, PREPAID.

The stamps with the above inscription are so simple in design and execution that they present great temptation to forgers. It is only by a minutely descriptive account of the originals that the counterfeits can be detected. Surrounding a circle, inscribed ONE CENT, are the words U. S. MAIL, PREPAID, within a single-lined circular frame, $\frac{7}{8}$-in. in diameter.

Genuine.—The right side of the U is very fine; between this letter and the next is a full stop. The S is narrow, with a much thinner stroke at foot than above; the stop following is considerably nearer to M than to the initial preceding it. A in MAIL is narrow and pointed, and the I has a very short head-stroke. In PREPAID the R is at some little distance from the E, and the top of the A is brought to a point. Letters in inscription of value are small and uniform; those in each word being at equal distances from each other. A perpendicular line drawn from the first stroke of M would come through the dot at foot; if another line were commenced at the foot of the primary stroke of the upper A, it would run through the similar portion of the lower A. If, to vary the monotony, the stamp is guaged horizontally, it will be found that the U is above the line of L.

Forgeries.—I only know of two forgeries, but others probably exist. In the commonest there is no stop after U, and the lettering is thicker, although not extraordinarily so. S is almost joined to the dot following it, and the lower dot is in a direct line with the *centre* of the M.

The counterfeits are upon papers of many hues; the genuine upon the following only:

Black on thick glazed yellow paper.
,, ,, creamy-yellow unglazed paper.
,, ,, buff ,, ,,
,, ,, rose ,, ,,

By unglazed, I mean paper stained throughout, instead of simply surface-coloured, as is the first-noted stamp.

The obliteration was usually a red circular impression.

LIVINGSTON, WELLS, AND POMEROY'S EXPRESS.

I only know of one label issued by this firm, and that is of such excessive rarity, that it has not been counterfeited. It was emitted in 1845, and could have had but a short existence.

Within an oblong frame, composed of small diamond ornaments, is the name of the company, in three lines. Below this are an equal number of lines, giving the company's chief offices:—NO. 2 WALL ST. N. YORK. 5 EXCHANGE, ALBANY. 1 EXCHANGE ST., BUFFALO. Printed in black, upon glazed vermilion paper.

POSTAL CHIT-CHAT.

PRINCE BISMARCK has proposed the calling of an International Postal Conference, with a view to the establishment of uniform postal rates throughout Europe. The proposal has been generally accepted; and all the powers, except France, will be represented at the Conference, which is to take place at Berlin.

A QUERY.—*The Times* says, "The order for setting fire to the Hotel de Ville has been found on a National Guard of the Commune, now a prisoner at Versailles. It is covered with stamps; some of them blue, and others red." Can any one say what kind of stamps they were?

[Most probably hand-stamps. One knows the passion the French have for stamping everything with an official-looking stamp.—ED.]

CORRESPONDENCE.

ANOTHER MONTEVIDEAN ERROR.

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

SIR,—I have not seen noticed anywhere the existence of a variety of the 5 c. large figure Uruguay. I have a copy with the c of the word CENTECIMOS, on the lower part of the figure, omitted; so that it reads ENTECIMOS; and to-day I saw another copy with the same error.

I am, Sir,
Yours respectfully,
Liverpool. ALFRED O. BELL.

[This is a well-known error, and is catalogued for sale by some of the dealers.—ED.]

DATES OF ISSUE OF VICTORIAN STAMPS.

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

DEAR SIR,—A gentleman has just given me a dozen or so of the early Victorian stamps; they were sent over by his brother, who has sent many before, and has lived in Melbourne for many years. The reason for my troubling you with this is, that they were on tissue paper as sent over; some had the dates in pencil at the back of the stamp, and some had it on the paper underneath—I suppose the date of the letter or papers they came off. I have sent a list of the dated ones, as the dates of two of them are earlier than is given in Gray's last catalogue.

HALF-LENGTH UNPERFORATED.

One penny rose, 1855.
One penny vermilion, 1856.

POSTAGE STAMP UNPERFORATED.

Sixpence orange, 1854.

EMBLEMS, PLAIN PAPER, ROULETTE, PERF.

One penny emerald green, 1858 in pencil at back, and 1857 to '58, underneath.

FIGURES AT SIDES.

Fourpence rose, no watermark, 1862.
Fourpence rose, watermark figure of value, 1862.
Both are exactly the same shade; about a middle tint.

Yours truly,
Norwich. J. B. B.

ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS.

F. H. S., Carlsruhe.—We do not know of what kind were the stamps with which the order to burn the Hotel de Ville, of Paris, was covered.

J. B. B., Norwich.—We have no doubt your Turkish stamp is genuine.—The impressed Roman stamp, with reclining figure, we cannot recognise. The other we notice in our article on new issues.

E. F. PEEL, Dewsbury.—We *do* mean to say that all the values of the French republic stamps of 1871, perforated or unperforated, are comparatively hard to get; and that, consequently, the remaining stock of imperial stamps is being used up.

G. C., Fecamp.—This correspondent, under date 31st May, sends us as novelties three specimens of the Alsace and Lorraine stamps, issued last August, and requests us to insert a description of them in our next! According to him, they were issued when the Prussian army occupied Rouen.

R. W. P., Cardiff.—Your St. Helena, Newfoundland, St. Lucia, Liberia, red Costa Rica, blue Montevideo, and the three British Guiana, with the inscription reading *Damus Retimisque Vicissim*, are forgeries.—The best album for a collector who purposes going fully into philately is Moens'.

G. W. B., M.—We are obliged for your having called our attention to the Newfoundland one cent from fresh die, and the new perforation of the Turkish.—Your No. 3 is watermarked CC. and crown, and the words CROWN COLONIES run below in large lettering. On your stamp you see a piece of the O.—No. 4 is a genuine stamp. We know of two varieties of engraving; probably more exist.—Nos. 5, 6, 7, and 9, are genuine: the variations of these are well known; but No. 8 is forged.

M. S. C., Scorton.—Your letter has unfortunately been overlooked; pray excuse the neglect, and permit us now to reply to your questions. 1, 2. Oppen's album is a good one, and the catalogue which accompanies it is trustworthy.—3. You had better put your Mulready envelope in the centre of a page, by itself, if there is not a special place for it.—4. The word "essay," in a philatelic sense, signifies a design for a postage stamp, submitted for acceptance to the postal authorities, but rejected by them.—5. You can subscribe to *The Stamp-Collector's Magazine* for a portion of the year.—6. Our publishers can supply all the volumes except the first two.

THE POSTAGE STAMPS OF THE CONFEDERATE STATES OF AMERICA.

BY EDWARD L. PEMBERTON.

In the June number of *The American Journal of Philately* is the commencement of a complete "History of the Confederate States Post Office," which must prove a most valuable and reliable work, if the accounts given by Mr. Scott of the immense correspondence, and the lavish expenditure incurred by him in pursuit of materials, be carefully considered. That the work will be valuable and reliable is as it should be, and its advent, we may trust, will mark the commencement of a new epoch in the management of American philatelic magazines, and not before it is time.

American editors should know their own business best, and the style of composition most congenial to their subscribers; but no paper conducted in England, unless it were avowedly a parody on philately, could imitate our American cousins with any hope of encouragement. What can we term a laborious enumeration of United States revenue stamps, month by month, but a parody on philately proper? *The American Journal of Philately* recently signified its intention of making us Europeans jealous of the wonderful items of intelligence which they might, could, would, or should publish, anent the stamps of "their own, their native land." In the face of this determination, I have pondered over "A Descriptive List of all Revenue Stamps" with something of the feeling that I was perusing advertisements of quack medicines; yet, for those who "are willing to do everything for the science" of philately (*vide The American Journal of Philately's* own expression), this is a most creditable production, I suppose. To those who are dissatisfied with the tameness of postage stamps, let us commend the "Descriptive List of all Revenue Stamps" as a sort of irritant which might drive one to madness. The list tells us of those labels severally employed to commemorate hair dyes, gargling oils, magnetic plasters, preparations, magical pain extractors, galvanic horse salves, blooms of youth, vinegar bitters, herb bitters, wines of tar, vermifuge comfits, and I know not how many other diabolical concoctions, but all to be found puffed and described by *The American Journal of Philately*.

Because a man makes a match, the tax upon which is collected by a well-engraved stamp, embellished by a portrait of his own wooden features, is that any reason why we should all long to possess some memento of this man and his, probably, very bad matches? The majority of American collectors run down the study of postage stamps, yet do not object to add the collection of every parti-coloured thing in the shape of a label for matches, patent medicines, sewing machines, beer barrels, tobacco cakes, or what not, when issued by a grateful tax office as vouchers for money received. The abolition of this nonsense would be a gain to American *postage* stamp collectors, and to those European amateurs who, at times, subscribe to their journals. If these "descriptive lists" continue, we may sink so low in our search after amusement, as to buy patent medicines by the gross for the sake of their stamps; to purchase soothing syrups, gargling oils, and such, by the gallon, in order to become the proud possessors of their ungainly labels. Well do I remember, in times back, the sarcastic hints given by American papers to those who, to them, seemed so in want of an outlet, that they actually examined the perforations and watermarks of their stamps. Now they supply an outlet to collectors with superfluous energies, and with a vengeance!

I just now almost termed American philatelic magazines parodies on philately. In continuation of this last cause of offence, I can only say that in England the stamp journals cannot afford to ignore or to break *all* rules of politeness, grammar, orthography, and punctuation,—all and every of which are continually broken by the leading transatlantic organs. It is very curious, too, that American stamp papers are, in all their own assertions, so self-confident, often bumptious; yet to the statements of a rival magazine, in either hemisphere, they never accord entire acquiescence, seldom even a partial belief. This self-confidence, which is so

boldly asserted, often causes disparaging remarks to be made on what they *do* write. For example, who that read that absurd tirade in the American *Journal*, headed "British Honour," could understand their cause of offence, or could seriously endorse the remarks on British amateurs? What a very foolish tone to adopt when endeavouring to prove they had a grievance! They were annoyed that the 20 c. St. Louis, and the dies of the 5 and 10 c., were critically examined in these pages, instead of in their own. Now surely it lay in their own power to have prevented this; they had all the specimens from which I described, and many more, no doubt, and had possessed them for nearly a year when I saw them; why, then, should they not have described them thoroughly, in their own paper, during that twelve months? Why were they obliged to send them to England to be described? Had they not said they were "determined that everything known about American stamps should be learnt from *The American Journal of Philately*"? and in an excess of confidence, which some might take for conceit, did they not add, "that European philatelists have done this, has long been admitted"? Answering these questions might lead us into invidious doubts, either that they knew too much about the antecedents of the 20 c. St. Louis, or else there was no American writer found capable of critically examining them, and of clearly describing the points of variance.

My readers will ask, "What has all this to do with Confederate provisionals?" Simply this, that Mr. Scott's paper upon the "Confederate Post Office" should be a standard work for all time, and it is a thousand pities that so valuable a work should be tinged by the faults on which I have dilated, as incident to American philatelism. If the writer will take my criticisms as they are meant, and as the opinions of the great bulk of European amateurs, not written in any cavilling spirit of intending to find fault at all hazards, we may hope for a valuable addition to our monthly serials, and to see *The American Journal of Philately* occupying the position it should do.

Having myself made many notes upon the Confederate stamps, I think it will be well for me to publish them, though somewhat incomplete, since if I delay I shall be charged with plagiarism in many points where personal observation must prove identical. I had prepared the outlines of a complete catalogue of the stamps under this heading two years ago, but have never been able to finish it from lack of materials; but such as it is, I will dedicate it to the readers of *The Stamp-Collector's Magazine*, feeling sure they will find a few things to interest them.

Few postage stamps will prove to be such memorials as those of the late Confederate States. By their issues, with such varying portraits, and by the emissions from the various cities which formed the chief rallying places, they remind us of those material points in the history of the struggles, which hold the prominent places on the pages of American history. It is upon these "locals," or, more distinctively, "provisionals," that our greatest interest centres; but, to render the present paper thoroughly complete, we are bound to describe fully the various authorised well-known emissions of the government, and not to confine our researches to the rarer and more interesting "provisional local" issues, called forth by the exigencies of the war, after the government was reduced to making localities their head-quarters. The authorised government emissions, of course, vary considerably in the particulars of paper and colour, so it is not surprising that many of the stamps provisionally issued, in various cities, should possess no ascertained normal condition. Of course we must accept all we may find genuine, trusting to future emendations to supply the requisite explanations of their vagaries. Such variations are to be expected in a case where the government was always moving, and where all the peaceful arts were virtually at a stand-still. As a parallel, look back at the coinage during the civil wars in England, when every species of plate was worked into coin by the royal party. The local coinages of Newark and Pontefract must be known to many of us, in which the plate was not even melted down, but the king's

impress, &c., were struck upon the flattened silver, leaving the marks of the original chasing or engraving plainly visible.

In stamp collecting we find hardly such striking things as these, but when a century has given age to philately, many of these Confederate provisionals will be eagerly sought for, and most highly valued. Age gives respectability, and it is only that the whole system of prepayment of cheap postage by stamps is so comparatively new, that philately is thought so lightly of by the general public. An invention which has done so much for the good of mankind, and whose visible signs (stamps) possess every historical record which the future student can desire to command, must, in time, take its proper position, and become subsidiary and indispensable to the study of numismatics.

To collect both coins and stamps *thoroughly* is far beyond the reach of most, but to be a faithful philatelist is not so difficult. To possess a fair exposition of the wondrous advance of civilization during the past quarter of a century, in the remotest parts of the globe, can be done for a sum which would not be missed when spread over a few years. These remarks are in strict accordance with our heading, for the locals or provisionals of the late Confederate States possess original claims upon us as matters of history, and that is the great ground upon which philately will take its stand for all time.

(*To be continued.*)

ESSAYS ON PHILATELIC SUBJECTS.

BY W. DUDLEY ATLEE.

I.

WHAT SHALL WE COLLECT?

THIS is a question which should concern every earnest collector, for in it is embodied the very germ and essence of philately. What we should take, and what reject, in the shape of postal "go-frees" (to use a word most applicable to my meaning), is a subject of great importance, and one which cannot be curtly or lightly dealt with, for it is a matter requiring most careful and unbiassed consideration. It will be necessary for me to go over a good deal of old ground, and to resuscitate a host of well-read arguments; but no definite opinion can be arrived at unless some tautology is allowed me.

When collecting was in its infancy, amateurs were content to take one specimen of each stamp; but I do not believe anyone ever adopted the idea inculcated in the first edition of Dr. Gray's catalogue,—that a change of colour did not constitute any material difference. Now that philately has ripened into a science, it is amusing to look back upon such a sentence as the following:—"A stamp is certainly the same, whether it is on green or white paper; or printed in black, red, or green ink."

Coeval with stamp collecting proper, there began what may be aptly termed a mania for essays. This was all very well for a time, but men soon arose who knew not honesty, and then the universal collecting of these things collapsed, the good and the bad falling into an equal state of evil repute. Some of the leading amateurs still retained them, but it is not to be wondered at that the generality of English collectors gave them up in disgust.

Our English essays are so interesting, and undoubtedly so far beyond suspicion, that I think they ought to be taken whenever a collector has the fortunate opportunity of obtaining them. With the exception of the pair with head of the late Prince Consort, there has never been any question as to the authenticity of every known variety.



The majority of essays were never exhibited to the governments for which they were said to be intended, but there are several genuine foreign ones, among which I may casually mention those for the Wurtemburg envelopes (here figured), which were designed about the same time as the adhesives, by the government engraver, but, from some unexplained cause, were never issued. As the die was altered to suit another purpose, there is no



chance of reprinting, so that originals will ever remain very valuable.

The 25 c. Parma, of the provisional type is *bona fide*, as are also the Italians by Pellas, although the interest in these latter is sadly marred by their quantity, and by their sickening mockery of the kaleidoscope.

There are a few essays (if they can be so called) which should be placed in the *via media*, or philatelic purgatory, for they are, as it were, a bridge between the adopted and the rejected. These are the stamps which were prepared for issue, but kept back at the last moment; as the list is a short one, it may be appropriately inserted here. Giving our own country the first place, we have the official "V.R.," the lilac-pink three-halfpenny, and the envelope of similar value. The threepenny, with lined spandrels, should certainly be accepted; but whether it belongs to the class under notice I leave my readers to judge. It is of such rarity that only a favoured few can hope to possess it.

To continue, there is the 12 cuartos Spain, of the 1857 type, the truth respecting which has at last been unearthed by *El Averiguador;* the 6 c. and 8 c. of Belgium, whose history is so ably given by Mr. Overy Taylor in our last number, and the ¼ g.gr. brown on white, of Brunswick. Austrian Italy produced a trio of adhesives, which had not time to circulate, their places being filled by a new issue; I need scarcely say that I refer to the 2, 3, and 15 soldi of the 1861-2 series. The Connell stamp, of New Brunswick, is sometimes termed an essay, but this is an error, as it undoubtedly had a few days' existence as a postage stamp.



As a natural sequence to essays, one is led to speak of proofs. By that title I do not mean such rubbish as the Hanover—taken after the issue had ceased—but impressions of the die struck before any stamps were printed from it, in their emitted colours. As it is extremely difficult to procure good proofs, the obtaining of them must be left entirely to the inclination, wealth, or influence of the collector. They can only be called subsidiaries to *postage-stamp* collecting. This remark will, of course, apply with much greater force to essays, always excepting the adopted ones I have enumerated.

Having disposed of what I may term two extraneous points of philately, the next thing is to consider upon what system we ought to collect, so as to obtain the highest amount of intellectual and practical benefit. I may premise the well-known fact that our study is divided into two schools, the followers of which are as opposite in their tenets as the Christian and the Moslem. Sundry designations have been proposed to distinguish these schools, but the false titles of "French" and "English" are still clung to with ridiculous pertinacity.

There are various gradations in the thermometrical ideas of collectors; the following are the principles of the "good old-fashioned" amateur, whom I will place at zero. He only takes stamps issued to the public; and confines himself to one shade, except where there is a prominent difference, as in the red and vermilion penny Antigua. He ignores perforation and paper, and cuts up his envelopes. This is the wrongly-named "English" mode of collecting. It has its advantages, but they are so few that they can be summed up in a single sentence,—economy of money, time, and labour. It is a system I cannot honestly praise, except to those who make of their pleasures a *dolce far niente*.

Philatelists of what must be called the moderate French school, take varieties of perforation, paper, and watermark, and the leading shades of each stamp. They also endeavour to obtain their envelopes unmutilated. Most add authenticated locals, and in this I think them decidedly right.

The old Greek saying, *ariston metron*, is fully borne out in arranging a stamp album, and the course I have just mentioned is the one I have to recommend. Its advantages are as undeniable as they are numerous, and cannot but present themselves to those who look upon their albums as something better than mere playthings. That varieties should be taken *in moderation*, was most pertinently demonstrated by Mr. Overy Taylor, whose name, and the word consistency, seem, in my opinion, to be convertible terms. What can be truer than the following remarks of that

writer? "If only one series of each type be collected, then the collection is valuable for illustrative purposes, but for no other." This may be given as the axis upon which all our arguments revolve.

If it were possible to define the line which separates the intentional from the accidental varieties, we might then confine our attention solely to the former; but this, as we all know, is utterly out of the question. What, then, must we do?

I have no wish to, and indeed cannot, lay down any dogmatic or standard rule, for a great deal must be left to the opportunities and judgment of the collector. My advice, however, is, that the beginner should endeavour to first obtain two shades of each colour, the darkest and lightest (so that they be not faded) that he can find, and then, as his collection increases, he would be able to add intercalary shades. It will be noticed that I have used the word shade in contradiction to that of colour. To show my application of the latter term, I will instance the imperforate penny Barbados. Among these are numerous gradations of tone, but in reality there is only one colour—blue; however, for simplification, I bracket the dull and deep blues together, as representing differences of one colour, but sky blue and greenish blue I consider as separate colours.

According to my arrangement for beginners, the *colours* of the stamp in question are as follows:—

{ Dull blue
{ Deep blue
Greenish blue
Sky blue
Chalky blue.

I will briefly refer to another oft-disputed subject—perforation. A stamp perforated 16, is as different from another of the same design and colour, but perforated 12, as in botany are eatable *agarici* from those which are poisonous.

It is through a knowledge of perforation that many a collector has been saved from buying reprints; take for example the 1 c. rose British Guiana, which was issued with 12 dents, but is reproduced with 13. Look again at the 1858 emissions of Austria and Austrian Italy, and then if you can fairly cry *Cui bono!* I give you leave to call my opinions preposterous. Let us be thorough in our study, and not rest satisfied with the shell of the philatelic nut, when with a little trouble we can obtain the kernel.

In the June number of this journal was an article by Mr. Tiffany (which originally appeared in *The American Stamp Mercury*), suggesting that tyros should be content with one stamp as a specimen of its class; for instance, taking New Zealand (his own illustration) as an example: a 2d., on white, without watermark or perforation; a 1s., on white, with star watermark, but no perforation, and so on.

The idea is an ingenious one, and is a great improvement upon the narrow principles of the ultra-English school, but it is open to objections. To show the faultiness of the system, I will suppose that a collector has a large budget of early Victorian, from which he intends to arrange those with the star watermark. Taking Mr. Pemberton's monograph as his guide, he decides upon making the following six stamps the representatives of the *filagramme* in question.

Queen enthroned,	one penny,	imperforate.
,,	sixpence,	M. large serpentine.
,,	,,	rouletted.
Emblems at angles,	one penny,	imperforate.
,,	,,	machine perf. 12.
,,	fourpence,	rouletted.

He would be almost certain to find some imperforate copies of the higher values; and, most likely, the unenumerated rouletted of this watermark; but he would probably have a very long search before he discovered the "serpentine" sixpenny. According to Mr. Tiffany's plan, our collector would have to discard two different stamps of each type (I have not considered shades), which at some future time would doubtless cost him more than double the money to obtain. This, for a system the basis of which is economy, will never do.

After a long experience of the moderate (so-called) French plan, I cannot do otherwise than pronounce it the best, as being more reasonable, practicable, and advantageous than any other. Any mode of collecting which does not embrace prominent differences in colour, must be defective; and,

as an officially perforated stamp is not complete without that denticulation, the variations in these ought logically to be taken note of. I could not offer a better model to amateurs than the list of 1860-3, British Guiana, given by Mr. Pemberton at page 29 of the current volume. Those stamps upon medium-toned paper might be omitted, if the catalogue was deemed too extensive.

There is no doubt that ruled albums have done much to cramp collecting, for I have myself known cases where the collector would not take a certain distinctive variety, merely because Lallier or Oppen had not marked a space for it. Ruled spaces are a decided mistake, and the sooner they are done away with, and blank pages substituted, the better. If the list of emissions is given upon the opposite page to the one devoted to the stamps, the collector does not require to be shown how to place the specimens, if he is endowed with even a modicum of common sense.

So much has been written to show the absurdity of cutting envelopes, that I need only barely refer to it. There are certain reprinted envelopes which it is impossible to distinguish from the genuine, unless they are in a state of entirety. To take one instance out of many, I will mention the *Bestelgeld-frei* Hanover, the originals of which were only gummed at the extremity of the flap; whereas the reprints have mucilage along the edges.

As the pecuniary value of an envelope is decreased one half *at least*, after the application of the scissors, such a course always seems to me as foolish as clipping sovereigns and throwing away the dust.

The collecting of official and newspaper stamps I must consider in another paper.

INVERTED AND REVERSED WATERMARKS.

BY REV. ROBERT B. EARÉE.

Since the appearance of my article on inverted watermarks, which you were good enough to insert, I have received communications from several brother philatelists on the subject; and, by their politeness, I am enabled to add a few more varieties to my list, as follows:—

Argentine, 1864, five centavos carmine, inverted "R.A."
British Columbia, 1865, threepence blue, inverted crown and "CC."
Hong Kong, 1865, four cents grey, inverted crown and "CC."
Modena, 1854, one lira white, inverted "M."
New South Wales, sixpence, square, violet, inverted "6."
" " " " " inverted "12."
New Zealand, 1863, sixpence brown, inverted "N.Z."
" " " one shilling green, inverted "N.Z."
Western Australia, 1856, one penny black, inverted swan.

I must tell you that I have not seen all the above-mentioned stamps, but I give them on the authority of those who actually possess them.

Your correspondent, "G. W. B.," speaks of *reversed* watermarks in his article; I have had a few examples of them in my possession for some time, but I did not venture to catalogue them, lest the purists and carpists (urged beyond all patience by what they must consider as mere transcendentalism on my part) should come down upon me with one accord, and extinguish me altogether. As it is, I confess that I fully expected to see that extinct and fossil mammal, the "Pendragon," galvanized into life, to slay and devour the innovation and its author. You may imagine, then, that I thought I had gone quite far enough when I wrote concerning the *inverted* watermarks; but now that another correspondent has stated that *he* collects reversed watermarks, I may say that *I* do so too. Unfortunately, I have not got many specimens as yet; they seem to be more uncommon than the inverted ones. I have seen the South Australians watermarked with crown and "A.S.," instead of "S.A."; and also the Argentines of 1864 with "A.R."; but in my own possession I have at present only the following:—

New South Wales, one shilling square, rose, reversed "12."
Queensland, one penny red and sixpence green, reversed crown and "Q."
Tasmania, fourpence blue, reversed "4."
Victoria, tenpence red-brown, reversed "10."

Those who collect the inverted watermarks will, of a surety, accept the reversed ones also, sooner or later, for the same argument applies with equal force to both; that is to say, they are both errors of manipulation,

and, therefore, if one be accepted, the other must be accepted too, and *vice versâ*; so that we may borrow for them the motto of Mr. Durbin's pets,—"*United, we stand; divided, we fall.*"

INTERNATIONAL POSTAGE.

The *Postamtsblatt* contains a memorial treating of the International Postal Conference, which was drawn up in the Berlin General Post-office, and has been approved by the imperial chancellor. It contains some interesting observations on international postal arrangements.

The treaties concluded of late years between various states, have, it says, prepared the way for a further simplification of the business of the post, and the question now arises whether a general postal congress might not remove some of the inconveniences which still exist. Such a congress would not have to discuss theories, nor to draw up a programme, but, if possible, to establish a single treaty between all the countries interested in the matter.

The following points are then specially proposed:

I.—The countries hereafter mentioned shall be comprehended in the same postal arrangements. The states of Europe, Asiatic Russia, and Turkey, Algiers, the Spanish possessions in Northern Africa, the Canary Islands, Madeira, the United States of America, Canada, and the rest of the British possessions in North America, and Greenland.

II.—The charge for a single letter passing from one country to another within the whole of this immense postal district, without any difference being made on account of the distance of the destination, shall amount to 20 centimes if prepaid, and 40 centimes if unpaid.

a.—In case of sea transit of more than 300 knots an extra charge of not more than 20 centimes per letter, whether prepaid or not, may be made to cover the expenses therefrom arising.

b.—The letters being paid in the coin of the various states, a slight difference in charge must be made as the coinage of the countries interested does not entirely correspond, but this variation from the normal rate ought never to exceed five centimes.

III.—The weight of a single letter shall be fixed at 15 grammes; when this weight is exceeded a double rate is to be charged.

a.—The maximum weight of a letter shall be 250 grammes.

b.—In countries where the metric and decimal system has not been introduced, the closest possible approach shall be made to the above-mentioned weights in the system in use.—*Globe.*

A BATCH OF NOVELTIES.

COMMUNICATED AND DESCRIBED BY EDWARD L. PEMBERTON.

Knoxville.—The engraving represents the earliest stamps issued by the postmaster of this place; it was adhesive, black on white; and envelope, olive-green on various papers. The specimen from which we engrave belongs to Dr. Petrie's collection, and is unknown in Europe.



Charleston.—When Mr. Scott wrote his paper on Confederate Provisionals last year, he did not appear to have met with the Charleston envelope. There is a beautiful specimen in Mr Philbrick's collection; the design is like the adhesive, less the outer rayed ground and border; the numeral is longer and less spreading, with CTS under it in letters of uniform thinness throughout. This extreme rarity is printed in deep blue, and the envelope is of yellow laid paper.

Petersburg.—We may appropriately mention here, that there are two dies of this value (perhaps more); those we have seen, vary in the position of the ornaments by side of numeral 5.

Columbia.—This is another city in the late Confederate States which issued a provisional postage stamp; it is scarcely known in Europe, but it is not a loss so far as appearances are concerned. An ungainly figure 5 occupies the centre of an oval, and this again is enclosed in another; and between the two is printed P. O. COLUMBIA,

S. C. PAID, all in capitals. It is handstamped in blue, upon all sorts of envelopes; and we are not aware that it exists as an adhesive.

CEYLON ENVELOPES.—The 1d. and 2d. were issued in 1857; the others at intervals after. This is not according to our usual authorities, each of whom gives 1861 as the earliest date for an issue of stamped envelopes.

AUSTRIA.—It may not be generally known that the printing of the 50 kreuzer, of the current set, has been discontinued for, at least, the last six months; and the value will become obsolete, if it is not already.

FIJI ISLANDS.—We have to chronicle another value—ninepence. We have also to add a variety of the 6d., on *batonné* paper.

SOUTH AUSTRALIA.—The 10d., with black surcharging, exists with three varieties of perforation: 1st, rouletted, as chronicled last month; 2nd, M. 12-13, compound; 3rd, M. 10½, top and bottom, with 12-13 compound at sides.

BREMEN.—It does not seem to have been noted that of the machine perforated stamps there are two varieties, 13 and 16; of the first there is a full set; of the other we have 5 and 10 grote only.

NEWLY-ISSUED OR INEDITED STAMPS.

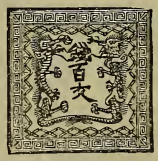
SPAIN.—We have the good fortune to be the first to reproduce the type which, if we are correctly informed, has been adopted by the government for the forthcoming series of Spanish stamps. It may be said to mark a new era in European postage-stamp portraits, as no attempt had previously been made to give the features of royalty on such a (comparatively) large scale, and to produce a life-like appearance. The profile of Queen Victoria is an ideal, that of the French Emperor is the expresssion of a Napoleonic idea, whilst the other portraits are mere engravers' inanities. That of Amadeus I. is, on the other hand, remarkable for its truthfulness; the likeness is unmistakable, and it is large enough to give room for the clear delineation of every feature. In this respect it reminds one forcibly of the two-cent American, with head of old Hickory. As to the general contour of the face, it is not difficult to trace therein a "family likeness" to Victor Emanuel.



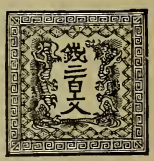
The framework is of fair average merit, but presents no very salient point; and we fear that the border does not leave room for the expression in prominent characters of the lengthy denomination of value found on Spanish stamps.

Only a few copies of the design above represented have been struck off; and the colours are not yet decided on. We hope, however, soon to have intelligence of both colours and values, as we are promised early impressions of the forthcoming series.

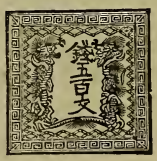
JAPAN.—We were able last month to refer to a rumour to the effect that stamps for the Japanese empire were really in preparation, and our Brighton contemporary's last number contained engravings of the said stamps. These we have now the privilege of reproducing; and whilst rendering our hearty acknowledgments to our contemporary for allowing us the use of the cuts, we have also to congratulate him on his good fortune and enterprise in describing and engraving these stamps before anyone else knew of them.



Blue.

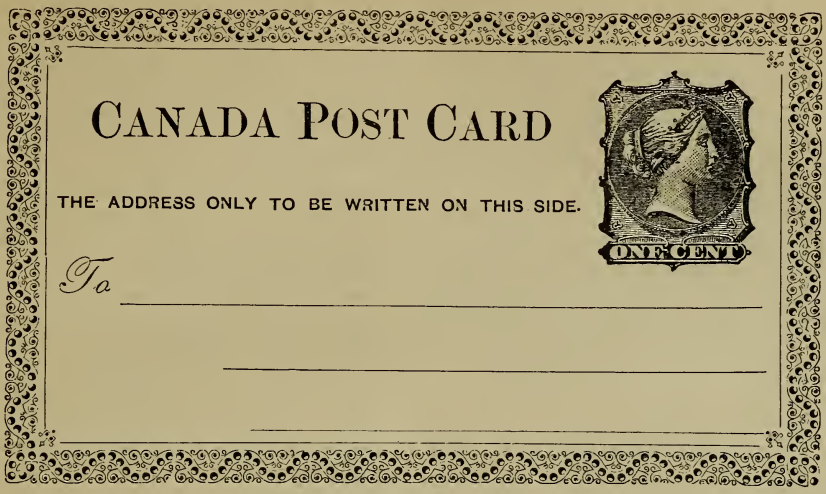


Red.



Green.

From information and specimens we have since received, we are in a position to state that besides the three stamps here represented, a fourth exists, and perhaps others. They are all on very thin Chinese wove paper of a yellowish tinge, and are lithographed. The inscription in the centre is black, and the



surrounding design in colour. From the extreme grotesqueness of the device, which may be technically described as two dragons rampant, with interlooped tails, we were at first inclined to entirely discredit the statement of the German magazine, to the effect that these stamps were the production of a German firm; but our opinion has been at least modified on this point, from the circumstance that the outer border is composed of a rather finely drawn Greek pattern, with which we should imagine the Japanese artists are not familiar. Nevertheless, the fact that the design has been separately engraved for each value, and the posture of the dragons differs in each, still militates against the European origin of the stamps. Whether, however, they were engraved in Europe or not, it is evident that the printing took place in Japan, for the colours have the true "celestial" brilliancy and depth of tint. The black inscription has evidently been struck in a separate operation; and in some of the specimens it trenches on the border.

The value is expressed in "*mons*;" the lowest being worth 48, and the highest 500. We know not whether the *mon* is a fraction of the *ichebu*, which, according to our Brighton contemporary, is the principal Japanese coin, and equals 1/4½ of our money; but if so, it is the 1-1650th part thereof, as 100 *mons* are equal to a penny. The values and colours are as follows:—

48 *mons*	dark brown.
100 (or 96) „	indigo.
200 „	red.
500 „	green.

The three lower ones are in our possession; the highest has been mentioned by *The Philatelist*. In explanation of the double expression of value, it must be said that in Japan the 96 *mons* is always considered and counted as a hundred, and the 48 sometimes as 50.

For the guidance of our readers, we have accompanied each engraving with the mention of its colour. The unrepresented stamp has a more open inscription; the little square in the upper part has two curved strokes inside, and below the square is a cross.

These stamps are used between Yeddo and Osaca and the intervening towns and villages; and we hope the correspondent to whom we are indebted for these particulars will be good enough to obtain for us the postal tariff which governs their employment.

Two of the stamps from which we describe are still attached to a fragment of the letters which they franked; and their postmark consists of an oblong rectangle rather broader than, and about twice the length of, the stamp, within which are certain Japanese characters.

We have now, we think, fully described the emission which, as that of an empire practically unknown to the civilised world when the first British stamp made its appearance, is of surpassing interest; and we trust that the enterprise of stamp dealers will soon place specimens within the reach of every collector.

CANADA.—In our July number we described the new one-cent post card for the Dominion; we have now the pleasure to give (on the preceding page) an approximate representation of the same; and to save the trouble of reference, we repeat the information that the design is in blue, and the card itself buff.

SWEDEN.—The long-lived Swedish adhesives are to be relieved from service on the 1st January, 1872, when they will make room for an entirely new, and, let us hope, original series, composed of the following values, viz.: 3, 5, 6, 12, 20, 30, 50 öre, and 1 rix-dollar. In other words, the values will be the same as the present, with a new one added—the rix-dollar; but with the adhesives will appear also a 12 öre envelope and a 12 öre post card. It is rather strange that the card should be as dear as the envelope. What can be the advantage in using it on those terms? The cards, it is true, are to be sold at their facial value, whilst another öre will be added to the facial value of the envelopes, if not more than ten are bought at a time, and half an öre for greater quantities; still there is not very much difference between the all-hiding envelope and the all-displaying card. Colours and designs are as yet unknown, but the correspondent who has kindly favoured us with the foregoing information has promised to furnish us with proofs on cardboard as soon as possible.

FRANCE.—In *The Morning Post* last month, it was stated that post cards were about to be introduced into France, and that they would be charged half the ordinary postage. By this we understand that post cards of 5 and 10 centimes are to be issued; the former for communications delivered in the district within which they are posted, the latter for communications to any part of the empire.

We clip from a Parisian paper of the beginning of last month the following item:—

Paris is suffering now from an inundation of false 10 and 20 centime postage stamps, which is really surprising. These stamps are, it appears, obtained from new dies, with the effigy of the republic, which have been stolen. They can with difficulty be recognised; one single detail of engraving, uncompleted at the time of the theft, distinguishes them from the genuine impressions. But the police are on the track of the counterfeiters, who, notwithstanding all their stamps, will hardly be able to *go free* themselves.

It appears as if the engraved republic series was here referred to, and not the Bordeaux type; if so, a new emission may be reckoned among the probabilities.

Our Brighton contemporary, in the last number, gives some details respecting the stamps said to have been used to frank letters which were delivered in Paris by private agents during the reign of the Commune. We do not question the authenticity of these stamps, though, on the authority of a correspondent on the other side of the channel, we *do* question their employment—at any rate to any perceptible extent, but we intend ourselves to abstain from giving any description of these stamps, as we have the example of the Hamburg locals before our eyes, and do not wish to add any more shams to the number already existing. It can easily be understood that it would be extremely difficult to verify the character of stamps which might be represented as being French locals. There were a number of agencies at work to fill the vacuum caused by the withdrawal of the postal authorities from Paris to Versailles during the Commune; we have ourselves enumerated in these pages some of the means employed to keep up communication between Paris and the provinces, and there may have been many others of which we have no information. Under such circumstances—and we are at least as well placed as the majority of collectors to decide—we could not say whether a stamp asserted to have been used for the prepayment of correspondence sent through private hands was so used or not, and acting on the old French proverb, *Dans le doute abstiens-toi*, we should certainly not accept it. Were it once established that French locals of this class were deserving of collection, the ingenuity of scheming engravers and sharpers would be taxed to its utmost to reel off a score of spurious stamps to supply the demand; some, if not all, would

be accepted by collectors who will not reject doubtful varieties, for fear they may be genuine, and forthwith a couple of pages would be consecrated to the vermin in Moens' and Lallier's albums.

SWITZERLAND.—One of our correspondents sends us a Swiss envelope—the 30 centime blue, in left corner, bearing the usual dove watermark, and therefore evidently official, with a peculiar flap stamp, consisting of a shield, with an obscure device on it, supported by griffins, and surmounted by a coronet. The envelope came from Berne, but the design does not much resemble that of the "Kanton Bern" fiscal stamps. The arms are enclosed in a beaded oval, and as the impression of the upper part thereof is not clear, it would seem that this flap stamp was struck after the envelope was completed. There is nothing in the vocation of the senders of this particular envelope to justify the addition by them of these armorial bearings; we therefore think they are added in the Berne post-office; and if so, the envelopes on which they appear become varieties of considerable interest.

Our publishers have received from the Berne post-office an envelope bearing neither watermark nor embossed stamp, but in the lower left corner is a blue circular handstamp; the inscription reads as follows: In the outer circle, SCHWEIZERISCHE EIOGENOSSENSCHAFT; in the inner circle, GENERAL POST DIRECTION; in the centre, on a ground of horizontal lines, is the usual white cross, and on the flap the cross appears again in the centre of a shield.

HUNGARY.—The series of Hungarian adhesives and envelopes recently noticed, and which we should have mentioned as being identical in its values and colours with the Austrian set, seems likely to have but a brief circulation. The design was lithographed, and left much to desire on the score of clearness. Probably from this reason the postal authorities have, we assume, determined to supersede it by an *engraved* and identical design. At all events we have before us a 2 kreuzer stamp bearing a design engraved with a fineness and delicacy which could not be surpassed; and it is in all respects the copy of its lithographed predecessor. The portrait of the emperor is a remarkable one; and we shall be much surprised if it does not turn out to be a perfect resemblance.

GERMANY.—First among the postal emissions for the new empire, comes an unpretending post card, inscribed with the words DEUTSCHES REICHS POSTGEBIET—"Post-office of the German Empire"—an inscription which represents a fact, and not an "idea." The imperial eagle divides the first two of the above words from the last. It is a single-headed eagle, and its two legs shoot out straight from the body; in an escutcheon on its breast, is the Prussian eagle with its attributes. The card whence we describe is buff, the inscriptions are in black, and there is a place ruled on the right-hand side to contain the adhesive stamp.

UNITED STATES.—We noticed, last month, an obsolete local, issued by Mr. Crosby, of New York, together with a new one emanating from the same source. Mr. Atlee now informs us that he has it on Mr. Crosby's own authority, that the so-termed obsolete stamp—an oblong oval—never existed. Mr. Atlee adds, and we willingly accept his correction, that we are wrong in stating that Crosby's stamp is not used for letters; and the introduction to Mr. Atlee's paper, in the current number, contains the explanation of the anomaly which permits private agents to carry letters within New York city.

NEVIS.—The one penny is now printed in a rosy lake shade, approaching that of the first edition, but distinguishable therefrom by the paper, which, like that of the preceding issue is pure white. This new variety came over by the last West Indian mail, together with supplies of the penny orange-red.

BRITISH COLUMBIA.—We clip from *The Times* of the 18th ult. the following information:—"Canadian papers state that the postal-card system is to be introduced into British Columbia." Most probably specimens will be received by next mail.

CEYLON.—A correspondent writing from Kandy, informs us that a new coinage for the island, with the denomination expressed in *cents*, is shortly to make its appearance; and, he adds, no doubt the stamps will also be renewed. In thus adopting the decimal

system, Ceylon will only be following the example of the Straits Settlements.

Victoria.—We are informed by a correspondent that it is in contemplation to issue halfpenny adhesive stamps to be used to prepay the postage on local town letters.

St. Vincent.—The penny stamp of this island, hitherto printed in red, is now changed to black.

PAPERS FOR BEGINNERS.—No. XIV.

BY OVERY TAYLOR.

EUROPE.

Bergedorf.

This magazine may claim for itself the honour of introducing to public notice the town



which gives its name to the graduated series of stamps we are about to examine. Prior to the year 1863, the question, Where is Bergedorf? would have formed a good conundrum; and I feel sure that "Give it up" would have been the answer of many well-informed persons who could have accurately indicated the latitude and longitude of Kamschatka. In the second number of *The Stamp-Collector's Magazine*, however, there appeared an interesting article on Bergedorf, to which I am now glad to have recourse myself, to brush up my knowledge of that out-of-the-way locality, and for the compilation of which the author must have felt, to some extent, repaid by the gratitude of philatelists. It gave to the mythical German town a local, though somewhat uncertain habitation; for, according to the contradictory testimony of the gazetteers consulted by the author, it is on the Bille, or Rille, and is distant "nine miles E.; ten miles E.S.E.; twelve miles E.; ten miles E.; twelve miles E.S.E., and twelve kilometres S. E. of Hamburg. It was once a troublesome little place, a thorn in the side of the twin commercial giants of other days—Hamburg and Lubeck. Wicked and highly romantic robbers took refuge in its castle, and thence sallied out to obtain forced loans from travellers, and to requisition surrounding communes in the most approved style. One fine day, however, the peace-loving burgesses of Hamburg and Lubeck united, and, after an attack on the town, they regularly smoked the hornets out of their nests in the rocks, and the dramatic brigand was seen no more in those parts. That was early in the fifteenth century; and soon after a certain duke of Saxony, who had been a protector of the Bergedorf band of brothers, made over his rights to Hamburg and Lubeck jointly. Ever since then the town has been sinking deeper and deeper into oblivion; its very history has to be dug out of old manuscripts; and, but for the fortunate advent of philately, it is impossible to say what would have become of it.

The foregoing (very thin) slice of history is a necessary introduction to the study of the stamps themselves, for the central figure of their unique design is formed of a tower, and the half of an eagle, of which the other half is evidently held in durance vile. This quaint device is composed of the arms of Hamburg and Lubeck, the two protecting cities, which, it may be mentioned, for more than four hundred years alternately nominated the bailiff or governor of Bergedorf; and each supplied an equal number of soldiers to garrison the castle. The subordinate position of the town is further denoted by the four corner letters in the inner square —L. H. P. A.—which signify *Lubeck* (and) *Hamburg post amt* (post office). It seems strange at first that a town which had degenerated into a mere suburb of Hamburg should be allowed to issue stamps, and have a semi-independent existence of its own; but in this very fact we get a glimpse of old feudal practices and traditions. The town was placed in the position of a vassal, but its allegiance was due to commercial cities which sometimes were hardly put to it to maintain their own independence; so, whilst Bergedorf was snubbed by its more powerful neighbours, they on their side had too much kind feeling for a sister town to govern it out of existence altogether, and so left it some of the symbols of sovereignty. When the North German Confederation was established in 1866, a good many useful institutions, together with not a few time-honoured

shams were annihilated; and it is among these latter, I fear, that the Bergedorf post-office must be classed. Let us hope, however, that the Bergedorf postmaster escaped the fate of his office, for he must have been a man of some originality, and bent on marking his tenure of the situation by a striking innovation. To that effect he "created" (to use the French expression) the stamps which form the *raison d'être* of this present article.

The intelligent inhabitants of Bergedorf did not participate until somewhat late in the day in the blessings of postage stamps. It was not until November, 1861, that the first pair saw the light. They were the half schilling black on violet paper, and the three schilling black on rose. These two stamps, and especially the latter, have attained a high degree of rarity. How many forgeries of them have been concocted I leave it to Mr. Atlee to say; but without trenching on his ground, I may mention the one simple and unfailing test of genuineness, and that is—identity in every detail of engraving with the common stamps of the same values, viz., ½ schilling indigo and 3 schilling purple on rose. The rare and the common are one and all *from the same dies;* therefore colour is the only distinguishing point, and the slightest variation from the common type is damnatory. To young beginners, for whom these papers are written, and who are thinking of investing in a pair of first issue Bergedorf, my advice would be—Don't! unless you are prepared to pay a very high price for them, and are dealing with a stamp merchant who has a character to lose.

The second series of stamps was issued only eleven days after the appearance of the first. Its values are pretty well known; still, as they are now obsolete, it may be as well to mention that they are as follows:—

½	-schilling	black on	violet.
1	„	„	white.
1½	„	„	yellow.
3	„	purple on	rose.
4	„	black on	brown.

It would seem that the two rare stamps—though by the accident of their appearance before the rest they are considered to form a distinct series—ought rather to be deemed varieties, seeing that they were not engraved before the other values, and that they show the same distinctions of size.

All five stamps were lithographed. They remained in circulation until 1867, when the post-office business was made over to the Confederation, and after their suppression a sheet of proofs, taken in black from the original stone, made its appearance. From this interesting witness we have evidence of the order in which the stamps were drawn. On the first line are found the 4 and the 1½ sch., below these the 3 and the 1 sch., and under them again the ½ sch. Beneath the ½ sch. appears the impression of a new and unknown type for a 4 sch. stamp, of which the annexed engraving is a copy. It appears that this value was so extensively forged at Hamburg, that the Bergedorf postal authorities had caused this new design to be prepared, and were about to issue it when the war of 1866 broke out, and the project fell through. On this sheet of original proofs a peculiar error was noted by its examiner, M. Moens. The 1½ sch. bears on the left the word *schillinge*, with an *e*, and it appears that some stamps were actually issued showing this variety—stamps, I presume, of the first issue; for very shortly the error was discovered, and in the lithographic transfer from which the sheets were printed the superfluous and ungrammatical *e* was effaced.*



With the exception of the above-mentioned design, Bergedorf is fortunate in not possessing any *essays*. The grotesque device which ornaments its stamps has not been further twisted and turned to suit the purpose and fill the pocket of any ingenious engraver. And—still greater wonder—it is, to the best of my belief, innocent of reprints.

* Has it ever been noticed how cleverly our own post-office omitted any grammatical difficulty or awkwardness in the expression of the value of the 1½d. stamp, by using the colloquial expression *three-halfpence*, and thereby, for the nonce, rendering the halfpenny a unit of currency.—Ed.]

The stamps which have long been selling, since they ceased to circulate, below their facial value, are genuine remainders, though whether printed off to meet the wants of home correspondents or foreign customers remains doubtful. Beginners, however, may accept them for what they are, viz., genuine stamps, and be thankful that they can get them so cheap.

NOTES ON THE UNITED STATES LOCALS.

BY W. DUDLEY ATLEE.

III.

THERE is a prevailing misconception concerning the American Despatch Companies, which may be as well cleared up now as at some future time. The idea seems to be, that the Congress of the United States has abolished *all* private posts, and prohibited their existence under fine and imprisonment. This is only half correct, as I shall presently show.

In 1861 an action was brought by the authorities against Messrs. Kockersperger & Co., who then owned Blood's Philadelphia Despatch; and it was decided that according to the Post-office Act of March 3rd, 1851, the "streets" of cities and towns were constituted "post-routes," and that the government alone had the power to carry letters over them. But this decision has not now, and never has had, any force within the *city* of New York; for by a charter granted to them by George II., the city authorities are empowered to license carriers as a means of revenue.

There is a certain amount of jealousy between the corporate government of New York and the national administration; and as one clause of the charter cannot be abrogated without doing away with the whole, it is carefully guarded in its integrity, and the authorities continue to license whom they please.

The labels of Hussey, Boyd, and Crosby, are still used; for as the proprietors hold licences as common carriers, they deliver *sealed* letters, and are, so far as their own city is concerned, upon an equal footing with the government post.

WHITTELSEY'S EXPRESS.

The original of the engraving here given* is almost unique. I have not been able to obtain any information as to the route worked by this company, but I can safely say that the stamp has been obsolete for many years. It has been referred to in all the catalogues, but probably from hearsay only; for the name is erroneously given as "Whittlesey's," or "Whittleley's." It is printed in a dull brick-red upon white paper. The larger labels with a modern head, which one sometimes sees, are of course fictitious.

WALTON & CO.'S CITY EXPRESS.

This company was started in Brooklyn about 1846. Only one stamp was issued; and this, from its great rarity, does not appear to have been imitated. Within a rectangular frame is an oval band, inscribed WALTON & CO.'S CITY EXPRESS, POST 2 CTS.; in the angles are horizontal lines. Printed in black upon pink glazed paper.

GAY'S BOSTON EXPRESS.

The only label issued by this express was emitted in 1845, and is of equal rarity to the one last described. It is a very ordinary looking affair, being composed of a double-lined transverse oblong frame, with truncated angles; which, to make a perfect parallelogram, are filled in with triangular figures, containing three oblique lines; the ornamentation is completed by a little curled device within each corner of the frame. The inscription consists of GAY'S EXPRESS, FROM BOSTON, in two lines of large type; below this is

Offices { 15, State St., Boston.
58, Wall St., N. Y.

Upon my copy the number in Wall St. has had the pen run through it, and "70" substituted. The postmark used was the word PAID, in red. The impression is in black on yellow paper.

GRAFFLIN'S BALTIMORE DESPATCH.

Original copies of the well-known stamp of this post are scarce; but the die has fallen into the hands of a reprinter, and specimens of that person's handicraft are

* [We regret we are compelled to defer giving the representation of this rare local stamp until our next number, in consequence of the engraving having failed to reach us in time for publication.—ED.]

common. The only way to test the originals, if unobliterated, is by the dingy whiteness of the paper.

The stamp under notice consists of a rectangular frame, inscribed with the name, and ONE CENT; the central device being a monument within an oval. Both the original and reprint are confined to black upon white paper.

There is a very fair forgery, but it lacks clearness, and the statue at the summit of the pillar is indistinct, as is also the entrance to the monument. In the genuine they are plainly visible. The counterfeits are in blue, as well as in the emitted colour.

METROPOLITAN ERRAND AND CARRIER'S EXPRESS.

This company was established in New York in 1855, and obtained a charter from the government of that state. It undoubtedly delivered letters, notwithstanding the oft-quoted statement that it was simply a parcel-delivery company. From an interesting article in *The American Journal of Philately* I extract the following information respecting the scales of charges for letters.

Within a certain distance of the company's office, one cent; beyond that distance (Fortieth St.), or to any part of the United States, except California, and also for registered city letters, five cents.

Over half-an-ounce, to any part of the States, ten cents; not exceeding half-an-ounce, to California, Oregon, or the Sandwich Isles, fifteen cents. Special message below Fortieth Street, twenty cents. To Great Britain, thirty cents the half ounce; and for the same weight to Russia, Prussia, the German States, or Austria, forty cents.

The stamps were from the *atélier* of Messrs. Baldwin, Bald, & Couslard, who printed them in sheets of one hundred. The design consists of an engine-turned shield, with the name of the company following the border, and the value in the centre. The set consisted of 1, 5, 10, and 20 cents, which were all printed in red on thin white paper; but the lowest value is also found upon a thicker paper.

These stamps have been reprinted upon thick paper in their original tint, and also in blue. Some of these latter are occasionally to be seen upon thin paper, but they were cut from a printed circular which the company periodically published. There was evidently a large stock of labels on hand when the company was dissolved, for original copies are not uncommon.

A 2-cent envelope was issued, having an embossed impress of the same shape as the adhesive; but the shield was smaller, and the centre was filled with horizontal lines. The disposition of the letters was the same, but the figure of value is curious, having undoubtedly been altered from a 1, and an s added to CENT. This stamp was also printed in red, and was struck upon yellow laid paper, with *vergeures* oblique. It has been reprinted, but the paper is too thick, the tone too creamy, and the lines horizontal. There are no forgeries of the stamps of this express. The only obliteration I have seen is in black, and consisted of the word PAID within a rounded oblong.

POMEROY AND CO.'S EXPRESS.

This dispatch company was established in 1849 by Mr. G. Pomeroy, and was continued by him until bought up by the American Express Company.



Two stamps were issued, one for ordinary letters, and the other for heavier correspondence and small parcels. The latter is by far the rarer, original copies being practicably unattainable. As an engraving is here given, a description may be dispensed with.

This, the largest of all the locals, was printed in

Black upon thick white paper
" " thinnish " "
Blue " " " "

About eight years since, the die fell into the hands of an American dealer, who struck off a few copies in black. It is difficult to detect these from the originals, except from the freshness of their appearance.

The stamp for single letters was the well-known rectangle, engraved by Gavit (since vice-president of the American Bank Note Company). It contained a finely executed

female bust within a solid oval band, lettered POMEROY'S LETTER EXPRESS; the angles of the frame being filled by ornamental devices; FREE STAMP in very minute capitals above, 20 FOR $1 in similar letters at foot.

Black on thick yellow paper.
" " " olive-brown "
Blue " thin white "
Black " " " "

Specimens are often found in red upon white, but these are proofs only. Neither of Pomeroy's stamps has been forged.

POSTAL CHIT-CHAT.

THE FRENCH AND GERMAN postal authorities are at loggerheads about postal arrangements, and cannot come to terms. The French delegate, M. Stepan, refuses to lower the tariff in the present bad state of French finance. —*Graphic.*

A PHILATELIC SOCIETY AT MELBOURNE.—A correspondent, writing from Victoria, says,—"Thinking it may be of some use to you, I beg to inform you that a philatelic society has been formed in Melbourne. I can give you no further information on the subject at present, but, perhaps, some one better acquainted will enlighten you."

THE ITALIAN POST-OFFICE has given notice to this department (English post-office), that the laws of Italy forbid the transmission by the post, within that country, of letters or packets containing money, jewelry, or other articles of value; and that henceforward any letters containing such articles, which may be sent in the mails to Italy, will be returned to this country undelivered. This prohibition extends also to letters superscribed as containing money.—*Times.*

POSTMASTER STEENACKERS.—It is said that this gentleman threw many difficulties in the way of carrying out the suggestions made by the members of the French government who remained in Paris during the Prussian siege, with a view to the improvement of the communications between the capital and the provinces. In consequence, M. Steenackers is "wanted" by the Committee of the National Assembly, charged with the duty of examining the acts of the government of the 4th September.

PROPOSED NEW POSTAL DEPARTMENT.—A novel device for aiding the revenue has just been propounded by Mr. W. H. Walker, of Bow. This gentleman proposes that the stamping instruments used by the post-office officials in marking letters should be made to answer a double purpose, by imprinting along with the postmark some brief advertisement, arranged round the margin of the ordinary impression. The same idea, with some modifications, is extended to the impressed stamp. It is stated that by a perfectly practicable arrangement, all the letters delivered in any particular district would be made to bear any specified advertisement, the words being, of course, few in number. Thus the post-office authorities might engage with an advertiser to let his announcement appear on all the letters delivered in Brighton, or Edinburgh, or Dublin during a single day, or for a longer term; or the London delivery might thus be utilised. It is thought that the mails for foreign countries might be made available in the same way. Supposing that a plan of this kind can be practically developed without interfering with the efficiency of the post-office, it certainly promises the advantage of a vast revenue in a form which will directly relieve the burden of taxation. The idea is, at least, ingenious, and in clever and willing hands might be turned to good account.

ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS.

C. G. B., Huddersfield.—The Rigi-Kaltbad stamp is a Swiss local, issued by the proprietor of the Kaltbad establishment on the Rigi mountain.

R.. C HOPE, Derby.—Your carmine 6 cents United States is probably genuine.—Your carmine sixpence St. Christopher is either a forgery or an extremely rare variety; and we cannot pronounce on it without seeing it.

Mrs. L. J. N., Melton Mowbray.—A new issue of Tasmanian postage stamps took place this year; the type is represented and values given in our impression for February last. What your threepenny stamp can be we are at a loss to know, but next month we will insert your letter in the hope of obtaining information.

H. W. H., Newcastle.—Of the Deccan stamps, of which you were kind enough to send us a sketch, No. 1 was described in vol. viii. of *The Stamp-Collector's Magazine*, p. 90, and No. 2 in the April number of present volume. Both are alluded to in the "Batch of Novelties" described by Mr. Pemberton in our last.

E. F. C., Belfast.—When the North German Confederation was established, a fresh series of stamps was required for the states of which it was comprised, and the large stock of Prussian and other envelopes thus rendered obsolete was utilised by putting new adhesives over the impressed stamps, after these latter had been pressed down by printing over them the minutely-lettered grey tablet. These envelopes were described in *The Stamp-Collector's Magazine* at the period of their metamorphosis.

ARISTON METRON.—We must decline to insert your letter, whilst we respect the convictions it expresses. You consider that the study of differences of watermark, minute variations in shade, and perforations represent "various phases of folly;" and that "it is too much to expect any moderately-brained collector to search upon every label he gets for mere topsy-turvy peculiarities upon their backs." These assertions have, however, so often been made, and, in our own opinion, so often refuted, that it is waste of space to repeat them. If our correspondent will take the trouble to go through the volumes of this magazine, for the last four or five years, he will find numerous articles *pro* and *con* the collection of varieties; if he can produce additional arguments, *contra*, we shall be happy to insert them; but the letter he now sends us is but a prolonged exclamation "How absurd!" and that proves nothing. "A man convinced against his will, is of the same opinion still;" and we fear our correspondent would not willingly allow himself to be reasoned out of his opinions; but, were it otherwise, we think the perusal of an article on "Varieties, and why they should be collected" (*The Stamp-Collector's Magazine*, vol. v., p. 148), would tend to change his ideas on the point. Meanwhile, we can but agree to differ from him as to the study of varieties; and, in conclusion, we would beg him to bear in mind that the mere notice of inverted watermarks or other oddities in these pages must not be taken as inculcating their collection by all philatelists. It is our aim to make this magazine the representative of philatelists of all classes, by opening its columns to the advocacy of all shades of opinion; and, whilst holding firm to our own, we are far from expecting everyone to share in it.

OUR CONTEMPORARIES.

The Philatelist.—The last two numbers have for us somewhat less interest than their immediate predecessors. Something of the holiday season is visible in the make up, but even, after making this deduction, it must still be acknowledged that our contemporary's pages contain a large amount of readable and valuable matter. Thus, for instance, there are the instalments of the "Spud Papers," the last of which has but one fault, that of being too short; its predecessor does not even sin in that respect. In the August number, specimens of two very careful forgeries are given; the 5 c. Philippines, 1863, second type, and the Pacific Steam Navigation Co., 1 real; beyond a suspicious dexterity in the apposition of the postmark, there is but little to render an inexpert collector doubtful of their genuineness. The companion of the P. S. N. C. stamp, the 2 rls., is instantly detected by the ship sailing to the left, instead of the right, as in the original. Following this paper, is a short article, apparently by a new candidate for philatelic honours, who signs himself "Warden," and gives an analysis of the different types of the Providence (R. I.) stamps; and to this again succeeds a supplementary list of Egyptian locals, containing a notice of eighty-five varieties.

The editor, in the course of review of Oppen's album, proposes to meet our own objection to the mounting of stamps on both sides of a page, by suggesting "the interpolation of sheets of tissue, or very thin paper; or, better, by employing a separate album for envelopes, thereby affording room in most cases for the adhesives in another; or, as followed by himself and others, getting loose sheets bound to order, or in an album and catalogue cover." These suggestions, we willingly admit, have all more or less to recommend them, but they all interfere with that sweet simplicity of arrangement, which it is necessary to study in an album intended for collectors who are not sufficiently advanced to mount their stamps after a plan of their own in a blank book. Oppen's album is undoubtedly one of the most, if not the most, generally patronised of books by young collectors. Its low price and attractive covers, have aided in attracting many a recruit to the philatelic ranks; and we are anxious to see it in every way worthy of its position. Now, beginners, and particularly schoolboys, are often rather careless in mounting their stamps; they fasten them completely down, and where two stamps on opposite sides of a page, touch at their backs, there is frequently an unseemly botch. Were the stamps mounted on one side only, such unsightly wrinkles in the paper would not appear; and the increase in the number of sheets would not be so very great if the book were wider and deeper. Many issues, probably the majority, consist of six stamps; and with the present arrangement of five squares in a line, one of the six stamps must be set down in the row beneath; then, unless series follow series without any interval whatever, the remaining four squares must be thrown away to keep a space between them, and constant irregularity of arrangement must be the result. For our part we are convinced, that were a large square album to be published, with six, or for preference, seven squares in a row, it would have the palm over all the rest, other conditions being equal. We present the idea to the publisher of Oppen's, and may suggest that even if he continues to bring out his album in its present size, he might still accompany it by another, termed, say, "Oppen's Enlarged." And, while we are on the point, let us recommend to album editors to insert, not as a regular preface, but as a thing apart, a brief recommendation to beginners, printed in large and prominent type, not to fasten their stamps entirely down. There are hundreds, who, as we said, continue to do so, ignoring the improvements in mounting which of late years have been introduced; and their practice has for its ultimate result the discouragement of them from removing their collection into a newer or better book, when it requires rearrangement. We are tempted to pursue this subject further, forgetful of the heading under which we write; but we will reserve some propositions we have to make, respecting the adoption of an improved form of album, until a future occasion.

Returning now to our muttons—in this instance, the August and September numbers of our Brighton contemporary—we notice, in the course of his answers to correspondents, a reference to M. Berger Levrault, who, the editor fears, has abandoned his intention of publishing an English translation of his work. As our contemporary does not *express* any anxiety as to Mons. Berger Levrault's whereabouts, may we understand that they are known to him? If so, and he can communicate any intelligence respecting that distinguished philatelist, we are sure it will be read with interest, wherever stamps are studied. We, on our side, are glad to be able to state that we had news of Mons. P. Mahé in August, though it was only in the shape of a copy of his journal for July, 1870!

American Journal of Philately.—Both the July and August numbers of our transatlantic contemporary are of a very readable character. The former contains a painstaking article, entitled, "A Collector's Notes on the Stamps of New Granada," written, if we mistake not, by Mr. Tiffany, whose advent as a contributor to philatelic lore we recently noticed; and the "History of the Confederate States Post Office" is found in the latter. This second instalment of Mr. Scott's paper is written in a quiet, business-like style, and we do not observe any more typographical errors, such as appeared in the first paper. It is occupied chiefly in detailing the circumstances which accompanied the establishment of the Confederate post-office, and the regulations which were issued by the postmaster on that occasion. From these latter, it is interesting to note with what a true American instinct, as praiseworthy as it was bold, the most liberal provision was made for the circulation of newspapers, and, in fact, all kinds of literature. One would have anticipated that a newly-founded society, struggling for very existence, would have thought more of screwing a heavy contribution to its war expenses out of the post-office by means of high rates; but no, its rulers, governed by that respect for the power of the press in which they had been bred, modelled their postal constitution after that of the Northern States, and arranged for the carriage of printed matter on terms which could only prove remunerative in a prosperous and peaceful country. Thus it was enacted that the postage on the regular numbers of a newspaper published weekly should be ten cents per quarter; papers semi-weekly, double; three times a week, treble, and so on; or in all cases less than a halfpenny per copy; whilst for letters the rates were five cents for distances under, and ten cents for those over five hundred miles, "drop letters" being charged two cents each. Printed matter other than books was to be carried at the rate of one cent for three ounces. In these clauses the employment of the series of postage stamps afterwards issued is sketched out. The abortive one cent was intended for printed matter, and also, we suppose, for isolated copies of journals; the two cents was used for drop letters, whilst the five and ten cents franked the letters carried, and not merely delivered by the post, the 20 c. serving for the heavy correspondence.

In one particular the Southern post-office was ahead of its Northern rival; it would not admit the franking privilege, by the abuse of which the regular mails in the United States are, as we are given to understand, swamped by a perpetual stream of documents of no importance. On another detail of postal business the South took rather peculiar ground; it would not allow the registration of letters, for, "in Mr. Offut's opinion, the government ought to take all the precautions possible to prevent *any* letters being lost or stolen, consequently it was a swindle to take money for doing what they ought to do in every case." Perhaps, also, Mr. Offut thought that in a state whose boundaries fluctuated with the results of its battles, it would be inconvenient to guarantee, by any special act, the delivery of letters entrusted to its post-office. We have one other point to refer to in the Confederate regulations, and that is the intention therein expressed to issue stamped envelopes. The article in which it appears provides that payment for postage can be made in money, "until postage stamps and *stamped envelopes* can be procured and distributed. Thus far, then, Mr. Scott's paper, and who will say that, affording

as it does so much food for recollection, it is not well worthy of perusal?

Continuing our examination of the August number, and passing over a remarkably brief and trivial article on new issues, we come to a paper entitled "Boyd's Postage Stamps, By C. H. Coster: a Criticism;" and a criticism in effect it is on Mr. W. D. Atlee's paper on those stamps in our July number. We leave it to our contributor to reply to the observations of Mr. Coster as he may think fit, but we cannot ourselves refrain from testifying to the pleasure which the perusal of this article gave us. It would hardly be American if it did not contain some fling against English writers; but, apart from this customary defect, the article is written in a laudable, truth-seeking spirit, and the writer has evidently taken pains to verify and support his assertions. He has studied the stamps on which he writes, and has evolved his arguments from his studies, which—not to be guilty of the discourtesy we blame in others—we will merely say, *all* American collectors do not. We are, then, glad to welcome him into the ranks of philatelic writers, and shall look forward to the pleasure of meeting him again in print.

We now come to a short letter in the August number, which makes known a fact with which, as far as we are aware, no one on this side of the water is acquainted, namely, the issue of "stamped letters and note sheets" by the United States post-office. The announcement thereof deserves to be reproduced in its entirety, and is as follows:—

To the Editor of *The American Journal of Philately.*

Gentlemen,—A short time ago I was looking over the Post-office laws for 1866, and I noticed the mention of "Stamped Letter and Note Sheets," being issued by the Department. Not having seen anything of the kind mentioned in any stamp magazine, I wrote to the P. O. Department, and received the following answer:—

Post-office Department,
Washington, D. C., Aug. 1st, 1871.

Henry S. Smith, Esq.,

Sir:—Yours of the 27th ult. is received, and I reply to your interrogations as follows:—

1st. Stamped letter and note sheets were first issued by this Department on the 1st August, 1861, and their issue was discontinued in April, 1864.

If any are still outstanding they will be recognized in payment of postages, if tendered.

2nd. They cannot be procured at the Department, and it is not known that any are still out among the Post Offices, for orders were long since given for their recal.

3rd. The only denomination issued was three cents; and only two sizes, note and letter—the price of the former $3.68, and of the latter, $3.88 per hundred.

4th. From the foregoing, you will see that I am unable to tell you where you can procure specimens.

Respectfully yours,
(Signed)

The chance of obtaining any copies of these rare letter and note sheets seems from the foregoing to be very slender, but we hope that the fact of their existence being now known, some American collector will succeed in unearthing a few specimens, and that thus these interesting impressions will not have to be ranked with the "extinct varieties."

And now we would desire, in concluding our review of the leading American stamp journal, to call attention to the very remarkable prices which can be obtained for good stamps in America. Messrs. Scott, the editors, say that "seventy-five dollars (£15) is the highest price we recollect selling one for, but have been offered *double* that amount for some in our private collection." It would be difficult to find any stamps exceeding in rarity the two or three which have been sold on this side of the water for five guineas, and we very much doubt that their equals are to be found in America, yet in that favoured land there are collectors to be found who, for a stamp they do not possess, will count out fifteen pounds, which—even in greenbacks—amount to something, and there are others who will at any rate offer thirty pounds for a single stamp. We must admit that such an offer would to us—loyal stamp-collectors as we are—prove a great temptation, and indeed, after reflection, we are led to believe that only the disinterested philatelist who spent more than £200 in the preparation of a single article for his magazine, could resist it. But, then, in America people do go to *such* extremes.

Mason's Coin and Stamp-Collector's Magazine always amuses us from its exceeding lack of originality. Its articles on "Newly-issued Stamps,"—and they are generally the only things of a philatelic nature in the stamp department—are alternately copied, with scrupulous fidelity to the text, from the pages of *The Stamp-Collector's Magazine*, and

The Philatelist. The source of the borrowed news is always acknowledged by the insertion of our own, or our Brighton contemporary's, title at the end of the extract, but we imagine the stamp-collecting subscribers to *Mason's Magazine* would prefer having some original matter to read; and when one considers how well the study of stamps is repaid by the discovery of hidden facts, and the demonstration of others, it is surprising that the editor of the philatelic department of the journal under review cannot find something to say without borrowing from his *confrères.* This reflection is forced upon us, as we notice with what conspicuous ability its coin department is conducted. The only original matter worthy of notice in the pages devoted to stamp collecting, is an article on "The United States Cigar Stamps," which the editor has been careful to say has been "prepared expressly" for his magazine. We, for our part, are willing to leave it all the honour and fame which that article may bring.

El Averiguador.—The promise of excellence held out by this magazine is fully verified. It devotes several pages to philately, and contains original articles from the pen of Senor M. P. de Figueroa of great interest. In its impression of 1st August appears the engraving of a design purporting to be the one which has been adopted by the Spanish government for its new series of stamps, and we observe that whilst bearing a family resemblance to the type reproduced in our last, it still differs in many respects. The head is on a large scale, larger even than in our type, and is turned to the left, the oval in which it appears is composed of a single line, the four corners are each occupied with a circular disk, containing a useless letter "c," and in the lower margin is the value, 12 CENTS DE PESETA, in small and almost illegible characters. Judging from the comparative merits of the two designs, we should be inclined to back the one reproduced in these pages as being the one really adopted; whilst, on the other hand, we cannot but acknowledge our contemporary's superior opportunity for ascertaining the truth; time, however, will prove which is right.

The number dated the 15th August contains a long and evidently carefully written article on Spanish newspaper stamps, in which Senor P. de Figueroa, after describing the various kinds which have been in use, argues that they are as well worthy of collection as the postage stamps proper, an opinion which we must confess we do not share, as it would tend to render the study of stamps *too* extensive.

The same writer, in the last number of *El Averiguador*, discourses of the Madrid post-office in the 16th century, the Seville post in 1760, old Spanish postage-stamps, &c. We would venture to recommend to his consideration the publication of a series of brief papers on the stamps of all countries, for the edification of his stamp-collecting countrymen, who have at present no standard work to fall back upon for information.

Le Timbre-Poste.—The last number contains a translation of an article from the Spanish paper just reviewed, on the 12 cuartos 1857 stamp, of which article a translation has also appeared in these pages. The remainder of the number is filled up with Dr. Magnus' paper on the Envelopes of the North German Confederation, in the course whereof is given a table of German envelopes re-issued by the Confederation, and covered with an adhesive stamp, to represent new values. This table we shall take the liberty to reproduce, recognising, as we do, that it is just what has long been wanting.

The Philadelphia Monthly, an amateur magazine for boys, has, like its *confrère*, *Mason's Magazine*, a philatelic department, and, the resemblance still continuing, that department is simply represented by a list of new issues; but here, at any rate, the similarity ends, the description of the lately-issued stamps having been re-written by the editor. We hope, in future numbers, to see the philatelic department graced by the addition of some original and valuable articles, and in that case shall be the first to acknowledge its merit.

The Stamp-Collector's Guide does not increase either in size or interest. It possesses the fault common to nearly all the four-page journals which have appeared, of being all shell and no kernel.

FACTS ABOUT ENVELOPES.

SOME very curious facts have been brought to light within the last few years concerning the history of envelopes, tending to show that these convenient aids to epistolary correspondence have had a longer reign than most of us suppose. It has been customary to believe that the penny post created them; it did not do so, although it vastly extended their use. *The Stationer*, a year or two ago, quoted a letter received from Liverpool, written by a Mr. Brewer, and referring to the period of 1828 or 1830: "About forty years ago, there lived at Brighton a bookseller and stationer, of the name of S. K. Brewer. He used to put in his shop window piles of paper, beginning at the largest up to the smallest size, 16mo; but to finish off the pile, he cut cards so as to bring them up to a point. Ladies used to go in and ask for 'that dear little paper,' which induced him to cut paper in small sizes. Then came the difficulty of a place for the address; and the result was that he invented the envelope, and had metal plates made for cutting them to shapes and sizes. This pleased the ladies, and orders came to him for the little paper and envelopes from all quarters. This at length became such a demand upon his time, that he got Dobbs & Co., of London, to make them for him. Such was the beginning of the envelope trade. When a child, I have just a remembrance of playing with the stencil-plates; and the above account I have had from my mother, who is now alive, and well up in years."

Mr. Brewer may have re-introduced envelopes without knowing of their previous existence; but they *did* exist before, to a certainty. Charles Lamb, in a letter written to Bernard Barton in 1826, said: "When I write to a great man at the court end, he opens with surprise upon a naked note, such as Whitechapel people interchange, with no sweet degrees of *envelope*. I never enclosed one bit of paper in another, nor understood the rationale of it."

Three years earlier, but still during the time of our George the Magnificent, Sweden appears to have done a little in this matter. *Galignani*, some years ago, gave an extract from a Stockholm newspaper, called *Fryskitten*, to the effect that, in 1823, a Swedish artillery officer, Lieutenant Frekenbar, petitioned the Chamber of Nobles to propose to the government to issue stamped paper, specially destined to serve as envelopes for prepaid letters. The proposition, duly recorded on the Minutes of the Chamber for the 23rd of March in that year, was warmly supported by the Count de Schwerin, on the ground that it would be convenient both to the public and to the post-office; it was, however, rejected by a large majority.

Mr. Foss has described an envelope which contained a letter written in 1766 by Frederick the Great of Prussia to an English officer: the flap is not hinged to one of the long edges, as in our customary envelopes, but to one of the short edges, like some of those used by solicitors. The Egerton Manuscripts comprise a letter, with its envelope, addressed in 1760 by Madame de Pompadour to the Duchesse d'Aiguillon: the envelope is almost exactly like those now used. Going back to the time of George I., we find, in Dean Swift's *Advice to Grub Street Verse-makers*, 1726, the following lines, one word of which we italicise:

> Send these to paper-sparing Pope;
> And when he sits to write,
> No letter with an *envelope*
> Could give him more delight.

Thirteen years farther back, in the time of Queen Anne, when Le Sage published the first two volumes of the world-renowned *Gil Blas*, the readers were told of Aurora de Guzman putting two *billets* into an *envelope*. There is in existence an autograph letter written by Louis XIV. to the Count de Toulouse in 1706, enclosed in an envelope addressed by "*le grand monarque*." Ten years earlier, in 1696, a letter was written by Sir John Ogilvie to Sir William Trumbull, Secretary of State, and sent in an envelope: the letter and the envelope are at this present time in the State Paper Office.

We therefore find that for a good hundred and seventy years at least envelopes have been known to and used by letter-writers. It nevertheless remains true that the introduction of penny postage was the means of giving a great spur to this usage, and of establishing a manufacture of much import-

ance and interest, particulars of which have more than once been given in the *Journal*.

There is a matter connected with the *security* of envelopes, which deserves more attention than it usually recieves. Once upon a time, the English government were wont to open letters, if suspicion were aroused as to treasonable or unlawful doings of the senders and receivers; and a good deal of skill was shown in this repulsive kind of espionage. It is said that Ralph Allen (the original of Fielding's Squire Allworthy, in *Tom Jones*) made his fortune by opening certain letters which passed through his hands as postmaster at Bath; he was acting with and for the government; his letter-opening exploits led to the discovery of a Jacobite plot, and he was rewarded for his doings. That letters *can* be opened without much chance of detection, is pretty well known, by tampering either with the wax-seal or with the wafer-cement; and that envelopes can be opened still more easily than letters is also known; because, among other reasons, the envelope is at once torn and thrown aside, the enclosed letter (which has neither seal nor wafer upon it) being alone preserved. A country postmaster was convicted of surreptitiously opening letters about fourteen years ago; and a learned witness explained how it was probably done. As we are *not* learned witnesses, we will not explain; for it is a kind of cleverness by no means desirable to cultivate. A kind of metallic envelope was invented some years ago. It consisted of a capsule which, when once closed, could not be opened without tearing the paper. It was said to be effective, but was not commercially successful; so it was withdrawn. One thing may be said, that if a letter or envelope is both wafered or cemented and sealed, a surreptitious opening becomes more difficult. If, in sealing, a little hot wax is dropped under the flap, the security is increased. It may also be mentioned that thin envelopes are more secure than thick; the adhesive cement goes more thoroughly into the substance of the former than of the latter, and they can be less easily opened without tearing the paper.—*Chambers's Journal*.

THE MANUFACTURE OF VICTORIAN POSTAGE STAMPS.

In the upper rooms of the general post-office facilities are afforded for the manufacture of postage stamps on a scale commensurate with the requirements of a colony like Victoria. It was the practice of the government prior to 1859 to perform the work by contract, but irregularities crept in, and it was deemed advisable that a special branch should be created, in order that the postal authorities might interpose a salutary check upon the possibility of fraud. We gather from the report of the post-office for last year that no less than 12,635,148 stamps were manufactured, representing in the aggregate the sum of £134,182. The statistics are interesting, as indicating in some degree the requirements of the colonists. Stamped newspaper wrappers, of the value of 1d., were first issued in September last, and envelopes with a twopenny stamp thereon in November. The denominations of stamps issued last year were:—

Penny newspaper wrappers	320,000
Penny postage stamps	2,088,000
Twopenny ditto	8,518,320
Blank envelopes, received from the public and embossed with the twopenny stamp	1,600
Twopenny embossed envelopes, at 2s. 3d. per dozen	41,028
Threepenny postage stamps	121,200
Fourpenny ditto	156,000
Sixpenny ditto	1,200,000
Tenpenny ditto	120,000
Two-shilling ditto	24,000
Five-shilling ditto	45,000
Total	12,635,148

Whilst Victoria was a dependency of New South Wales, the postage stamps of that colony were in use here. Postage stamps were first issued in New South Wales in 1849. The number of letters circulating in Port Phillip, one year after the separation of the colony, was 972,176, whilst those of New South Wales were only 971,318. During the last year the number of letters, packets, and newspapers received and despatched were no less than 10,587,711 letters, 376,039 packets, and 5,251,327 newspapers.

For the requirements of a postal department having operations of such magnitude,

the work of manufacturing postage stamps becomes a matter of some importance. The first part of the process is the making of the steel dies, which, by means of the electrotype, are multiplied, in order to expedite the process of printing. Impressions from the dies are stamped upon lead, which are afterwards placed in a decomposing trough connected with a galvanic battery, and when the requisite thickness of deposit has been obtained, the copper is detached, and afterwards mounted and printed from. By this means any number of dies are procured, and to facilitate the work of printing, they are reproduced in hundreds, and when set up are placed in the printing-machine. The process of printing from these dies differs in no way from the ordinary operations of printing. There are several hand-presses at work, which are capable of supplying stamps at the rate of half a million per month. The paper used bears a watermark, in which consists the principal check that the department has against spurious imitations; but the mere use of a watermarked paper would not of itself be a sufficient precaution to guard against fraud, and it is therefore necessary that the strictest supervision should be exercised over the operations of the printers and the delivery of the paper; everything is kept under lock and key; the workmen are locked in to their work; each printing-press is fitted with an indicator, which records the number of sheets printed, and it is the duty of the officers to close each day's work by verifying the number of stamps printed with the paper issued; and the press, when not in operation is locked up with a Chubb's patent detector lock, which is proof against the manipulations of the most accomplished burglar.

The embossed twopenny stamp is of comparatively recent date. It no doubt supplies a want which mercantile men can appreciate, though it has not yet come into general use. To facilitate the distribution of this stamp, an embossing machine has been imported from Messrs. De La Rue and Co., of a character similar to those in use in England and on the Continent. As a piece of machinery, it is in itself one of the marvels of human ingenuity. The design of the embossed stamp is the Queen's head in relief, on a delicate rose pink ground, with the words POSTAGE TWOPENCE surrounding it. The machine will print some sixty impressions per minute. The operation of the machine may be described simply as punching the embossed stamp by a perpendicular rise and fall of the die. The colours are applied to each impression by mechanical contrivances from a series of rollers passing under and into distributors. The machinery is turned by manual labour, as being, for the present, more economical. The duty of the operator is to bring an envelope beneath the die as it rises and falls, which requires considerable dexterity, and a strict sense of duty, inasmuch as the machine records each motion, for which the operator must make account, in the shape of embossed envelopes, or his negligence is likely to meet with the reprehension of the inspector of the postage-stamp department.

The new stamp act came into operation on the 1st January, 1870. This act repeals so much of the post-office statute as authorised the postmaster-general to issue licenses for the sale of postage stamps, and vests this power in the minister who shall administer the stamp act. It also reduces the commission to be allowed to licensed vendors from 5 to $2\frac{1}{2}$ per cent., and makes it necessary that not less than £10 worth of stamps shall be purchased at one time to entitle the vendor to any commission. It is expected that this alteration in the law will have the effect of reducing the number of persons who sell postage stamps, and the change, therefore, will not, so far as the dealings of the public with this department are concerned, prove a desirable one.—*Melbourne Daily Telegraph.*

NEWLY-ISSUED OR INEDITED STAMPS.

JAPAN.—In further reference to the series of stamps which has just been issued, the following extract from *The Hiogo News*, a Japanese paper, will be read with interest.

We have just seen, for the first time, some specimens of the new Japanese postage labels. They are all of the same design, but of four different colours; the brown re-

presents 48 zeni. or half a tempo; the blue. one tempo; the red, two tempoes; the green, five tempoes; *i.e.*, about five cents. These stamps are square in size, and have evidently been designed after the French postage stamps, which they resemble in size and shape.

They are apparently engraved from copper plates. The outer border of the design is not unlike the well-known Etruscan key border; next to this is an ornamental edging, of a Vandyke pattern. Inside this is a repetition of the well-known and seemingly irrepressible Riu, or dragon, whose portrait figures so conspicuously upon the old Kinsatz and on the new coins. Finally, in the centre are some characters printed in black ink, which stand for, in the case of the red stamps, the words "Zeni, Nihyaku mon," the amount which the stamp represents.

The postage for a letter weighing five momme (⅝ oz.) is 15 tempoes, about half a bee, or say $0.12. A foreign merchant of Osaka informs us that he sent a letter recently through the imperial post office, and has since heard that it was received in Yedo within three days of the date of its dispatch from Osaka. Advantage has also been taken by foreigners to forward letters by this route, when the steamer leaving Kobe has been missed, in order to catch the mail before it left Yokohama.

Our Brussels contemporary, in noticing these stamps, confirms *The Philatelist's* statement that the values are expressed in fractions of the *ichebu*, termed *tenpo*, which he says equals 10 centimes; and as he gives the values as ½, 1, 2, and 3 tenpos, his list virtually agrees with ours.

Danubian Steam Navigation Co.—Correcting the intelligence given in these pages, M. Moens states, from information received from the company, that the 10 soldi stamps in dark red, were the result of a printer's error, and that green remains the normal colour.

Spain.—The accession of King Amadeus has led to a fresh change in the armorial bearings, which now consist of two lions and two towers, in the four corners as before, and the cross of Savoy in the centre, the whole surmounted by the royal crown. A handstamp bearing this device, and destined for the use of members of the senate, has just made its appearance. Like its predecessors, it is inscribed SENADO CORREO, is oval, and is printed blue.

A second stamp has the towers and lions, plus the Granadian emblem, in the point of the shield, and the Savoy cross, replacing the Bourbon lilies in the centre, the shield being surmounted by the royal crown. Above the arms is a scroll, inscribed COMUNICACIONES, and below, on a second scroll, EL DIRECTOR GRAL. The impression is in black.

Bavaria.—In our August number we noticed the appearance of a perforated 1 kreuzer black unpaid-letter stamp; this has since been joined by a perforated 3 kreuzer black, and this latter has submitted to some change in details, the inscriptions having been re-set. The annexed engraving obviates the necessity of further description.



United States.—*Envelopes of the October, 1870 series.*—We have specimens of the 15 cents and 90 cents before us, completing the series; they bear the same heads as their equivalent adhesives, and of the five highest values, they supply us with the handsomest and the least pleasant—we can hardly say "the ugliest," when none are ugly. The 15 c. has the numerals in a transverse oval on each side; the 90 c. bears them in a handsomely pointed shield, very different from the flattened-out affair on the 24 c.; indeed, in nearly every respect this stamp far excels all the others in finish. The colours of the six highest values, and their variations, consisting chiefly in the dispositions of the numerals at sides, which are embossed in white on shields, circles, &c., are as under:—

In quatrefoils,	10 c. clear brown.
In ,,	black brown.
In circles,	12 c. dull purple-black.
In transverse ovals,	15 c. red-orange.
In transverse shields,	24 c. rich violet.
In oblong octagons,	30 c. jet black.
In upright shields,	90 c. carmine.

The entire envelopes quoted in our February impression require revision as to measurement. Our specimens do not agree with the sizes given by *The Mercury*.

St. Thomas and La Guaira.—We extract from the letter of a correspondent in St. Thomas the following information:—

I enclose, as a curiosity, a hand-stamp, which was impressed on letters coming from Venezuela by the steamer *Robert Todd*. This was in 1866, when the first issue of adhesive stamps (small figures in angles, and small perforations) gave out, pending the receipt of a further supply. This hand-stamp was used to denote the prepayment of postage on letters. Only the other day, in looking over old letters, my attention was called to it. It does not seem to have been used for any length of time, as I did not find many of them.

The stamp referred to is circular,—the outer circle consists of two lines, the inner of one—and between the circles is the inscription, running the whole way round, ST. THOMAS LA GUAIRA & PO. CABELLO STEAM PACKET; in the centre is a steamer, sailing to left. The impression, a tolerably clear one, is in black; next month we shall present an engraving of this newly-discovered variety.

THE DECCAN.—One of our correspondents writes us that a friend of his, an Indian judge, acquainted with Arabic, has informed him that the first stamp—the oblong sea-green—was issued on the 1st September, 1869, was of the value of one anna, and bears an inscription in Arabic, consisting of the year 1283 of the Hegira, and "*Swikar Arzoofera*"—"Government of the Nizam."

NEW SOUTH WALES.—In our August number we noticed the emission of a penny envelope, the stamp whereof is identical in design with the penny adhesive, and we promised to reproduce the design which ornaments the flap. We have now the pleasure to perform our promise.



URUGUAY.—It is announced that the 5 and 10 centimes will shortly be superseded by fresh designs, which are now being engraved in England, and will be perforated. The 15 and 20 c. will continue in circulation for some time to come.

NOTES ON THE UNITED STATES LOCALS.

BY W. DUDLEY ATLEE.

IV.

THE stamp I now have the pleasure to introduce, in counterpart, is the rare Whittelsey described last month, but not engraved in time for publication. It will be noticed that the design is much better than that generally adopted for the American locals.



I find the final sentence in my last paper must be cancelled, as I have since seen a forgery of the smallest Pomeroy stamp. It is of poor execution, but must be mentioned for the benefit of young collectors. In the originals the letters are large and even, but in the shams they are small, and the final S in EXPRESS is of much less size than any of the other letters. These imitations are printed in sundry colours, including gold on red, and green on white, in addition to the orthodox tints.

AMERICAN LETTER MAIL COMPANY.

Upon casually referring to my second paper, I found that I had omitted two varieties of the largest stamp of this express. The complete list is as follows:—

Black upon bluish white, thin paper.
" " yellowish " stout "
Blue " " " " "

HANFORD'S PONY EXPRESS.

This company was in operation during 1850, but when it was established I have not as yet discovered. The earliest stamp used was a black hand-struck impression, placed upon any envelopes or sheets of paper sent to the office for that purpose. The design consisted of an oblong oval, lettered HANFORD'S above, PONY EXPRESS POST below, and 2 and C's. at each side, respectively. In the centre was a mounted courier, riding towards the left. This stamp was presumably provisional, as an adhesive was afterwards adopted. Original copies of the latter are very scarce, but the type is well known, owing to the counterfeits which have flooded many a collection.

Within a double-lined transverse oval frame is a pony-mounted messenger; at top is HANFORD'S, and at bottom PONY EXPRESS. The value 2 CTS. is placed as in the earliest stamp. The impression is black upon dull yellow paper, slightly *glacé*.

I know of two forgeries, one of which is very deceptive, and, as regards execution, equals the genuine. The following are the leading points in the latter:—

The pony is shaded obliquely, and the rider's arm is distinct; HAN smaller than the other letters; the apostrophe after D slants towards the right; the E of EXPRESS is very small; under the pony there is but little shading, and the bottom stroke is touched by the animal's fore-foot.

The best forgery is detected by the apostrophe after D slanting towards the left. The E of EXPRESS matches the other letters, and the pony's fore-foot is upon the uppermost line of shading. In the coarser imitation, the pony's fore-leg runs nearly into the P, and the 2 is much smaller than in the genuine.

SNOW'S DESPATCH.

My information respecting this post is *nil*, and my knowledge of the stamp used is meagre. I am only able to mention that a label really was issued, and that it was a miserable little production, of small size and still more wretched execution. Between two wavy ornaments is the name of the company, in two lines, and between the lettering a stroke; printed in black upon blue paper of peculiar make. The only copy known to me fetched as much as two guineas; this will give some idea of its rarity.

MARTIN'S CITY POST.

The introductory remarks upon the last described stamp will also apply to the one emitted by this company. The label is almost unique (so far as collectors are concerned), and has for design a small oblong frame of pearls, enclosing the inscription, MARTIN'S CITY POST, PAID—2 CTS. It is printed in black upon lilac.

CUMMING'S CITY POST.

This company was in business during 1846, and carried letters in New York. It has gained philatelic immortality by producing the worst engraved of all the American locals. They first used a hand-stamp, which was not quite so bad, and for originality has not been surpassed by any of its companions. The device was a locomotive galloping on legs, having the value 2 and CTS., in small squares, at each side; above was CUMMING'S, and below EXPRESS. This was struck in red, and was probably put on at the office when the postages of the letters were paid for. I am inclined to this opinion from the fact that packets bearing the adhesive labels are sometimes found surcharged with the impression in question.

The design of the adhesive consists of a sealed letter within a circle, which circle is intersected above by a straight line. At top is CUMMING'S; upon the right side, CITY; upon the left, POST; and at foot, 2 CENTS. The whole within a square frame, and printed in black on pink paper.

There is a very fair counterfeit, which is generally sold in black upon green, and on white, but it also exists upon paper approximating to the colour of the originals.

In the genuine, the shading upon the lower portion of the letter is very close at the bottom, and gradually widens as it rises; whereas, in the forged, the lines are all wide apart, there being only seven upon the left side, and six on the right. Another test is, that in the imitation the upper portion of the letter touches the circle, instead of being at some little distance from it, as in the archetype.

CORNWELL POST OFFICE, N. Y.

It is a little more than twenty years since this express was established in New York. The solitary stamp issued was about on a par with Cumming's badly executed label, and has therefore probably been despised very often as rubbish. Within an oval is a portrait (presumably of Washington), partly encircled by the inscription POST OFFICE—MADISON SQUARE. Above, upon a riband, is CORNWELL. The whole enclosed in a rectangular frame, perpendicularly lined, and with truncated angles containing dots. Printed in brick-red upon bluish paper.

There are two forgeries, one much too clearly done, and the other so bad that it might be easily mistaken for the original. The following are the main points in which the genuine and counterfeit differ:—

In the former, the letters of POST and SQUARE are very indistinct, and a bend is plainly shown in the upper riband, above the C in OFFICE. The shapeless ornament in the lower right angle is much larger than the one upon the left, and almost touches the bottom line of frame.

In the finest made forgery, the letters above named are, as I have previously said, too distinct, and the T in POST is much longer than the other letters. The corner ornaments are almost of one size, and there is no noticeable bend in the lettered riband.

The other imitation can be detected by

the absence of shading upon the forehead, which in the genuine and the other counterfeit is shown by four lines.

GOVERNMENT CITY DISPATCH.

The stamps issued by this company had for device a mounted horseman, riding towards the right. Upon a scroll, held in his left hand and going over his shoulder, is the value—ONE CENT. Above and below are ribands, lettered, respectively, GOVERNMENT and CITY DISPATCH. The whole within an oblong frame, perpendicularly lined. Printed upon white paper, in black and in red.

Genuine.—The lettering is thick, and of the same class throughout. Both the fangs of the riband containing value touch the tail of the upper label. All the rays are connected with the riband. Only the toes of the courier's foot come below the body of the horse. The greatest test is the angles, and more particularly the upper ones, for in them are found sundry white specks and dashes, favouring the idea that it was the engraver's original intention to have added some further ornamentation. The line at each side of the stamp has degenerated into dots.

Forgeries.—I know of a couple of imitations, both fairly made. In one, the three first letters in GOVERNMENT and the C of CITY are thinner than the other letters. The lower fang of the riband, holding value, touches that of the topmost label, but the upper fang does not. The fifth ray from the right is merely a short dash from the horses ear, not extending so far as the riband. The whole of the rider's foot is below the horse. There is no break in the angles.

The other counterfeit is rather deceptive, but shows various leading differences. Instead of the single dotted line at each side, there are three distinct parallel strokes, and the riband holding ONE CENT does not go against the upper label.

UNITED STATES EXPRESS MAIL.

As these papers are written with the twofold object of imparting and obtaining information, I think it not out of order to describe an envelope now lying before me. It is directed to San Francisco, and bears a red circular hand-struck impression, inscribed U. S. EXPRESS MAIL, BOSTON, MASS. In the centre is the date, but, according to the usual American system, no year is given. From certain surrounding I am, however, able to fix it between 1850 and 1852.

It would be interesting to know if this express issued a stamp, and to have some particulars concerning it.

PLEASANT PAGES.

WE English are a slow, matter-of-fact people, very far behind the enlightened foreigner, as every candid newspaper exultingly admits. We let our ships run aground, and our cavalry horses run away, whilst we cannot camp out a few thousand men in distant Berkshire; but, admitting these grave indictments, there still exist some few institutions in this country to which we English may point with pride, and among them must be classed the post office. "The Right Honourable the Lord Commissioners of Her Majesty's Treasury" have recently had a few pleasant pages to read respecting the post-office, in the shape of a report on its progress, presented to them by Mr. Monsell, and a copy thereof is now before us, the perusal of which has given birth with us to the sentiment expressed in our opening sentence. We are English enough to admire an establishment which, whilst it grows, *pays*, and this the General Post Office emphatically does. A sum of fourteen hundred thousand pounds paid over to the government represents the honourable gains of that office during the year 1870; and this respectable balance is attained notwithstanding important reductions in the rates in that period, coupled with the granting of increased facilities for cheap correspondence. It was in October of last year that the halfpenny stamps, cards, and wrappers were issued, and Mr. Monsell's report dilates on the numbers which have already been issued, showing that in the three months following their appearance, there was an augmentation of $12\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. in the number of newspapers forwarded. The figures he quotes are significant of the success of the reduced rates, and if we refrain from reproducing them here, it is simply from the fear that our

readers, sharing our hatred of statistical articles, might, on catching sight of the obnoxious numerals, absolutely refuse to even glance at the context. Let us, then, pass at once to the most interesting portion of the post-office report, that which treats of the difficulties thrown in the way of postal communication by the late war, and the energetic manner in which they were met. Here Mr. Monsell may be allowed to speak for himself.

Very early in the campaign it became necessary to make fresh arrangements for forwarding to their destination mails which had previously gone through France. The first to be diverted from their ordinary course were naturally the mails from Baden, Bavaria, Wurtemburg, and other parts of South Germany, and these were soon followed by the mails exchanged between this country and Italy and Greece. Owing to a reduction of transit rates, which had just formed the subject of a new Postal Convention with the North German Confederation, the change of route was not in any case attended with an increase of postage.

Meanwhile the vessels belonging to the North German Lloyd, which sail under the German flag, had ceased running, and it had become necessary to send to Liverpool, for despatch by the Cunard or Inman packets on Saturdays, the mails for New York which used to leave *viâ* Southampton on Tuesdays. This reduction in our means of communication with America entailed considerable inconvenience upon the public, at the same time that the diversion of the mails to Liverpool caused a pressure of some severity upon the packet office there, as well as upon the office in Dublin, through which the return mails pass on their way to England.

The subsequent withdrawal of some of the French packets still further interrupted our communications. The packets for Malta went only thrice a month, instead of once a week; whilst others, as, for instance, those leaving St. Nazaire for the West Indies on the 8th of every month, were suspended altogether.

As the war proceeded and the hostile forces approached Paris, the risk of interruption to our Indian mails became more and more imminent, and caused serious uneasiness to the Department. This feeling, which was not long in communicating itself to the public, the subsequent investment of the capital served to enhance. The mails had now to branch off at Amiens and go round by Rouen and Tours, at a cost, in point of time, of from 30 to 40 hours; but even this circuitous route could not long be depended upon, and nothing remained but to abandon Marseilles altogether as the line of communication for our Indian mails. There was only one alternative—to send them through Belgium and Germany by the Brenner Pass to Brindisi, and thence by Italian packets to Alexandria, a route which has not since been departed from.

But it was in respect to the mails for France herself, and especially for Paris, that the greatest perplexity prevailed. As soon as Amiens was threatened—Amiens, the very keystone of our postal communication with the interior and South of France—it became evident that the route viâ Calais would not remain available much longer. The alternative routes that presented themselves were viâ Dieppe and viâ Cherbourg or St. Malo, and no time was lost in making the necessary arrangements with the Brighton and South-western Railway Companies. By both companies trains were kept in constant readiness at the terminus in London, and vessels remained under steam at Newhaven and Southampton, prepared to start at the shortest notice, according to the course events might take. Late in the evening of the 26th of November intelligence was received in London that the line of communication through Amiens was closed, and the mails were diverted from Calais to Cherbourg; within the next four days Cherbourg was exchanged for Dieppe; and Dieppe soon afterwards for St. Malo.

This much for the war and its effects. Hardly less interesting is the account of the post-office negociations. St. Martin's-le-Grand has its own ambassadors, who start on their missions accredited by Her Majesty's Postmaster General, and who generally succeed in getting some much-desired reduction in rate, or change in route, agreed to. Thus Mr. Page, one of the assistant under-secretaries of the office went to Berlin early in 1870, obtained the lowering of the rate for letters to Germany from 6d. to 3d., and made arrangements for a reduction of transit charge on all British mails passing through Germany, the value of which was unexpectedly proved a few months afterwards, when all the Indian mails had to travel by the Brenner pass to Brindisi. Respecting this change of road the postmaster says—

Between Brindisi and London the distance is 1,734 miles. By the first outward mail the journey was accomplished in 79½ hours, or within one hour of the time set down in the itinerary drawn up by the Italian post-office, being at an average speed of about 22 miles an hour, including all delays necessary for the several transfers of the mails from boat to railway, and *vice versâ*. By the first homeward mail the distance was traversed in 89½ hours.

The Italian packets, by which, on the first adoption of the route the mails were conveyed between Brindisi and Alexandria, have since been replaced by those of the Peninsular and Oriental Company from Marseilles; and the department, thus relieved from its payment to Italy on account of sea service, has been enabled to make a small reduction in the postage.

On the whole the change from Marseilles to Brindisi has been decidedly advantageous to the public. Viâ Brindisi the postage is lower than it was viâ Marseilles; and the route has proved to be the more expeditious of the two.

He adds,

I am happy to be able to report that further steps have been taken towards the removal of the inconvenient quarter-ounce scale. In January last an agreement was come to with Italy to adopt the unit of half an ounce, except as regards letters between this country and Sicily transmitted by French packet, which, owing to the amount payable to France for conveyance, could not be included without augmenting the postage. Even in respect to these, however, some small advantage has been given in respect to weight, and the 3rd of an ounce can now be sent for the same postage as was formerly charged upon the quarter ounce.

The quarter ounce scale has also given place to the scale of a third of an ounce in the case of letters between this country and Spain.

Let us hope that the time is not far distant when half an ounce shall be the universal weight for a single letter. The International Conference will perhaps settle this point. Meanwhile our own authorities have settled that the rate for our internal postage is to be an ounce, and they will certainly find it to their profit thus to broaden the facilities for correspondence. In this country, every reduction in rates has been followed by an increase in revenue; but it must not be forgotten, that, whilst giving full sway to a liberal policy, the administration also studies very carefully the wants of every postal district under its charge; augmenting the number of deliveries, and so arranging the mail service as to permit of posting up till a later hour. And yet withal, if we are to believe *The Standard*, the poorer classes contribute only an infinitesimal drop to the ever increasing flood of correspondence, the direction of which requires all the tact and energy of the post-office.

We have to remember, says *The Standard*, the enormous correspondence carried on by single firms, the swarms of circulars issued, the sackfuls daily sent out from thousands of offices, the perpetual flux and reflux of correspondence in public and fashionable life; the manner, indeed, in which the local post is often monopolised almost by a few individuals; the delight which large classes of idle persons feel in writing to their acquaintance; and a hundred other circumstances, and we shall experience, perhaps, a little less admiration of the grand total 940,000,000, of the 10,000,000 yards of string used in tying up letters for the country; of the 17,000 pounds weight of sealing wax consumed in St. Martin's-le-Grand in sealing the 700,000 country bags; and the four tons of ink exhausted in the stamping of letters in England alone. The circulation is, as yet, restricted; it beats backwards and forwards through regular channels; it is opening a way into others, of course but not so rapidly as upon a first thought we might fancy.

The general masses of the poor—all classes of them, speaking broadly—write and receive few letters. The proportion varies, of course; there are those whose correspondence, if limited, is pretty regular; others at whose doors the postman's knock is rarely heard, except upon the arrival of a colonial mail; many whom the sight of a letter actually addressed to themselves would overwhelm with excitement. We do not suppose that there is any great activity of the postal service among the humbler denizens of the East-end, or the weavers of the midland, or the miners and metal workers of the Black Country. The agricultural labourer, as a rule, does not tax the department greatly. In many a village, and even small town, when the postman appears, it is pretty well known beforehand at whose houses he will call. Rarely does he stop at the wayside cottages of our strictly rural districts. Even at ordinary farm-houses his visits are rather periodical than desultory. Communication in the country is still carried on by means of "messages" among the classes we speak of, and even those above them; whereas in the metropolis, and other great cities, a letter posted in one street has to be delivered in the next. Throughout extensive spaces of Ireland, Scotland, and the Principality, letters are seldom received, unless at "the great houses," though, undoubtedly, the Post Office is pushing its way. As to postal cards, it may be questioned whether they hitherto have been, in any important degree, appreciated by the poor, with whom the folding and fastening of a letter is scarcely less a solemnity than the writing of it. All this, none of which, we think, will be denied, shows that the department has still before it almost limitless opportunities of expansion.

There is a certain amount of truth in these assertions, but there is also a great deal of exaggeration. There is no doubt that the country people do correspond far more than they once did—to the full measure, in fact, of their improved education. If they write five letters per annum now, it is probably three more than they would have written twenty years ago. The railway separates and breaks up poor families as well as rich; and such disruption necessarily brings about correspondence.

NEW FRENCH STAMPS.

In the last days of August the French assembly voted a new and retrograde postal tariff, with intent to obtain from the post-office a portion of the wherewithal to pay off the Prussians. We have good reason, however, for believing that it will result not in profit but in loss to the government, and cannot but feel surprised that French statesmen should be so blind to the lessons conveyed by the postal revenue of other countries as to pin their faith to the high rates for whose adoption they have voted. Yet when M. Wolowski raised his voice in the assembly against the augmentations, he was met by the stereotyped cry that five millions had to be provided for, and further discussion was stifled. In an able letter which appeared in the *Journal des Débats*, the veteran free trader, M. Michel Chevalier, demonstrated that the true road to profit lay through diminished postal rates, but all to no purpose; the French deputies persisted in raising the rate for a single letter, weighing the third of

an ounce, from 20 to 25 centimes, ignoring the almost certain fact that where five letters have hitherto been written, only four, or even three, will be sent in future.

However, for better or for worse, the act of the assembly has gone forth, and the new tariff has been published. The principal rates are the following:—

Letters posted and delivered within the same district, and not exceeding 15 grammes for Paris, or 10 grammes for the provinces				15 centimes.
From town to town, not exceeding	10	grammes	25	„
„	20	„	40	„
„	50	„	70	„
„	100	„	1 f. 20	„
Circulars. „	5	„	2	„
„	10	„	3	„

Three stamps consequently disappear from the French series, viz., the 1, 10, and 20 centimes, and five require to be added, viz., 3, 15, 25, and 70 centimes, and 1 f. 20 c. The 15 and 25 c. are already in circulation, but nothing is said of the higher values; yet they will evidently be required, as the rates of 70 c. and of 1 f. 20 c. can neither be formed with less than three stamps.

We have included a 3 centime stamp among the requirements, as it is not likely the 1 centime will be maintained merely to be employed in conjunction with the 2 centime, to form the new rate for 10 gramme circulars.

The 15 and 25 centime stamps, respectively, are the exact counterparts of the 10 and 20 c., even to the colours, the former being bistre and the latter blue. This has already been the subject of complaint in Paris, and mistakes are certainly likely to arise so long as the 10 and 20 c. continue in circulation, especially as the figures of value are so small.

The immediate application of the new rates was also grumbled at, because there were no new stamps to represent them. A five centime stamp had to be added to the 10 c. or 20 c. for local or ordinary letters, as the case might be, but the stock of five centimes ran short in many places. The 5 c. of the empire reappeared, the stamps being either remainders or a government re-issue; but many offices remained unsupplied, and we have seen a great number of letters prepaid with a 20 centime stamp coupled with three 1 c. and a 2 c., or a 4 c. and a 1 c. We also keep, as a curiosity, a letter franked with a 20 c. stamp and the *half* of a 10 c., diagonally cut, probably attached at the post office.

A short time before the new tariff was voted, there appeared in one of the Paris papers a statement that M. Rampont, the postmaster, was about to adopt the post-card system, and issue 5 and 10 centime cards, the former for Paris, the latter for the provinces, but in the assembly a proposal made by one of its members, to the effect that post cards should be issued was negatived, in consequence of M. Rampont's opposition. The Paris journal above referred to coupled its information respecting post cards with a statement that stamped envelopes were about to be issued, and that it had been decided not to obliterate them in the post-office. We fear, however, this intelligence is not well founded, and it certainly comes in bad company.

REVIEWS OF POSTAL PUBLICATIONS.

Descriptive Price Catalogue of Government Postage Stamps. WILLIAM P. BROWN: New York. 1871.

THIS is a neat and serviceable publication, carefully compiled by a gentleman who, we believe, with perfect justice, claims to have been the second in America to engage in the stamp trade. He prefaces his list with a few well chosen observations on the spread of philately in general, and his own trade in particular. We incidentally learn from this preface that that unique little journal, *The Curiosity Cabinet* has ceased to exist, having probably been unable to keep the field against its older rivals. Another interesting little item from the same source is the following:—

> We have in our store a collection of over 1200 varieties of counterfeit stamps, the property of C. H. Coster, of this city, which our friends may examine at their pleasure.

Mr. Coster has just made his appearance as a writer on stamp subjects, and his possession of this extensive collection of forgeries is a proof of his assiduity in study. His opinion on any question involving the character of stamps will certainly be entitled to considerable weight.

Returning now to Mr. Brown's catalogue, we have no hesitation in recommending it to the notice of our American subscribers, for we have long known its author, and have never had reason to regret having made his acquaintance.

POSTAL CHIT-CHAT.

SOMETHING LEFT OUT.—In the Postmaster General's last report we read that "in London alone above ten million yards of string were used in 1870 for tying up letters for the country, and above 17,000 lbs. of sealing-wax for securing the 700,000 bags, and 4 tons of ink were used in England for impressing postmarks on letters." There is a most extraordinary omission in these statistics of a great government department—not a word is said about red tape!—*Punch.*

WHAT'S IN A NAME.—It is stated that the United States post-office department has just made a decision in reference to the titles that may be placed on the new stamped envelopes which are furnished with printed addresses. It is held that honorary prefixes, such as Judge, Colonel, Professor, Reverend, Doctor, &c., by which an individual is generally known and styled in his community, may be printed on the envelopes, but that no suffixes, such as A.B., A.M., M.D., &c., can be allowed.—*Times.*

UPON THE INTRODUCTION of the halfpenny post cards, the authorities entered into a contract with the firm of De La Rue & Watham for the manufacturing and printing of them. The contract was for three years, and the number ordered was 100,000,000. The present rate of consumption is 1,500,000 a week, or 78,000,000 a year, and, therefore, 234,000,000 in three years. Before the end of the first twelve months, it is not at all unlikely that the consumption will reach 100,000,000 a year. Here is another instance of the growth of the British Post-Office.—*Bullionist.*

THE INDIAN MAIL.—We met the Indian mail. A coach-and-four, was it? or a palki? A swift dromedary, or an elephant? No. The bags conveying all the threats, commands, and resolutions of love-making and money-making were carried on the back of a native runner, who with his lantern and small bells hurried past us! It is in this primeval fashion that the postal communications of Southern and Central India are kept up. The "post" goes at a conscientious trot, and soon transfers his bags and responsibilities to another. So on it goes, until all letters are duly delivered at their final destination.—*Peeps at the Far East.*

INQUIRE ABROAD FOR NEWS AT HOME.—A well-known dealer sends us the following:—A few weeks back, I wrote to my correspondent in the Azores, requesting him to obtain for me some of the new 5 reis stamps for that colony. He replied, "On applying at the post-office for the quantity you require, I was informed that not even an eighth part was on hand; that if I wished it, the quantity would be sent for from Lisbon, to come by the mail-boat next month," &c. He concludes by stating that they will be sent off from the Azores on 1st June. When they *do* come they will doubtless be the new issue; notwithstanding, my correspondent writes (in answer to an inquiry of mine), "There is no new issue of stamps. To make sure, I asked the postmaster; and was informed by him, that not only were there no new stamps, but a fresh emission was not even in contemplation." After writing the above, he prepays his letter in stamps of 25 reis of the new issue!

CORRESPONDENCE.

FRENCH COUNTERFEITS.

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

DEAR SIR,—I beg to inform you that I believe the perforated forgeries of the French Republic, 1870, referred to in the June number, are identical with those issued by Messrs. Letts & Son on their facsimile of a balloon letter. Trusting this intelligence may prove of interest.

I remain, yours obediently,

Portsmouth. C. J. H.

"LIQUOR AMMONIA FORTIS."

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

DEAR SIR,—Your correspondent, R. C. Hope, must not put two great faith in his carmine 6 cents United States stamp, for I have found that, when carefully wetted with *liquor ammonia fortis*, this, and other stamps of a similar shade, will turn to a decided carmine tint. It is possible that his stamp may have been so "doctored."

Yours obediently,

Birmingham. R. B. E.

A TASMANIAN NOVELTY.

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

SIR,—A stamp has just come into my possession which I do not find catalogued anywhere.

Shape, rectangular.

Colour, green on white paper.

Inscribed above, TASMANIA, in white letters.

Inscribed below, THREE PENCE, in green letters.

In small oval on each side, on solid disc, the figure 3.

The design in centre of stamp looks like a view of high mountains.

The shape of the frame of the stamp is very like the "Victoria" stamps, 3d. blue, 1866; 4d. pink, 1866.

Can you tell me anything about it?

I am, Sir, yours obediently,

L. J. N.

THE "STAFFORD-SMITH" ALBUMS.

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

DEAR SIR,—I should like it to be known that for four years I have collected in a "Stafford-Smith" album, and have never had the least difficulty in putting in new issues. My plan is this: I cut as many extra pages as I want to the size and shape required, rule them in red ink, and mount them on the guards which occur throughout the book. This plan does not in the least spoil the appearance of the book, or make it what Mr. Overy Taylor appropriately calls "podgy." By adopting this plan I have always found space for all new issues, and it has never occasioned the slightest inconvenience.

I have several specimens of the English 2d., present issue, with inverted watermark; also different values of Hong Kong.

Trusting these remarks may prove of some use,

I remain, dear Sir,

Yours very truly,

Hamsterley. HANOVERIAN.

THE HAITIAN STAMP.

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

SIR,—In vol. vi, p. 153, you figure and describe the above stamp, but put the editorial extinguisher pretty well over it. That you justly term it *une carotte*, I do not take upon me to deny; but I should be glad if you would insert this note in your next, in order to elicit the opinion of the learned on the subject.

My copy, which I have had about eighteen months only, bears two post(?)marks. 1. In oval frame, the name TIBURON, with MAI 6, in centre; this, saving the ends of oval, is clear; colour, blue. 2. Nearly a semi-circle of 3 concentric dotted lines; colour, blue.

Tiburon is a town near the cape so named, at the western extremity of the island.

Yours,

Bagshot. WARDEN.

[Whilst admitting that copies of this design are not very frequently met with, we still do not see any sufficient reason for withdrawing from our formerly-expressed opinion that it is a sham. The very fact of the value being enunciated in centimes, or cents, goes far in our opinion, to condemn this stamp; and the mere existence of a postmark, in no way justifies it, as the most dangerous forgeries nearly all bear plausible obliterations. It is true that on the copy before us, the figure 6 in the date, May 6, being larger than the word, has the appearance of having been inserted for use on that day only; but the word "*Mai*" itself looks like a fixture; and further, that word looks suspiciously French. Had this stamp been genuine, we cannot doubt but that authentic intelligence respecting it would have been forthcoming during the three years which have elapsed since it was first noticed; and this view is confirmed by the fact that reliable information has been given respecting the emissions of such out-of-the-way places as Kashmere, the Deccan, Japan, the Fiji Islands, &c., within a short time after their appearance.—ED.]



THE SALE OF STAMP FORGERIES.

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

DEAR SIR,—I am a collector of *postage* stamps,—not fiscal, telegraph, and commercial labels, none of which have charms for me; and still less do I care for essays and "facsimilies," which latter word is but another term for forgeries. My business often obliges me to visit the metropolis and many of our provincial towns; and being an ardent searcher after specimens for my album, you will not wonder, Sir, that the shop-windows where stamps are displayed have a special attraction for me. But how frequently have I been disgusted and disappointed by finding, instead of "Genuine Foreign Stamps" (as these sheets are invariably labelled), row after row of worthless forgeries.

I will charitably suppose that the vendors of this rubbish are ignorant of what they offer to the public, but ought they not to exercise some little discretion in becoming the agents for dealers of whose commercial standing they can have but little knowledge? and they would certainly benefit both themselves and stamp dealers by consenting to do business only for honest and respectable stamp firms.

I do not wish to imply that I do not meet with *any* genuine foreign stamps; far from it. In most of the large towns are to be found well-filled sheets of authentic specimens. My object in writing to you is to warn inexperienced collectors to be careful what they buy, and not to fancy they have always a bargain when they see a label marked at a low figure.

I am,

Yours truly.

Cheltenham. ANTI-FORGERY.

NATAL STAMPS.

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

SIR,—In the April number of your valuable magazine for this year, is a letter headed "New Varieties," and signed W. E. C. W. E. C. states that in a friend's collection he saw a 1d. Natal with POSTAGE surcharged in "*gothic type*," instead of roman. Now, this stamp must be a *forgery*, as all the surcharged Natal stamps are in roman type.

There are six varieties of 1d. Natals with POSTAGE surcharged in roman type, viz:—

1st. That with POSTAGE printed across the Queen's crown.

2nd. That with POSTAGE printed on both sides of the stamp.

3rd. That with POSTAGE printed across the bottom of the profile in thin long capitals.

4th. The same as the above, but the letters in thick short capitals.

5th. That with POSTAGE printed across the bottom of the profile. The P of the postage is a capital, the other letters small.

6th. The same as No. 5, but the letters larger, rounder, and thicker.

Before the above came into use, a yellow stamp with embossed crown and inscriptions (NATAL ONE PENNY) in frame, rect. oblong, perforated, was in use for a few days, and has since been used only as a receipt stamp.

Of Natal receipt stamps besides the above, there are three varieties, viz., 1d. yellow, 6d. pink, 1/- greyish lilac, which are the same as the 1860-7 postage-stamp series, except in colour.

Dr. Gray, in his catalogue, notices a 1d. dark red and 3d. deep blue, *unperforated*, of the 1860 series of Natal stamps. I have never heard of, or seen either of these stamps; but have many like the above *perforated*, and I think Dr. Gray must be mistaken.

There are at present two varieties of surcharged 3d. Natals, viz:—1st. That with POSTAGE printed across the bottom of profile in thick short capitals.—2nd. That with POSTAGE printed across the crown, the P of the postage a capital, the other letters small.

By inserting this letter in the next number of your valuable magazine you will oblige.

I am, Sir,

Yours faithfully,

PHILIP F. PAYN.

Pine Town, Natal, South Africa.

ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS.

J. L., Banbury.—Your two-cent *blue* Hong Kong is most probably either a forgery or chemically changed from the normal colour.

W. H. D., Great Grimsby.—1. The light blue 1 real Spanish, of 1854, has long been known, and is looked on as an essay.—2. The 08 cent. Uruguay, lake, must be an *erreur d'impression*, if it be not a changeling.—3. The 30 c., French empire, with ground of horizontal lines, was noticed last year.

P. C. H., Derby.—The 1848 Republic stamps were not perforated, the 1870 Parisian are; but those issued at Bordeaux in 1870 are not. These latter, are, however, easily distinguishable from the others, as they are lithographed, and are very coarse. If Dr. Gray's catalogue and Lallier's albums do not mention the Alsace and Lorraine stamps, it is no doubt because they were published before the war broke out.

NOTES ON THE UNITED STATES LOCALS.

BY W. DUDLEY ATLEE.

V.

In writing these papers, I have had many difficulties to contend with; the chief of these being the scarcity of all genuine locals, except those of the commonest kinds; and even when I have obtained the stamp of any particular post, I cannot make sure that it does not exist in some other colour, or that there may not be variations in the die. If I were able to examine these rare locals in bulk, completeness might be at once attained; but, as it is, a solitary specimen is often all I have to judge from.

Previously to describing the stamps of any one of these private offices, I make careful inquiry of my home and American correspondents respecting them. It generally happens that the opinions of the latter disagree upon some points, so that it requires much care to sift the various conflicting statements. For example, I will instance the labels of Boyd. Before publishing my list, I sent proofs to two leading amateurs in the States, both of whom returned them with the assurance that the order in which I had placed my types was correct. It now seems that I am wrong in one or two cases; but I have the satisfaction of knowing that I have never chronicled a counterfeit as a genuine impression, and have always endeavoured to expose impostors.

I have great pleasure in stating that I have secured a most valuable collaborator, in the person of Joseph J. Casey, Esq., of New York, who has for some time past given to the subject of locals considerable study, labour, and money; the latter a very important item in this branch of philately. From next month, the proofs of all my papers upon this topic will be laid before that gentleman; and I can promise some highly interesting particulars concerning the stamps of the East River post-office, in addition to numerous other curious facts not hitherto chronicled.

As I am continually receiving queries as to the genuineness of one or other of the numerous "bogus" locals, I think that a list of those known to me will be useful to my readers. All the following are purely imaginary labels of imaginary companies. There are doubtless others, but these are the common kinds sold in most packets.

FICTITIOUS LOCALS.

Arthur's City Express, 2 cents, square.
Baldwin's Railroad Postage, twopence (locomotive), large oblong.
Barker's City Post, Paid (beehive), square.
Barr's Penny Despatch, oblong.
Bowery C. C. Post Office, 2 c., oblong.
Brigg's Paid Despatch, small oblong.
Central Post-office, one cent, circular.
Clinton's Penny Post, Philadelphia, oblong.
Donaldson's Paid Despatch, oblong.
Down's One-cent Dispatch (dove), rect.
Express Post, one cent (head in oval), rect.
Florida Express (mounted courier), rect.
Hackett's City Post, 2 cents, oblong.
Hunt's 1 c. Despatch, square.
Ker's City Post, various (said to be Canadian).
Lathrop's Albany Bank Express, 57, State St., oblong.
Lebeau City Post Paid, 5 cents, oblong.
Letter Despatch, J. M. Chute (ship), oblong.
Mills (G. A.) Free Despatch Post, oblong.
Moody's Penny Dispatch, Chicago, oblong, two sizes.
Moody's Penny Post, Chicago, oblong.
Smith's Mountain Express, Paid, five cents, diamond.
3rd Avenue S. R. Post-office, small oblong.
Union Despatch (horse's head), square.
United States Letter Express, 20 c. (head of Washington), large rect.
Utica Express, 30 cents, large square.
Walker's Penny Post (winged dart), oblong.

In most collections are to be found large embossed designs, which are supposed to have been issued for the prepayment of letters sent by the express named upon them. The commonest of these are the various devices adopted by Adams' Express Company for their different offices; such as a spread eagle, for New York; Pegasus, for Philadelphia, and their monogram—ÆC—for Boston. Another unintentional impostor is the oval with horse's head; which is given in nearly every catalogue as an envelope stamp of the New Jersey Express Co., whose name is thereon. All these are simply struck as advertisements upon the business envelopes of the respective companies. The same may be said of the large printed impression of the Merchant's Union Express, having for device clasped hands within a circle.

WHITTELSEY'S EXPRESS.

An American correspondent, who is an

authority on locals, informs me that this stamp exists in blue, as well as in brick-red.

CUMMING'S CITY POST.

Since writing my last paper, I have seen a copy of this wretchedly-drawn label in black upon yellow, and have heard that it is also found on green. Not having seen the latter colour, I give it with reserve.

ESSEX EXPRESS POST.

The history of this post is amusingly given in an early number of *The Mercury*. We are there told that it was established, in or about 1856, by three ex-carriers of New York expresses. These young men had sundry tin boxes placed in various portions of the city; and as their chief office was in Essex Street, the name of their business was probably derived from that fact. A stamp was issued of the following design. Sailing vessel in single-lined oval; ESSEX EXPRESS at sides, LETTER above, 2 CTS. below. I have been unable as yet to see a copy, but the colour is said to have been black on orange-red. After remaining in business for less than a month, we are informed that the proprietors retired upon the profits accruing from the sale of their stamps. In 1862, a certain dealer getting scent of some of these labels, proceeded to a grocer, who formerly kept a box for the concern, and from him obtained about two-hundred-and-fifty copies. Having a fine sense of first-class humour, the new owner of these locals detached one from a sheet, and after adding a streamer to the mizzen-mast of the ship and S. X. beneath, sent this altered specimen to a brother dealer. Strange to say, the recipient of the doctored label was in a few days able to advertise that he had for sale a fine stock of "undoubtedly genuine" Essex Letter Express stamps, all of which bore S. X. below the vessel. As these shams are so plainly branded with the mark of their worthlessness, nothing more need be said concerning them. What became of those two-hundred-and-fifty originals is to me a mystery, for genuine specimens seem to be as scarce as they were before this grand find. Everyone knows of the common forgery, which is condemned by its many-hued companions, and by having a small pennant at the mast-head.

JEFFERSON MARKET POST OFFICE.

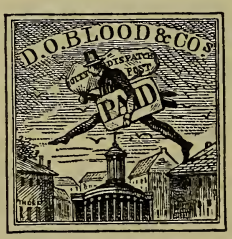
This is an office respecting which I have not been able to glean any information; but it undoubtedly existed many years since. The stamp used was an oblong oval, surrounded by the inscription JEFFERSON MARKET POST OFFICE, BY C. SCHMIDT & CO. In the centre was an eagle perched upon a rock. It is said to have been printed both in black upon red, and in blue. Copies are extremely scarce.

BLOOD'S PHILADELPHIA DESPATCH.

This post was started about 1843, but I cannot vouch for the exact date; it issued several labels, most of which are well known, either in their original state or as counterfeits.

I cannot say in what order the eleven different types were issued, but suppose my American critics will tell me, now that I ask for the information. According to the late Mr. James Leslie, the stamp with giant-striding courier was the earliest, so I will take the three dies of this design first.

I.—Man stepping over the merchants' exchange of Philadelphia, having under his left arm a packet inscribed PAID; and over his right shoulder a sack lettered CITY DISPATCH POST. Large square.



II.—Same design, with the addition of D. O. BLOOD & CO.'S in arch above the postman.

III.—Similar to the last, but with POST omitted from the bag, and CITY DISPATCH added in another curve (but of thinner type) across the centre of the stamp. All three dies printed in black on white.

Genuine.—At the base between the border lines is LITH. OF WAGNER & McGUIGAN, 100, CHESTNUT STREET, and at right-hand corner, J. SMITH; all of which can easily be read by the aid of a microscope. On the left-hand building the word LITHOGRAPH can be plainly discerned.

Forgeries.—I know of three counterfeits of

each type, two from wood-cuts, and one produced by lithography. In the earliest of the former the makers' names are not given, and in the second they are quite undistinguishable. The lithograph is a very deceptive imitation, and has doubtless taken in many a collector. It is, however, at once condemned by the lettering at foot, which is too illegible, and cannot be read by any means. Genuine copies of all three dies are of great rarity.

IV.—BLOOD'S Penny Post, PHILAD'A, in double linear frame. Small oblong.

a. Blue imp. on ground of fine pink dashes; lavender paper.

b. Gold on plain blue, and bronze on black.

Genuine.—The stroke under POST is very short, extending only the width of S. The execution of the stamp is tolerably good. This is the label that was obliterated by a style dipped in acid.

Forgeries.—These are always bad, and have a curve under POST reaching from O to S. In the imitations of *a.*, the pink surcharging is composed of smudged diamond-shaped dots.

V.—BLOOD'S *Paid* DESPATCH in frame of two lines; very small oblong. Bronze on black. I have not seen a counterfeit of this type, but the following features of the original may be useful in advance. Of the two strokes over PAID, the first extends horizontally with LO of BLOOD'S; the second is more arched, and is a little wider than the D above it. The curve below reaches to above the T of DESPATCH; and after which word is a minute period. It is rare as a genuine stamp.

VI.—BLOOD'S One Cent DISPATCH within double linear frame; very small oblong. Bronze on black.

Genuine.—The stroke above CENT extends over the two middle letters, and the dash below value commences beneath the second stroke of N in ONE, and finishes under the first portion of the E in the following word. There is a period after DISPATCH.

Forgeries.—I know of two, and there are probably more; one is carefully copied, but presents the following differences. The stroke over CENT comes just below the D of BLOOD'S, and extends from above the C to between the E and N of the first-named word, the last letter of which is close to the border. The dash under the value reaches from beneath the centre of N to the following C. After DESPATCH there is no full stop.

The other counterfeit is printed in various fancy shades, and is of coarse appearance. It will be enough to say that the lower dash extends from the N in ONE to the same letter in its companion word.

VII.—BLOOD'S Post Office DESPATCH within a frame of two lines; very small oblong, bronze on black.

This stamp is rather a difficult one to forge, through the fineness of the German text in the centre. In the genuine, the dash under POST-OFFICE extends to I; whereas, in the only imitation known to me, the dash does not reach farther than the second F.

VIII.—BLOOD'S DESPATCH *for the* POST OFFICE. The following is Mr. Scott's description of this stamp, after stating that the above inscription is in scrolls:—"Printed in black, on a ground of pale blue. The word BLOOD'S in script capitals is shown on the tinted ground under the black inscription; oblong, black on blue groundwork, white paper. It was used in Philadelphia [were Blood's stamps ever used anywhere else?] in 1848, and is now very scarce, which fact, we presume, is the reason it has never been counterfeited."

IX.—I have now to chronicle one of the most elegant and chastely engraved of American locals. It bears a full-face portrait of Henry Clay, upon a sinuous engine-turned disc, within a solid oval, inscribed BLOOD'S PENNY POST above, KOCHERSPERGER & CO., PHILADA. below. Black impression on white paper. There is no forgery of this type, but proofs exist in several colours.

X.—BLOOD'S DESPATCH within a double linear oval; in the centre, a dove with extended wings, holding in its beak a letter, inscribed PAID. Oval; black impression on green, and on white. The remainders of these stamps must have been large, as copies are easily obtainable. There is a poor forgery, in which the dove is very badly drawn, with the envelope plain, instead of having its due share of shading.

(*To be continued.*)

PAPERS FOR BEGINNERS.—No. XV.

BY OVERY TAYLOR.

Bergedorf.

THE paper on the stamps of this town which appeared in September contained a misstatement which I hasten to apologise for and correct. It is therein said that the first two stamps issued have never been reprinted, but, as I have since learnt, and as I ought to have surmised when writing, from the fact that the original lithographic stone has been discovered, they *have* been. Another, though an evidently clerical error, was the reference to the common $\frac{1}{2}$ schilling, as being printed in black on *violet*, instead of black on *indigo*. These points settled, we will proceed to examine the stamps of the city next in alphabetical order, viz. :—

Bremen.

The emissions of this town, if not distinguished by any remarkable excellence of design, present at least a pleasing *ensemble* to the eye. The principal device which ornaments them is emblematic of the sovereignty which belonged to the once free city. The Bremen burgesses kept the key of their own door, instead of giving it into the custody of some neighbouring potentate, and knew how to maintain their independence long after other equally important towns had succumbed.



Its series of stamps does not possess any very remarkable history: had the stamps voices, they might answer inquisitive querists in the words of Canning's celebrated knife-grinder story, "Heaven bless you, sir, we've none to tell." Yet, uneventful as was their existence, there are still some few items in it which require mention.

Thus, in the first place, we have the dates of emission. Moens unhesitatingly gives 1855 for the 3, 5, and 7 grote, and 5 sgr., but Berger-Levrault gives 1860 for the 7 grote. For the 10 grote, 1861 is generally ascribed, and we all know that the 2 grote made its appearance in April, 1863.

These stamps are divisible into two categories: 1, those which served for letters posted and delivered in the town or district; 2, those used for external correspondence. The 2 and 3 grote, in conjunction with the envelope, represent the former, and the remaining values the latter. The 2 and 3 gr. are inscribed STADT POST AMT (state, or city, post office); the 5 and 7 gr. bear the words FRANCO MARKE, without the name, and the two higher values bear the name only; the inscription would, therefore, seem to have been left in all but the two local post stamps to the discretion of the engraver. In like manner the crown surmounting the key, present in the 3, 5, and 7 grote, is absent from the others, and probably from a similar reason the 5 and 7 gr. were issued pursuant to the rules of the German postal union, as we find that in value they nearly approach the 2 and 3 sgr., and are printed in the colours originally chosen for these denominations.





The original series, composed of the 3, 5, 7 grote and 5 sgr. appeared unperforated. In 1861, however, a new value, the 10 gr., was added, and it made its *début* perforated, or rather pricked; in the 1862 the 5 gr. followed suit, and in 1863 came the 2 gr. The 3 gr., and the 5 sgr., pricked, were issued in 1864, and in 1866 the emission of properly perforated stamps commenced with the 3 gr., the other values submitting to the change in 1867.

It is worthy of note that of the 3 grote stamp there were three separately engraved types side by side throughout the sheet, and of the 5 gr. there were two dies similarly placed.

Imperforate copies of the 5 sgr. are found upon a thick, intensely white paper, in addition to that ordinarily used.

After the suppression of the Bremen post-office, a large number of its stamps were sold under cost price; and may, for aught I know, be still selling. I have no reason to suppose them to be reprints. They were

probably remainders; and comprised among their number, the unperforated 5 grote and 5 sgr., the pricked 10 sgr., and perforated 2, 3, 7, 10, gr., and 5 sgr.

Prior to their appearance, Bremen stamps —even used—commanded a relatively good price, being far less common than the emissions of many other of the German States; and numerous forgeries were the result, which must have yielded a rich harvest to their owners.

ENVELOPE.

The handstamped envelope served for local postage, and it was formed of white or of blue paper. The stamp, a simple transverse oval, contained the key and crown upon a shield; and on the edge of the envelope, in a line with this device, is the word FRANCO; the whole in black. Some specimens are found without the word FRANCO, but their authenticity is somewhat doubtful. The value, unexpressed upon the stamp, was one grote. As there is a most dangerous counterfeit about, collectors need to exercise caution before purchasing any of these envelopes.

OFFICIAL STAMP.

This stamp, printed in black on blue or pink paper, with scalloped edges, *may* be a postal. It certainly bears the inscription, BREMEN POST OFFICE, but a correspondent, writing to this magazine, stated he always found it attached to bills of exchange, and its employment for postal purposes has never been proved.



It may also be as well to mention here a stamp which has misled scores of inexperienced collectors. It is a small upright rectangle; and above the figure 1 in the centre is the inscription UMSATZSTEUER. In the middle of the figure, from which a number of rays diverge, is a small circle containing a key. This stamp is a fiscal one, and ought not to find place with the postals in a philatelist's album.

TWO EXTRACTS FROM THE LAST NUMBER OF *LE TIMBROPHILE*.

THERE reached us in August last, a number of the above journal, dated 30th July, 1870, which, at a cursory glance, we thought we had seen before; and we therefore put it aside, considering it merely as a method adopted by its proprietor, Monsieur Mahé, of notifying his return to business. On a second examination, however, we found we were mistaken; and that the number, though bearing an old date, had only just been published. A notice to subscribers, inserted on the last page, informs them that the number was in type when its editor was called away from his desk, to perform his duty as a National Guard; and that subsequent events had delayed its publication for a whole year. Mons. Mahé, the writer of the notice, adds that it is his intention to resume the publication of his journal; and we shall await with interest the appearance of the promised numbers. Meanwhile, the ante-dated impression must be made to yield its fruit for the benefit of English philatelists; and we feel sure Monsieur Mahé will not object to the translating of the two useful and interesting articles which we here reproduce.

I.—ON THE STAMPS OF NEW GRANADA.

Paris, 20th July, 1870.

Monsieur Pierre Mahé,

In your last number you call the attention of collectors to the new Granadine 5 and 10 pesos, and the 25 c. sobre porte, all three with a little round hole punched out of the centre, and the present 25 c., obliterated with a cross stamped with printing ink.* These stamps differing in the details of the design from those previously known, doubts were raised as to their authenticity.

In one of the last year's numbers of your journal, you advocate an inquiry into the history of all doubtful stamps, in order to discover who first puts them on sale, and where they come from; as I will not have any doubts raised respecting me, I desire to aid you in any investigation you may think fit to make in this matter. It is I who put these stamps on sale. I received them directly and officially from the Bogota administration as authentic; in proof of which they had been cancelled. If they were bad, why take away their facial value? How can we suppose that a postal administration would lower itself to fabricate stamps to execute an order, whilst all the time it possesses, and has but to cancel, the same kind of stamps? Under such circumstances, what interest would it have to act in this way? None; and that is easily understood; the best reason for me is, that a post-

* [We said, cancelled with a cross in black ink, drawn with a ruler.—ED. *Le Timbrophile*.]

office would not itself make false stamps, since, with a little good-will, one could make use of them in the country. On the other hand, it is evident that they are not like those which were previously received here, but what is there to prove that they do not come from there? The matter touches me too nearly for me not to exculpate myself from all participation in the doubts of collectors. I have written to Bogota for explanations, and I hope soon to receive a reply which will dispel all doubts. As for me, I *affirm* that I received them from Bogota. Your investigation will now be easy.

Yours obediently,
CHARLES ROUSSIN.

We never for a single moment doubted M. Roussin's integrity, nor his straightforwardness in all his commercial dealings; therefore we did not put it in question. We simply referred to the stamps above mentioned, without pretending to make it a personal affair.

M. Roussin, having himself commenced an inquiry at Bogota, we await the result; but before that, we desire to express our opinion on these stamps.

All are cancelled, either by a perforation, or by a black ink line; and all come, we do not doubt, from the Bogota post-office. Now, if that post-office consented to send cancelled stamps to Europe, it must have had an appreciable interest in so doing; that is to say, the order must have amounted to a considerable figure. This much being established, it does not seem to us impossible that the Administration,—selling the cancelled stamps at a reduced price for an important amount, but not comprehending on the one hand the value which might be attached to the genuineness of a postage stamp destined simply to be mounted in a collector's album, and, on the other hand, not wishing to compromise itself morally by selling at a reduction stamps perhaps not yet obsolete,—may have had lithographed (the amount of the order authorising the outlay) special types at a very trifling cost, to meet the demand.

We believe we are in the right; and what confirms us is, that of these four kinds of stamps, obtained under special conditions as to the price, there is not one that does not essentially differ from those previously known; not only in the inscription (that is a common characteristic of the New Granadine stamps) but in every detail of design—a thing never before known. It does not appear to us possible that these four kinds should, by a unique chance, be found of several, or, to speak more accurately, of two types. However, we shall await the particulars requested from Bogota.

II.—The Carnival Stamps.

The two designs of which we annex the fac-similes have furnished M. Moens with





matter for a premature, incomplete, and inexact article. We have reason in saying that he should have waited, as we have to do sometimes, in order not to fall into the error contained in an incomplete notice, or a defective translation.

We have received from one of our subscribers at Genoa, the subjoined article, written from notes furnished by M. Ravano himself.

Genoa, 1st July, 1870.

To the Editor of *Le Timbrophile*.

Every important town in Italy during the Carnival, has its characteristic mask or personal.

At Milan	Il Meneghino.
,, Bologna	Il dottore Balanzone.
,, Turin	Il Gianduja.
,, Venice	L'Arlecchino.
,, Padua	Il Brighella.
,, Genoa	Il Signor Regina.

The managing committee of the spectacles in our town, with a benevolent object in view, had the happy idea of issuing, during the Carnival of 1870, a couple of stamps, of which the object was, if I may so express myself, to establish the right to *free circulation* of masked individuals; their possession evidencing the conventional tax paid by pleasure for the profit of the unfortunate. I enclose you a specimen of each of these two stamps.

They both represent the chief of the Genoese masquerade, M. Ravano,* citizen of the town of Genoa, who managed the carnival fêtes in the costume of the *Marquis Regina*.

The two stamps served, as we have said, to *prepay* the maskers, on their entry into the theatres and ball-rooms; and the proceeds have been applied to the Infant Asylums. All who were completely masked and disguised were required to have a 50 centime stamp stuck on the mask,

* M. Ravano is a man of letters, to whom the public is indebted for, among other works, a treatise, highly esteemed, on the Practice of Gymnastics among the Ancients.

and on the right-hand glove. Persons in demi-costume, or wearing only a false nose, were to be provided with a 20 centime stamp. Unstamped ladies were not to be invited to dance; and ladies properly labelled might refuse to dance with gentlemen not decorated with a 20 or 50 centime stamp, as the case might be.

Was not this one of the most ingenious combinations that could be formed for helping one's neighbour—this forced subscription, so willingly submitted to in a moment of gaiety? No one refused to meet it, and the sale was represented by thousands and thousands of stamps, forming a respectable sum.

The inscription on the stamp—NEO REGINA—has two significations.

1. These labels, attached to the face or the hand, might have been taken for a parody of the *Nei* (patches), which our ladies had in former times the habit of placing on the face as an ornament, and which, in that case, took the name of *Regina*, to distinguish them from the old ones.

2. The Greek word *neo*, signifying a new thing, coupled with the Italian name *Regina*, would mean Regina's new invention.

Take it in one sense or the other, these two stamps are, in fact, only a Carnival whim, to which philatelists will accord but little value. Still, perhaps, they would do well not to reject them from their albums, where they would remind them of a philanthropic act, and a good idea born from philately.

One of your subscribers,
GIANNINA LECANDRI.

We have spoken of these stamps, because everything more or less distantly connected with timbrophily, by its historic or anecdotic side, seems worthy of being inserted in our journal; and further, in order to render impossible any false denomination of these stamps, which when first shown to us by Mons. C. R., of Neuilly, had already taken the name of *brigands' stamps*.

The two stamps come, as one may read above the exterior frame, from the lithographic establishment of C. d'Aste, at Genoa. They are, taken altogether, the copy of the current 20 and 40 c. Italian stamps, printed in colour on white, and unperforated.

20 cent. blue.
50 „ rose.

The application of stamps to philanthropic purposes, we may say in conclusion, is not a new idea, for we saw numerous examples thereof during the secession war in the United States; the series of Sanitary Fair, Soldiers' Fair, Bazaar stamps, &c., being sold for the profit of the poor, or of wounded soldiers.

IT IS SAID to be the intention of the Spanish government shortly to introduce into Spain the post-card system.

NEWLY-ISSUED OR INEDITED STAMPS.

JAPAN.—In completion of the details already given respecting the emission for this country, we here insert the engraving of the fourth and lowest value—48 (or 50) mons, dark brown. From a letter published in our correspondence columns there can be no doubt that the *ichebu*, as the unit of currency, has been superseded by the dollar.



RUSSIAN LOCALS.—*Pskoff.*—Our St. Petersburg correspondent, by whom the list of Russian locals which appeared in our July number was compiled, sends us a stamp issued on the 10th July last for the Pskoff circuit (in the government of the same name), of which the annexed illustration is a copy. It has a rather bizarre appearance, like all the lozenge-shaped stamps, but is pretty well engraved, and the colour, a bright violet, is pleasing. This is the second stamp issued in the Pskoff province, the first being for Toropetz, and of this no specimens have yet come over.



Besides the foregoing, the following stamps have been issued since the publication of our correspondent's list.

EKATERINOSLAW GOVERNMENT.

Mariopol circuit.—5 kop. black on white.

PERM GOVERNMENT.

Shadrin circuit.—5 kop. blue on white.

TAURIDA GOVERNMENT.

Melitopol circuit.—3 kop. blue.

The Melitopol stamp replaces one of the same value printed in red, and bearing as device the imperial mantle and arms with inscription in oval frame, that device having been objected to as making the stamp look too much like the government issue, it has been changed. Our correspondent had not seen any of the stamps he refers to, and therefore is unable to give any further details respecting them.

We are pleased to be able to give engravings of three other locals already described, namely :—

Egorieff.—Transverse lozenge-shaped; inscription in frame, CIRCUIT OFFICE FOR THE PROVINCE OF EGORIEFF, in centre RURAL POSTAGE STAMP and the value; 3 kop. blue, and black. The two colours, though of the same value, show certain differences in the details of the design.



Skopin.—3 kop. blue.

Sapojok.—5 „ black.

These two stamps, together with the Egorieff labels, all belong to the Riasan





government, but the perfect independence of each other felt by the authorities of the respective "circuits" is shown in the dissimilarity of the designs. There is evidently no concerted action with regard to the issue of these local stamps; in fact, they exemplify in a special manner the working of the decentralising principle.

Bogorodsk.—The annexed engraving represents an envelope stamp for this post, which has just been discovered by one of M. Moens' correspondents, who, with the envelope, received information that no adhesive stamps had ever been issued! This shows how little way these latter have as yet made, for they certainly have



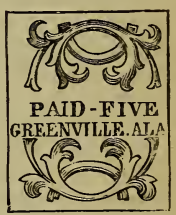
been issued and do exist. Specimens both of the blue and the vermilion have been seen on this side of Europe, and they are quite as authentic as the other locals. M. Moens, in noticing the envelope, omits one essential detail—*its colour*—but states that it is of large size, and of laid paper, and adds that the stamp is impressed on the flap.





UNITED STATES.—Here are representations of the newly-issued 15 cents and 90 cents envelopes for this country, which were described at length in our last number. We have before us copies of each value on white and on lemon paper, watermarked with the usual monogram. The 15 cents impressed on the coloured paper is more effective than on the white.

CONFEDERATE STATES.—The annexed design represents a rare and recently-discovered Confederate local, whose place of issue is indicated by its inscription. This stamp is of extreme rarity at present.



GERMAN EMPIRE.—The new stamps will appear for certain on new year's day next; they will have for design the imperial eagle, in white relief, in centre, and will be inscribed DEUTSCHE REICHSPOST and value. One of our correspondents informs us they will be used in every part of Germany, except Bavaria and Wurtemburg, and the values will be as follows :—

ADHESIVES.

$\frac{1}{4}$, $\frac{1}{3}$, $\frac{1}{2}$, 1, 2, 5 groschen.
1, 2, 3, 7, 18 kreuzer.

ENVELOPES.

1 groschen; 3 kreuzer.

WRAPPERS.

$\frac{1}{3}$ groschen; 1 kreuzer.

ST. THOMAS AND PORTO RICO.—The present illustration represents the handstamped impression referred to in our last number, and of which we had promised an engraving. Repeating the information then given (to save reference), we may mention that it is struck in black and was used in 1866.



RUSSIA.—We have information from St. Petersburg that postal cards are shortly to be issued, and are to be of two values,—3 kop. for town delivery and 5 kop. for cards from town to town throughout the empire. There is also to be a new adhesive imperial postage stamp, value 25 kop., for registered letters throughout Russia. These novelties will probably make their appearance with the New Year.

FRANCE.—A new "chiffre-taxe" stamp, value 25 centimes, has appeared. Design and colour remain unchanged, nor has even the improvement of perforation been introduced, the numeral alone is altered. This 25 centime stamp represents the postage claimable on local letters, but it is said that 40 and 60 centime labels will also be issued —the former for unpaid single letters from town to town, the second for double-weight letters, either local or general; and the errors arising out of the present confusion of colours in the ordinary stamps, may well render these *chiffres-taxe* indispensable. The department seems to have foreseen the difficulties which must result from the new 15 centime brown and 25 centime blue being in the same colours as the old values, if we may judge from the terms of the following decree:—

By decision of 25th August last, three new stamps were to be issued in execution of the law of the 24th of that month. These stamps will be of the values hereafter mentioned, viz.:—

15 centimes.
25 "
50 "

The colour bistre will be reserved for the 15 centime labels, and the colour blue for those at 25 centimes. For the stamps at 50 centimes the question of shade remains undecided. There will then be simultaneously in service the old stamp of 10 centimes and the new ones at 15 centimes, each having the same bistre shade; it will be the same for the old 20 centime stamps and the new 25 centime, which will be blue. It will suffice to draw the attention of all the officials to this similarity of shade, to secure their most scrupulous verification of the rates covered by means of postage stamps. These officials should not neglect any opportunity to enlighten the public on the liberty which it possesses, to compose, with the stamps put at its disposal, all the charges to which its correspondence is subjected by the new law.

It appears, however, that in point of fact it *did not* suffice to call the officials' attention to the similarities of shade, in order to secure the payment in all cases of the full rates; or if it sufficed for that purpose, the public, at all events, refused to enlighten itself as to the facilities afforded by the new emissions, and it is now certain that there will shortly be an entirely new series of stamps for France. According to one French journal, the profile of Liberty is to be retained on the new series, as it has the advantage of rendering forgery nearly impossible; but there will be large numerals in the lower angles, as in the present low-value stamps. According to another journal, the figure of value is to occupy the centre; but this innovation would be too German to meet with approval. The new stamps, whatever may be their design, are being prepared with all possible speed, and it is said the post-office will not wait till the entire supply is ready to issue, but as soon as there is a certain quantity will immediately put it into circulation, and as far as possible withdraw the existing types.

As to the value of 50 centimes, which it is proposed in the above decree to represent by a stamp, we cannot help doubting whether such representation will take place; and, indeed, we are much surprised at its ever having been contemplated, for there is *no fifty-centime rate* in the new tariff. Double-weight letters, instead of paying 50 centimes, as might have been supposed, pay only 40 centimes, as before.

We noticed, in a recent impression, that we had seen French letters on which the half of a 10-centime stamp had been made to do duty, and been accepted as representing a five-centime stamp for the prepayment of the rate. On this subject the post office issued a notice that "certain journals having an-

nounced that the five centime postage-stamps might be replaced by those of ten centimes cut in half, the department warns the public that letters thus prepaid will be taxed, as the stamp ought always to be entire." Nevertheless the practice continues, for, since the appearance of this notice, we have seen several letters prepaid with a 20 c. stamp and the half of a ten centime stamp, and such letters have *not* been charged as insufficiently prepaid.

England.—A pointed upright oval frame, inscribed KEBLE COLLEGE, OXON, and the college arms in the centre; the whole in plain relief, on a gummed and perforated rectangle of vermilion paper. Such is the description of a stamp which has just made its appearance at Oxford. It is issued and sold by the college authorities at the price of a halfpenny, and it frees letters from Keble College to the other colleges, or to the town. The letters are carried by the college messenger, and if a reply be desired, a second stamp is affixed; the obliteration consists of a pencil cross. How far the issue of this stamp will be considered by the post-office as trenching on its peculiar privileges remains to be seen; meanwhile, the emission deserves chronicling as a curiosity, unique of its kind.

Bolivia.—One of our correspondents favours us with the information that the 5, 10, and 100 centavos now have *eleven* stars; the 50 and 500 c. are still unaltered. Of the postal use of the 5 and 10 c. fiscals he says (and we quite agree with him) there can be no doubt; he has received a dozen post-marked copies. Our correspondent has received, from a friend of his, a Bolivian government official, a strip of eleven stamps or designs, somewhat similar to the impostor described at page 25 of our fifth volume. The following is his description of them:—

"Frame and inscription similar to the stamp figured at page 25, vol v., *Stamp-Collector's Magazine*. Within a circle, composed of a single line of dots, a conical hill, occupying nearly the whole circle. A smaller hill in foreground, to left of which a llama. On right slope of the larger hill, a tree. At summit, to left, the sun; below which the word PORTE; and on the side of hill the value—½ r., or 1 r., or 2 r., or 4 r., as the case may be. The strip is cut vertically, and contains 11 stamps, in following order:

½, ½, ½, 1, 1, 1, 1, 1, 2, 2, 4.

All the dies are cut separately, and very roughly. Badly printed; black on white; gummed."

We are inclined to believe these designs to be at least genuine essays, and if, as we have some faint idea, there has been a recent change of government in Bolivia, they may really be the forerunners of a new series. Cannot the gentleman by whom they were originally procured obtain further information respecting them, or say from whom he got them?

Cape of Good Hope.—The fashion of issuing stamps of high value seems to be spreading through our colonies, and may therefore be meeting, in stereotyped phrase, "a want long felt." The Cape has just followed it in emitting a five-shilling stamp of the same size and design as the other values, but of an orange colour. Some difference in size will probably be found desirable, in order better to distinguish this expensive label.

Turkey.—According to our Brussels contemporary the 10 paras stone is not an unpaid letter stamp, but forms one of the regular postage-stamp series, and is used concurrently with the 10 p. mauve, which it will probably replace when the stock of the latter is exhausted.

Hong Kong.—The 30-cent stamp is now printed in mauve, in lieu of vermilion, a fact which seems to point to the retirement of the 18 cents.

Luxemburg.—The 10 centimes stamp of this duchy is now printed in mauve, instead of the lilac shade.

New Granada.—*Tolima.*—A 10 centavos stamp exists for this state, which we hope to describe next month.

FORGED STAMPS FROM HULL.

For a long time past the prevalence of forgeries has been the subject of frequent but unavailing regret in these pages. We have known that inexperienced collectors were being cheated in a wholesale manner, but it has not been in our power to expose the mode of action pursued by the sellers of

counterfeits. We are now, however, in possession of facts which cannot be gainsayed in respect of one member of the fraternity by which the sale of forged stamps is carried on, and we have no hesitation in making them public.

It is to the principal of a grammar school, himself a collector, to whom we owe this opportunity, he having handed us a sheet of forged stamps, and an accompanying letter received by one of his pupils. The letter is a printed one, and the following is a copy of it:—

29, Trinity Street, Hull.

Dear Sir,

I enclose a sheet of **Rare Foreign Postage Stamps** for your inspection, all at 1d. each (unless specially marked), less 4d. in the shilling commission.

Please oblige by selecting those you require, and forwarding me remittance for same, together with the remainder of the sheet, at your earliest convenience, when I shall have great pleasure in forwarding (if required) another assortment on inspection.

Your services as *Agent* will oblige,

Yours truly,

Net Price for the sheet, 5/. CHAS. C. DIXON.

The large lettering is as in the original.

The sheet of "Rare Foreign Postage Stamps" contains 98 labels, disposed in seven rows of fourteen, the squares being indicated by a single red line. At the top is an inscription, in block type, reading thus:—

Foreign Postage Stamps for Collectors.
All at 1d. each. No.——

All the labels on the sheet are *counterfeit* representations, either of postage stamps, essays, or of locals, of which even the originals have a questionable character.

Now, as it may be reasonably assumed that a person professing to be a dealer in postage stamps knows how to distinguish between them and their imitations, it follows, on this assumption, that if he offers imitations for sale, he does so knowingly; and we believe that if the matter were brought before a law court, it would decide that knowingly to offer for sale imitations of postage stamps as being the genuine stamps themselves, is to endeavour to obtain money *under false pretences*. We recommend this consideration not only to Mr. Dixon, but to all who are engaged in the traffic in forged stamps—and their name is legion;—nor let them imagine that they are protected by the omission from their sheets of any expressions *guaranteeing* the genuineness of the stamps they contain. They offer *foreign postage stamps*, and their labels are NOT foreign postage stamps; they are simply fraudulent imitations.

Mr. Dixon, the seller of the sheet of stamps we have now before us, edits, in conjunction with a Mr. Charles H. Calvert, of 63, Derringham Street, Hull, a magazine termed *The Stamp-Collector's Herald*. We refrain from commentary on its contents, lest it might be supposed we dread the competition of this new comer, but we are not bound to abstain from examining its advertisements, and among them we find one containing the announcement of a "Yorkshire Stamp Union," got up, as it afterwards appears, by the above-named editors. We have three tickets for this Union now in our possession, each of them ornamented by what is termed in the advertisement a "rare Mexican stamp," but which is really a vile forgery. Were these labels indeed what they profess to be, they would be worth a shilling each, or double the price of the ticket. So much, then, for the Yorkshire Stamp Union.

In another advertisement, Mr. Dixon's co-editor, Mr. Calvert, offers to supply for sixpence, 75 used and unused stamps, including, among other things, a Pacific Steam Navigation Co. and a St. Thomas Porto Rico (steamship in oval). The offer of P. S. N. Co. stamp needs no comment; as for the other, there never was a St. Thomas Porto Rico with ship in oval; what Mr. Calvert offers is, either the "Clara Roth" fabrication, or copies thereof, such as are to be found on Mr. Dixon's sheet.

These facts speak for themselves. If Messrs. Dixon and Calvert do not *know* the false from the true, then they are out of their place as stamp dealers. It is with them, however, to prove that they are unaware of the nature of the labels they offer. We, on our side, have it in our power to prove that those labels are false, and we hope that Messrs. Dixon and Calvert will desist from selling them, without an express statement that they are only imitations.

We will now only add, that we intend to

carry out the work here begun without fear or favour; we therefore will thank any of our readers who may receive stamps which they suspect to be forged, to send them to us, taking care not to remove them from the sheet on which they are mounted, and sending with them the letter whereby they were accompanied; we shall then take such steps as may be necessary in their interest, and in the interest of philatelists generally.

THE SURCHARGED GERMAN ENVELOPES.

By this title we wish to indicate the envelopes of five of the German states, which were re-issued by the North German Confederation after the war with Austria, with an adhesive Confederation stamp covering and replacing the original embossed design. These very peculiar metamorphosed varieties were referred to in these pages at the time of their appearance, but it has been left to the indefatigable Dr. Magnus to study and arrange them. The results of his investigations are given in the August number of *Le Timbre-Poste*, in the shape of a table, showing the original and present values of the surcharged envelopes, which we reproduce on the opposite page, and trust it will be found of service.

It may here be useful to remind our readers that the transformation of the value is effected in two operations: first, the embossed stamp is flattened out by impressing over it a design in a delicate grey tablet, as, for want of a better word, we have termed it, consisting of a wide rectangular Greek-patterned frame, with rounded corners, within which are 30 horizontal lines, composed of the words NORDDEUTSCHER POST BEZIRK, repeated twice on each line. Secondly, the new adhesive stamp is mounted over it, and the Greek border of the tablet forms a kind of background or relief to the stamp.

According to a German magazine, the *Briefmarken Sammler*, the 1 and 2 groschen adhesive stamps were apposed indifferently, and without regard to the value or colour of the original envelope impression, upon the 1, 2, and 3 gr. Prussian envelopes (eagle), pursuant to an order of the 24th July, 1868. In like manner, pursuant to a decree of 29th October, put in force on the 21st November, 1868, a 3 kr. adhesive was placed on the 1, 2, 3, 6, and 9 kr. Prussian envelopes, used in those parts in which the currency is in florins; and, under the provision of a decree of the 5th October, 1868, a one-groschen stamp was to be put on all the different values of Saxon, Brunswick, Mecklenburg-Strelitz, and Oldenburg envelopes.

Thus, then, all the old envelopes of the North German states had their original values changed into one of the 3 following:—

1 silber groschen.
2 " "
3 kreuzer.

Dr. Magnus' valuable list is framed for the assistance of collectors of the "thorough" school, and is therefore as complete as it is possible to make it, embracing as it does all the varieties of shape and tint of paper. On examining it, we find there are 64 in all, of which Prussia owns 17, Oldenburg, 9; Mecklenburg-Strelitz, 6; Brunswick, 5; and Saxony, 27; but if, for the benefit of collectors who are unable or unwilling to take all the secondary varieties, we extract from the list the number of *values* which have been changed, we find that they number twenty-three, viz:—

Prussia, 6 pf., 1, 2, 3 s. gr. } „ 1, 2, 3, 6, 9 kr. }	9
Oldenburg, ½, 1, 2, 3, gr.	4
Mecklenburg-Strelitz, 1, 2, 3 s. gr.	3
Brunswick, 1, 2, s. gr.	2
Saxony, ½, 1, 2, 3, 5, gr.	5
	23

Of the entire 64 varieties no less than 52 bear adhesive 1 *groschen* stamps, 7 have 2 gr., and 5 have 3 kr.; the two latter values must, therefore, soon become rare. Indeed, as Dr. Magnus observes, notwithstanding their number, or rather on account of it, the greater part of these stamped envelopes must soon disappear; and he advises collectors to complete their sets as soon as possible, advice which we cannot but confirm.

COUNTRY.	EMISSION.	SIZE.	PAPER.	ORIGINAL VALUE.	SURCHARGED STAMP.
Prussia, ...	1st October, 1861 ..	Large ..	White ..	3 s. gr. ..	1 gros.
,, ...	April, 1863	,, ..	Whitish ..	1 ,, ..	1 ,,
,, ...	,, ...	,, ..	,, ..	2 ,, ..	2 ,,
,, ...	,, ...	,, ..	,, ..	3 ,, ..	1 ,,
,, ...	,, ...	Medium ..	White & whitish	1 ,, ..	1 ,,
,, ...	,, ...	,, ..	,,	2 ,, ..	2 ,,
,, ...	,, ...	,, ..	,,	3 ,, ..	1 ,,
,, ...	,, ...	,, ..	,,	1 ,, ..	1 ,,
,, ...	,, ...	,, ..	Slightly bluish..	2 ,, ..	2 ,,
,, ...	,, ...	,, ..	,, ..	3 ,, ..	1 ,,
,, ...	,, ...	,, ..	,, ..	6 pf. ..	1 ,,
,, ...	1st July, 1867 ..	,, ..	,, ..	9 kr. ..	1 ,,
,, ...	,, ..	,, ..	Whitish & bluish	1 ,, ..	3 kr.
,, ...	,, ..	,, ..	,,	2 ,, ..	3 ,,
,, ...	,, ..	,, ..	,,	3 ,, ..	3 ,,
,, ...	,, ..	,, ..	,,	6 ,, ..	3 ,,
,, ...	,, ..	,, ..	,,	9 ,, ..	3 ,,
Oldenburg	21st February, 1862	Large ..	White ..	2 gr. ..	1 gros.
,, ...	,, ..	,, ..	,, ..	3 ,, ..	1 ,,
,, ...	,, ..	Medium ..	,, ..	½ ,, ..	1 ,,
,, ...	,, ..	,, ..	,, ..	1 ,, ..	1 ,,
,, ...	,, ..	,, ..	,, ..	3 ,, ..	1 ,,
,, ...	,, ..	,, ..	Bluish ..	½ ,, ..	1 ,,
,, ...	,, ..	,, ..	,, ..	1 ,, ..	1 ,,
,, ...	,, ..	,, ..	,, ..	2 ,, ..	1 ,,
,, ...	,, ..	,, ..	,, ..	3 ,, ..	1 ,,
Mecklenburg-Strelitz ..	1st October, 1864 ..	Large ..	White ..	1 s. gr. ..	1 ,,
,, ..	,, ..	,, ..	,, ..	2 ,, ..	1 ,,
,, ..	,, ..	,, ..	,, ..	3 ,, ..	1 ,,
,, ..	,, ..	Medium ..	,, ..	1 ,, ..	1 ,,
,, ..	,, ..	,, ..	,, ..	2 ,, ..	1 ,,
,, ..	,, ..	,, ..	,, ..	3 ,, ..	1 ,,
Brunswick	October, 1865, Flap-stamp, a plait..	Large ..	Whitish ..	1 ,, ..	1 ,,
,, ...	,, ..	Medium ..	,, ..	1 ,, ..	1 ,,
,, ...	,, ..	,, ..	,, ..	2 ,, ..	1 ,,
,, ...	,, ..	,, ..	Bluish ..	1 ,, ..	1 ,,
,, ...	Flap-stamp, a floret..	,, ..	Whitish ..	1 ,, ..	1 ,,
Saxony	1st July, 1863, Flap-stamp, a plait..	Large ..	White or whitish	1 neu. gr. ..	1 ,,
,, ...	,, ..	,, ..	,,	2 ,, ..	1 ,,
,, ...	,, ..	,, ..	,,	2 ,, ..	2 ,,
,, ...	,, ..	,, ..	,,	3 ,, ..	1 ,,
,, ...	,, ..	,, ..	,,	5 ,, ..	1 ,,
,, ...	,, ..	Medium ..	,,	1 ,, ..	1 ,,
,, ...	,, ..	,, ..	,,	2 ,, ..	1 ,,
,, ...	,, ..	,, ..	,,	5 ,, ..	1 ,,
,, ...	,, ..	,, ..	Slightly bluish..	1 ,, ..	1 ,,
,, ...	,, ..	,, ..	,, ..	2 ,, ..	1 ,,
,, ...	,, ..	,, ..	,, ..	2 ,, ..	2 ,,
,, ...	,, ..	,, ..	,, ..	3 ,, ..	1 ,,
,, ...	,, ..	,, ..	,, ..	5 ,, ..	1 ,,
,, ...	Flap-stamp, a floret..	Large ..	Whitish ..	1 ,, ..	1 ,,
,, ...	,, ..	,, ..	,, ..	2 ,, ..	1 ,,
,, ...	,, ..	,, ..	,, ..	2 ,, ..	2 ,,
,, ...	,, ..	,, ..	,, ..	3 ,, ..	1 ,,
,, ...	,, ..	Medium ..	,, ..	2 ,, ..	1 ,,
,, ...	,, ..	,, ..	,, ..	2 ,, ..	2 ,,
,, ...	,, ..	,, ..	,, ..	3 ,, ..	1 ,,
,, ...	,, ..	,, ..	,, ..	5 ,, ..	1 ,,
,, ...	,, ..	,, ..	Bluish ..	1 ,, ..	1 ,,
,, ...	,, ..	,, ..	,, ..	2 ,, ..	1 ,,
,, ...	,, ..	,, ..	,, ..	3 ,, ..	1 ,,
,, ...	,, ..	,, ..	,, ..	5 ,, ..	1 ,,
,, ...	1st July, 1865, Flap-stamp, a plait..	,, ..	Whitish ..	½ ,, ..	1 ,,
,, ...	,, a floret..	,, ..	Bluish ..	½ ,, ..	1 ,,

A WORD WITH MR. ENGELHARDT FOHL.

We have not very much to say to this gentleman, but we must not delay telling him—and at the same time our readers—what little has to be said with respect to his rather oblique ideas respecting honesty. In our September number appeared the following advertisement:—

ENGELHARDT FOHL, DEUTSCHE BRIEFMARKENHANDLUNG, RIESA, SAXONY. For Sale, Italy 1851, 53, '54, set unused, 10/; used, 3/6. Moldavia, 54, 81, 108, 80, 40, 5 paras, set 3/. Mexico, 8 rls. violet, brown, green on brown, doz. 20/. Spain 1851, '52, '53, the 2 reals 15/- each. Luzon, 1854 y '55, 10/. Oldenburg ½ gr. 1852, doz. 7/6; 1860, ½ gr., doz. 6/. Naples, 1861, Sicily, Modena Government Provisional. Parma Government Provisional, Romagna, Rome, unused, 1/3 set of each. Large stock of old Baden, Oldenburg, Hamburg, Bremen, Mecklenburg, Lubeck, &c., &c. *All Stamps genuine.* Terms, Cash. Small remittances in Postage Stamps. Correspondence desired. Colonial and Rare Stamps exchanged.

It will be noticed that in this announcement Mr. Fohl is careful to state that "all stamps" are "genuine," and yet among those he offers are some of the most dangerous forgeries ever brought on the market, notably the set of Moldavian stamps for 3/-, and the 8 rls. Mexican. As they are forgeries, we do not hesitate to denounce the original vendor to the public, and we trust that this present warning will suffice.

Mr. Bonasi, a respectable dealer, was deceived by the Moldavian counterfeits, and sent them to our publishers, by whom they were sold to a very experienced philatelist, who took them to be reprints. As soon, however, as Mr. Bonasi learnt that they were forgeries, he wrote our publishers, informing them of the fact, and requesting them to return the stamps, when he would reimburse them the amount paid. Mr. Bonasi's conduct is as praiseworthy as Mr. Fohl's way of acting is reprehensible, and we only wish all our dealers were like him.

Besides the above-mentioned stamps, Mr. Fohl has issued an unused 27 para Moldavia, for which he only asks *two pounds*. As the government stamps are all obliterated, collectors can be in no doubt as to what they are buying.

Since writing, we have been informed that Mr. Fohl has commissioned a house in Leipzig to fabricate these forgeries for him.

CORRESPONDENCE.

THE HAITIAN STAMP.

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

Dear Sir, -The 25 c. Haitian stamp alluded to by "Warden" in your correspondence columns last month, may probably turn out genuine. For an explanation of *why* the value being in *centimes* does not militate against it, I refer your readers to Mr. Kitt's interesting letter in vol. vi., p. 174, of this magazine. I have all along considered it a genuine stamp, and am in possession of several curiously postmarked specimens.

Yours faithfully,

Birmingham. EDWARD L PEMBERTON.

THE JAPANESE STAMPS.

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

Dear Sir,—The Japanese stamps described in *The Philatelist*, are authentic. The values are:—

No. 1.—Indigo-blue 1 tenpow.
No. 2.—Dull red 2 tenpows.
No. 3.—Yellow-green 5 tenpows.

A hundred *tenpows* are equal to one dollar, and they form the *new* Japanese currency; the *ichibu* is a thing of the past.

The above information is from a native of Japan—a government official—and is correct.

Yours truly,

San Francisco. C. W. L.

THE NATAL STAMPS.

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

Dear Sir,—I have read Mr. Payn's letter on the Natal 1d. surcharges, and I beg to sit corrected for the blunder I made in saying "Gothic" type. The stamp I saw would come under Mr. Payn's fifth variety. I have, however, three varieties of the threepenny.

No. 1. Postage at bottom, in thick, short capitals.
„ 2. Postage across the crown, P a capital; the rest small letters.
„ 3. Postage in thin, long capitals, through the crown.

These all came from South Africa, and are postmarked, except No. 1 variety. I also got a shilling stamp on my last letter with *green* surcharge.

Yours faithfully,

Clifton, Yorks. W. E. COOPER.

THE MOUNTING OF STAMPS.

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

Dear Sir,—I am about to move my stamps from their present repose in "Lallier," to a blank book or sheets; preferring the latter, if obtainable, with eyelet-holes. Perhaps you can tell me where they may be obtained or made, and at what cost. I read also about the "crotchet" system; can you tell me what would be its probable cost?

May I ask also, what is the special advantage of using cardboard mounts for stamps, to be fastened to the page by tissue paper? It seems to me, that if at any time it were desired to add a fresh stamp in the middle of an already mounted series, and so alter the arrangement, the page would be much less disfigured by the removal of (say) 5 horizontal hinges of tissue paper (supposing the stamps to be hinged directly to the page), than by the

removal of at least ten tissue paper slips, which would be necessary to mount *five* stamps by cardboard mounts, as described in *The Stamp-Collector's Magazine* for March, 1870.

I always mix a small quantity of glycerine with the gum I use for mounting stamps, as I find they are more easily removed from paper by a little water than stamps mounted with ordinary gum. I was recommended to do this by a gentleman who has his entire collection of *Foraminifera*, amounting to some thousands, so mounted.

Yours truly,

London, N. W. P. H. C.

[In mounting stamps on cardboard, the preservation of the stamps themselves is considered, rather than the possible disfigurement of the page by a change in their position. Being thus mounted, they need never be touched, except for examination. To attach them, when mounted, to the page but *one strip* is needed; the removal of which only entails as much disfigurement as of a strip which holds a stamp. We think our correspondent had better write to M. Moens, Brussels, or M. Mahé, Paris for information as to the cost of an album on the crotchet system.—ED.]

BOYD'S EXPRESS STAMPS.

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

DEAR SIR,—When I commenced a series of papers on the United States Locals, I plainly stated that those papers would take the simple form of notes, but it appears that no matter how distinctly a thing is asserted, some wonderfully wise critic will get up and proceed to dissect your remarks as if they were complete histories, and not mere memoranda. I am led to write the foregoing by the sight of the August number of *The American Journal of Philately*, and by the perusal of that intended crushing criticism therein contained, relative to my list of Boyd's Express stamps, published in your July issue. In the opening portion of the said criticism is a sentence that had much better have been left unwritten, for it is both egotistical and untruthful. "The usual blunders of English writers when they take up the United States' local subject." Forsooth! The writer who would pen such a statement must either possess a too exalted idea of philatelic knowledge among his brethren, or he must be ignorant of the theme upon which he preaches.

I suppose that among "English blunders" must be classed Mr. Pemberton's monograph on the *Locals of California;* yet it is very evident that either the bulk of these rare franks were unknown to our American cousins, previous to the appearance of Mr. Pemberton's article, or else that there was no collector in that country capable of putting anything together about them.

Probably it is the fear of excelling us poor British "blunderers," that causes the editors of the *American Journal* to publish so very few original articles in their paper, but when it costs over two hundred pounds to write a partial account of the Confederate postal system, we must not so much wonder at this. My notes are what they profess to be—NOTES, and nothing more. I give all the facts before me at the moment of writing, and cannot tell what may arise in the future. My leading object is to define the difference between dies, or between forged and genuine, so that my readers may judge of the value of any specimen that they may possess, for I would not impose upon inquirers after information, by giving them skeletons of descriptions, and then sit down and coolly call my anatomical performance, a "valuable article."

Having eased my mind upon the blunder question, I will return to Mr. Coster's criticism. I am quite willing to admit that Boyd's Express was established in 1844, for the existence of a stamped envelope so dated settles the point at once. The date 1846 was given some years since by Mr. Leslie, and Mr. Scott confirmed it by giving that year as the natal one of the earliest stamp.

As an example of the valuable nature of Mr. Scott's local papers, I will instance my being obliged to ask for particulars of the large Boyd's label, through the utter vagueness of his notice of it. Mr. Coster now tells us that it is of similar design to the other adhesives, but with all the details, of course, larger. I may add on the authority of a New York correspondent, that it was used to cover the labels of Pomeroy, when letters bearing these stamps passed through Boyd's office for local delivery. Pray bear in mind, I do not vouch for this, but give the statement as it was made to me, and as a note merely.

The presumably second issue, according to Mr. Coster, was a 2 c. noted in *The American Journal* at page 19, of the present volume. I turn to this, and find the following valuably lucid paragraph:—"BOYD'S CITY EXPRESS POST, 2 CENTS. Eagle in oval on plain ground. Eagle's head very thin." Now this label, which I am blamed for not inserting in my list, seems to be of very doubtful authenticity, for, according to Mr. Scott's own words, the copy he had seen "was not on a letter." I shall not admit a die upon such evidence as this, neither will, I think, other European amateurs.

How is it, if Mr. Scott obtained all his dates and information from Mr. Coster in 1870, that Mr. Coster should, in 1871, deny the accuracy of most of those dates, and of a large portion of that information?

I never attemped to give the dates of issue of any of the types, but simply endeavoured to approximate the dates given in Mr. Scott's list to the various emissions described by me, taking the correctness of those dates for granted. It is, therefore, "coming it rather rough" on me, to say that *I* gave 1848 as the year in which my type I. *a.* first appeared. Mr. Coster says it should be 1845: very well, let us say it is so. I, for my part, accede to this date with childlike trustfulness.

The 2 c. gold on white of this die is comparatively common here, so, as my critic has not seen it, I derive the comforting fact that "they do not know everything down in Judee."

I am next accused of placing the dies named by me, *b.* and *c.*, in their wrong order, thereby copying Mr. Coster, or, rather, Mr. Scott, who obtained his notes from Mr. Coster. I still think I am right, and for the substantial reason that I have an envelope franked by *b.*, and dated 1852, and two covers franked with *c.*, both marked 1853.

It stands to sense that if a plate was retouched, and a period added after CENTS, such plate upon being again touched up, would not be improved, have finer shading, more clearness, and no dot after value, which would be the case if Mr. Coster's opinion were the correct one. Again, the lettering in *a.* and *b.* is alike, whereas in *c.* it varies considerably from the other two.

That my type III. followed I. *c.*, I am now bound to confess, having had ocular proof in the shape of covers, dated 1855. My mistake arose from reading an almost illegible 3 upon my solitary envelope bearing this die, for a 5. What *does* Mr. Coster mean by saying of this stamp, "I have never seen it on blue; perhaps it is a discoloration"? I certainly never mentioned, or even saw such a stamp; so do not know why Mr. Coster should so obligingly tell us of its non-existence.

It seems that my surmise as to the black on dull green, and red on white, of type V. is correct. These colours were issued before type IV., and the use of the die was reverted to after an interval, during which my types II. and IV. were used. This resuscitation of a badly-engraved die is somewhat inexplicable, but perhaps the

fourth type was worn away in supplying philatelists with the golden series.

According to Mr. Coster, the true dates and order of issue of the 2 c. labels are as follows :—

I.—	1844.	large stamp	black on green.
II.—	,,	(probably) stamp with plain ground (colour not given).	
III.—	1845.	my type, I. *a.*	black on green.
IV.—	1849.	,, I. *c.*	,, ,, ,, gold on white.
V.—	1851.	,, I. *b.*	black on green.
VI.—	1854.	,, III.	,, ,, ,,
VII.—	1856.	,, V.	black on dull green.
	1857.	,, ,,	red on white. v.
VIII.—	,,	,, II.	black on green.
IX.—	1860. (?)	,, IV.	black on vermilion. [*sic*]
	1060. (?) [*sic*]	,,	gold on blue, green, and crimson.
VII.—	1865. (?)	,, V.	black on red (many shades).

To this list I make the following objections :—The genuineness of the second stamp is not proved; there is, without doubt, a gold on white of my I. *a.*, and the dates given to I. *c.* and *b.* are incorrect.

Mr. Coster says, "Mr. Atlee omits the variety of the second issue, reading one cents." This is not the case; for I thus wrote as a note on that die :—"The s of CENTS being imperfectly scratched out of the 2 cents, to make that die serve for the 1 c., a portion of the letter is visible upon all stamps of the lower value." I shall not believe in the existence of a specimen showing a well-defined s until I see one.

Mr. Coster defends the golden trio, as he has them postmarked upon the original envelopes. This proves my New York friend's information to be correct. Mr. Coster only clinches the opinion expressed in my first paper, that "these stamps were certainly sold to frank through Boyd's post." They would have had a place in my list, only, as I said then, and repeat now, "it is particularly desirable to omit altogether, when there is the *slightest* doubt."

Perhaps it may be interesting to Mr. Coster to have the history of these gilt labels, even from a "blundering Britisher." During the currency of the die termed by me the fourth, a certain New York impostor brought out some forgeries of that type in divers fancy colours, and in gold, and in silver. These abominations consisted of six values,—1, 2, 3, 5, 7, and 9 cents; and had a considerable sale in this country (if not in America), to the great detriment of philately. To checkmate the concocter of this swindle, Mr. Boyd, Jun., who then owned the post, at once caused these golden stamps to be printed. They were sold under facial value, but would, it seems, frank any letter to which they were attached; the proprietor evidently arguing that very few of these labels would serve their legitimate use.

Mr. Coster adds to the envelopes :—

Type II. *a.* On lemon, buff, and blue.
,, *b.* On lemon.

As these impressions were probably struck upon any kind of paper that came handy, the varieties of it are but of little value. I am blamed for not giving "the black-and-red impression noticed by Mr. S."; but what is meant by this description (!) I am at a loss to imagine.

If Mr. Scott's articles are to be of the slightest use, they must undergo a thorough course of reconstruction; for as they now stand they are almost valueless to those who have not seen the stamps the author alludes to—I cannot say describes. Here is a presumable rarity, which, to the best of my belief, is unknown to English amateurs, mentioned by the following meagre notice :—

"(Envelope stamp). Eagle in oval, inscribed BOYD'S CITY DESPATCH 89 [*sic*] FULTON ST., 2 C. in each corner. Colored impression, red and black." What is this dualistic-hued impression? I am bound to ask, not being able to derive any information from Mr. Scott's "valuable articles on Our Local Stamps."

The remainder of Mr. Coster's remarks I need not notice, as he evidently did not heed that they were misprints that he was criticising.

In conclusion, may I point out that the knowledge of Americans concerning their own locals is the effect of quite recent study, for not more than three years since Mr. Scott said of the stamps under notice: "These stamps, being easily obtained in large quantities, have never tempted dishonest persons to counterfeit them." This statement, written at a period when no less than four distinct forgeries were being sold, may be taken as a gauge of United States philatelic knowledge at that time.

Our *confrères* across the Atlantic do not seem to have discovered a second die of the current envelope design until I "blundered" upon it in my notes.

It is rather hard that we should be obliged to publish doubtful information, so as to obtain the truth.

Yours faithfully,
W. DUDLEY ATLEE.

ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS.

R. C. H., Aylsham.—Your stamp is one of the Austrian fiscal series.

NOTA B. NEE, Ipswich.—We have already received and published information respecting the new Swedish series.—The Japanese will no doubt become obtainable in the course of a few months.

F. H. S., Carlsruhe. Many thanks for your communication respecting the forthcoming German stamps. We shall be glad to receive specimens as soon as they make their appearance.

R P., Queenstown.—Your question respecting the best mode of mounting envelopes comes at an opportune moment, as we are now having lithographed some diagrams exemplifying the method adopted by one of the best American collectors, and hope to give them in a future number.

P. H. C., London.—Your Montevidean impression is unquestionably a forgery, and a very clumsy one, in which the postmark is lithographed with, and is of the same colour as the stamp. From the paper, and from the general appearance, we should say it was a proof from the engraver's, lost *en route*. We insert remainder of your letter for the purpose of eliciting our readers' opinion.

J. C., Manchester.—This correspondent sends us a couple of the large English post cards first issued, which show certain marks not present on other specimens. Thus there is a dot in the centre of the letter P of "half-penny;" there are two extra dots in the leaf-like spandrel ornaments in the upper angles of the stamp; and there is a dot under the shaded leg of the lion, and another under that of the unicorn, in the arms; lastly, there are some half-dozen little dots between the lines of the Greek pattern in the lower margin. Are these dots intended as secret marks, do they hide defects, or were they put for mere pastime? We leave the answering of this question to our readers, but will only say that it is hardly likely these little dots form secret marks, for, if so, they would be found on every card.

ON THE THRESHOLD.

On the threshold of a new year, and with it a new volume, we halt to give our readers kindly greeting, and thank them for their constant support. Gratitude, it has been wittily said, is a lively hope of favours to come, and ours, though hearty and unfeigned, still agrees, to some extent, with this definition. Whilst expressing ourselves truly sensible of past "aid and comfort," we also look forward to their future continuance; and our choice of the present number, rather than of the next one, for the publication of our thanks and expectations, has been influenced by the hope that many non-subscribing readers may be induced, by a timely appeal, to enter their names on our publishers' books for the coming year's issue.

We had also another object in view, and that was to encourage, at this opportune period, the many earnest students of philately —whose modest appreciation of their own merits has kept them from publishing the results of their investigations—to send us their contributions to the general stock of knowledge; they may rely on their manuscripts receiving full and courteous consideration; and we have already been too often indebted to occasional correspondents not to be persuaded that much of the information we might receive from philatelists, who have hitherto kept in the background, would be of considerable value, and well worthy of publication.

We intend to maintain this magazine in the position it has gained, and we look upon the acquisition of new contributors as a means to that end. Our readers may, in fact, rest satisfied that our heartiest efforts will be given to secure for them the best and most ample information on all subjects; and, as we do not owe implicit obedience to any "school," our columns will be open to the ventilation of all shades of opinion. In hustings language, we stand before our old friends a candidate for re-election as their representative and organ, and, confident that they will again return us at the head of the poll, we wish them A Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

ESSAYS ON PHILATELIC SUBJECTS.

BY W. DUDLEY ATLEE.

II.

UPON OFFICIAL STAMPS;—SHALL THEY BE COLLECTED?

There are few things in philately more demonstrative of the lack of consistency among its votaries than the collecting of official stamps; for scarcely two amateurs are unanimous in their opinions upon this apparently rather perplexing subject.

It seems to me that this question has been raised to the rank of a Sphinxian riddle, when it is as easy to solve as that query of our childhood—"How many beans make five?" The whole thing lies in a nutshell, as I shall endeavour to prove.

If the collector wishes to confine himself to postage stamps proper, or (to put it more plainly) *those for public use*, then he will, of course, discard everything which has not been so emitted; but if he wishes to keep every stamp or mark showing that the letter was freed to pass through the post, then he must take the impressions used for that purpose. It must be patent to everyone that there can be no middle course.

I do not intend to advocate the universal collecting of official stamps, but I certainly think that a little more consistency should be shown in this matter than there is at present. How is it that every amateur accepts the returned-letter labels of Bavaria and Wurtemburg, when the English official impressions are left unnoticed? This is a question to which some logical reply ought to be given, but the production of a satisfactory answer is an undertaking which I defy anybody to accomplish.

The only argument that can be put forth is, that these German stamps are adhesive, whereas other officials are merely hand-stamped impressions. This is a reason so utterly absurd and childish, that it is not worth the trouble of refuting.

Dr. Magnus and all foreign collectors of note take official stamps, as do also many philatelists in this country. The great objection to these impressions is their generally mediocre, and ofttimes imperfect appearance; but as a demand would probably

bring a supply of many of them, I do not see why perfect copies should not be attainable with a little trouble. Moreover, the acceptance of the Indian "Service" and the punched-out Western Australian show that some at least of the official stamps are not discarded; and if some are taken, why are not all?

I have never made any great effort to obtain these franks myself, but having several which have not hitherto been described in any magazine, I think a short disquisition respecting them, and official stamps in general, will not be without interest, particularly to the numerous body which collects these things.

Franking was instituted in this kingdom during the Commonwealth; but it was not until some time after that any mark was impressed upon letters to show that they were to pass without payment. With these impressions it is not my intention to deal, as I desire to confine my remarks strictly to those franks adopted for the service of the state.

In our own country every department has its own envelopes, which are made in many sizes, and which have usually embossed seals appropriated to that particular office in which they are used. I need scarcely say that it is impossible ever to obtain all these envelopes; and as (with one exceptional class) they do not by themselves free their contents, it would be ridiculous to do so, even were it practicable.

The exceptions alluded to are the returned-letter envelopes, which are now generally despatched without having any mark struck upon them. All other official packets are, as it were, doubly franked; the first impression showing that they are forwarded by the authority of the person in charge of the department from whence they emanate, and the postal handstamp denoting that they are to be delivered free of charge.

According to my ideas, both these classes are equally worthy of retention.

In writing the following remarks, I am bound to state that I do not aim at completeness, but offer my notes for the benefit of any future amateur who may take this subject in hand.

I shall commence with the home franks, and then (to adopt Horace Greeley's favourite phrase) say "what I know about" the impressions used in our colonies.

It seems fit that the postal handstamps should occupy the front place, and in that order I will present them. I make a starting point of the year 1840, when private franking was abolished, and postage stamps made their *début*. It is impossible to take any account of the marks used before this time, as they are too numerous, and, when found, have but slight affinity with the subjects of the present paper, being only semi-official at best. It appears that our own franks are only used at London, Edinburgh, and Dublin. I shall therefore describe them under those headings. I do not profess to enumerate the dies in their due order, as two or more were evidently in use concurrently; neither do I profess to anything like completeness. I repeat this here in the plainest manner, to prevent anyone from wasting his energies in useless carping.

GREAT BRITAIN AND IRELAND.

LONDON.

All the post-office franks are struck in red:

a. Within a circle of two concentric rings, PAID; and date in three lines, below which is a changeable letter.

b. Single circle, broken above by a crown; inscription as in *a*.

c. Same as last, but with smaller crown.

d. A small circle, surrounded by inscription, OFFICIAL PAID, LONDON. Two changeable letters and date, in three lines, in centre.

e. Same as *d*, but with E.C. added after LONDON.

f. Same as *d*, but having W. after LONDON.

g. A similar stamp to *d*, but lettered OFFICIAL PAID, CHARING CROSS, W.C.

h. Within an octagonal frame LONDON, OFFICIAL PAID, in three lines; below, in two more lines, the date and changeable figures. This impression was only used for a short time in 1868, and copies therefore are scarce.

i. Large circle; LONDON, OFFICIAL and date surrounding the frame. PAID in large letters across the centre, above and below which are changeable letters.

FOR REGISTERED LETTERS.

a. R. L. B. (Returned Letter Branch), REGISTERED, in two straight lines, with a stroke underneath. This was always struck in conjunction with the mark then in use for ordinary registered letters—a transverse oval, inscribed, REGISTERED, LONDON, E.C., with date and figure in the centre.

b. A transverse oval, with the date in a straight line across the centre; above, REGISTERED; below, RETD. LT. BCH.

c. (Used for money letters, sent to postmasters from receiver and accountant-general's office). Within a transverse oval, REGISTERED, R. &. A. G. O., and date in centre.

EDINBURGH.

a. Small circle, inscribed OFFICIAL PAID, EDINBURGH. Changeable figures and date, in three lines, occupy the centre. There are two varieties of this :—
aa. Central lettering small.
ab. ,, ,, large.

b. Larger circle, with same inscription, and lettered as *ab.*

DUBLIN.

a. Within a small circle, inscribed DUBLIN OFFICIAL PAID, changeable figures and date in three lines.

The marks impressed upon returned registered packets in Edinburgh and Dublin seem to be those usually struck upon ordinary registered letters. The returned-letter envelopes should, I certainly think, be retained in their entirety.

I will now proceed to the departmental franks of the postal and other government offices, at the same time acknowledging my list to be wanting in some varieties. With the exception of those used by the Admiralty, Board of Trade, South Kensington Museum, and International Exhibition, the impression always consists of a handstamped signature.

ADMIRALTY.

The earliest franks of this department that I have been able to find are those adopted about 1855, when the office at Somerset House was divided into two branches. Both the stamps were rounded oblongs divided by a horizontal bar across the centre, and had DEPT. OF ACCT. GENL. OF NAVY above. In the lower half we have the name and facsimile signature.

a. PAY OF NAVY. *Thos. Collings.* Blue.
b. CASH & ACCTS. *Jas. Beeby.* Red.

After some time these were discontinued, and the current ones came into use; of these I have the following :—

c. An upright oval garter, inscribed ADMIRALTY, WHITEHALL, and having in the centre an anchor. Blue.

d. A circle, containing an anchor, surrounded by an inscribed outer circle. Blue; used at Somerset House.
1.—COMPTROLLER OF VICTUALLING, ADMIRALTY.
2.—COMPTROLLER OF THE NAVY, ADMIRALTY.

e. Similar device to *c.* but lettered ADMIRALTY D. A. G. (Deputy Adjutant General), ROYAL MARINES. Blue.

BOARD OF TRADE.

Within an oblong oval garter, BOARD OF TRADE. In the centre the rose, shamrock, and thistle. Blue.

SOUTH KENSINGTON MUSEUM.

Within a triple linear frame, with large crown above, SOVTH KENSINGTON MVSEVM. Blue.

INTERNATIONAL EXHIBITION OF 1871.

Previous to the opening of the Exhibition, the commissioners sent a circular to all the addresses in the *Court Directory;* upon each of these circulars was a large and handsome frank, *printed* in red. The design is of a medieval cast, and is somewhat elaborate, though severe.

On a plain oblong is ANNUAL INTERNATIONAL EXHIBITIONS, in three lines; this is upon an oblong of vertical lines, within a frame, broken above by a large open crown. Following the frame is H. M. COMMISSIONERS FOR THE EXHIBITION OF MDCCCLI; all within a fancy chain-like pattern. The date 1851 seems to have been adopted because the Exhibition Commissioners' office was established in that year.

INDIA OFFICE.

A curious device has been adopted by this branch of the public service. It consists of INDIA OFFICE, in letters composed of dots, and slanting towards the right. This has the appearance of being struck over the signature—*J. C. Merivale.* Blue.

WAR OFFICE.

The stamp used is a transverse oval, with WAR OFFICE in lower half, and signature above.

A. Barnes (?), in black (obsolete).
E. Lugard, ,, blue.

GOVERNMENT EMIGRATION BOARD.

I have now before me several envelopes bearing the frank stamp of this office, but they are all so badly smudged that it is impossible to decipher them. They consist of large transverse ovals, with EMIGRATION beneath, but what should be above I cannot say. In the centre is the signature, *S. Walcott*, with the date of the present year below. Struck in red.

The following, except when otherwise stated, are facsimile signatures, and in black :—

ENGLAND.

POST OFFICE.
R. Hill (in type).
J. Tilley
W. Parkhurst.
W. Bokenham.
Geo. Chetwynd.
Wm. J. Godby.
John Warren.
A. Millikin.
A. C. Thompson.
J. H. Newman.
F. R. Jackson.
Wm. Farmer.

INLAND REVENUE.
Adam Young.
T. Sargent.

CIVIL SERVICE COM.
T. Walrond.

ECCLESIASTICAL COM.
James J. Chalk.

EDUCATIONAL COM.
R. R. W. Lingen, blue (not in facsimile).
F. R. Sandford, black, blue.
,, ,, smaller.

PRIVY COUNCIL, VETERINARY DEPT.
Alex. Williams (in type).

SCHOOLS COM.
A. R. Fitzgerald, green.

Not being complete with the Edinburgh offices, I will let them stand over, and insert a list later on.

DUBLIN.

POST OFFICE.
G. C. Cornwall (printed).
J. Allen.
W. J. Thompson.
R. R. Guinness.
A. A. Buckhardt.
H. James.
R. Loverock.
W. Anderson (?).

PUBLIC WORKS.
E. Hornsby.

POOR LAW COM.
J. Mc Gloin.

NATIONAL EDUCATION.
J. Kelly, W. H. Newell, } Both upon one stamp.

QUEEN'S UNIVERSITY.
R. N. Matheson.

COM. CHURCH TEMPORALITIES.
A. E. Hamilton.
W. L. Bernard.

IRISH FISHERIES.
Alan Hornsby.

GENERAL REGISTER OFFICE.
Henry Wilkie.

COM. OF LUNATIC ASYLUMS.
W. A. Soady (in type).

(*To be continued.*)

OUR CONTEMPORARIES.

The Philatelist.—The October number, besides a full and interesting chronicle of new emissions, contains an article entitled "Notes on the South American Stamps," and also the continuation of the essay on the German Envelopes, and a "Spud" paper. With the latter is given a remarkable forgery of the Sydney 2d. blue, respecting which we transcribe Mr. Atlee's remarks, for the benefit of old and young collectors alike.

In every genuine stamp with view of Sydney, the man standing in the landscape holds in his right hand a three-cornered hat; this is absent in the imitation, and the man's head is adorned with a charity-boy's "muffin" cap. Except when the plate is much worn, the half-date (17) upon the bale, can always be plainly deciphered with a magnifying-glass. In the counterfeit, the figures are replaced by shapeless strokes. Some of the originals are upon thin paper, but never upon the almost *pelure* of the forgery.

The forgery of the fourth plate is the one here shown. It can be detected through the corner stars, which are *always* badly shaped in the genuine; whereas, in the imitation, they are evenly drawn, as our readers will see for themselves. The idea of soaking these shams in coffee, for the purpose of giving them "age," is a brilliant one, and well worthy of their manufacturers. The improvement (?) has not been long adopted, the early one being in slate upon clean paper.

Mr. Atlee, in the course of his description of the Egyptian forgeries, gives, as a distinguishing feature of the five paras, that the Egyptian lettering reads 5 *piastres* instead of *paras*, whilst on the 5 piastres, the Egyptian inscription reads 5 *paras*. This is a first-class distinction, but to make it of use to those who neither possess the stamps, nor a sufficient knowledge of Turkish to enable them to detect at a glance the erroneous inscriptions on the forgeries, it would have been well to insert an engraving of the character used to denominate one or both of the values.

In reviewing a new American publication, the editor of *The Philatelist* makes the following observation, which we commend to the notice of American youngsters who contemplate rushing into print:—

Juveniles had much better devote their time to the study of English grammar, than set their elders' teeth on edge with their wretched remarks about "a thing which have," and their utter recklessness of punctuation.

After all, the Declaration of Independence contains no encouragement to our cousins across the water to throw off their allegiance to the common tongue.

In answer to a correspondent, the editor gives the following information respecting the small or "ladies'" size of the Transvaal envelope. He says—

It was never intended for postage. After the genuine on the larger envelopes became obsolete, the postmaster obligingly struck off some impressions on small envelopes, for the benefit of his friends. Those of the first type are from the original die; and as it is almost impossible to obtain genuine copies, one must take these, as we take reprinted Natals. The smaller type is quite a fancy article, and only bears a family likeness to the genuine.

For our part, we must say, that, without in any degree questioning the authenticity of the larger envelopes—which, indeed, has been explicitly guaranteed by the Transvaal postmaster—we could never take the emission *au serieux*. The supply struck off was too limited to meet a real want; and one of such liliputian proportions could hardly be other than the result of an official's pastime.

The November number contains comparatively little to notice. In the article on "Recent Emissions" occurs a description of a Japanese stamp, or "seal for fastening letters," which exists both perforated and unperforated; but nothing is said to show

that it has really any postal character, and we doubt its possession of any.

Incidentally noticing the field-post correspondence cards issued during the late war, the editor sensibly asks, "Who *can* take any interest in these miserable Germanic cards?" and we quite agree with him; but the inquiry conveys a reproach to those who would push collecting to extremes. Although these cards freed the correspondence they bore, and were officially issued, their monotonous ugliness militates against their collection; but, according to the faith which inculcates implicit acceptance of everything which has a postal character, they ought to be collected and valued equally with other and more attractive issues. One instinctively revolts, however, against the pressure of such an argument, which would tend to make his album a wilderness of German text, and refuses to accept a dictum, which, for the sake of logical sequence, would transform an unvarying pleasure into a repulsive task.

Le Timbrophile.—In our last, we gave two extracts from a recently published number of this journal, dated July, 1870. The sign of life thus given has been followed by the complete resuscitation of our old friend, two more numbers having since made their appearance. As might have been expected, M. Mahé's first care is to write off the arrears of news which have been accumulating during more than a twelvemonth; and accordingly we find the major portion of these two numbers occupied with a chronicle of new emissions, which can only be novelties to French collectors. The remainder is taken up with an article, by Dr. Magnus, on the French postal service in 1870-1, wherein the various plans tried in the beleaguered capital to open communications with the departments, are interestingly detailed. Incidentally, the learned doctor analyses the reprint of the 1848 stamps; but although his observations are of their usual value, we prefer to postpone their reproduction until his promised review of *all* the French emissions appears.

A. Moschkau's Magazine.—We have not the advantage of knowing Mr. Moschkau, the proprietor of this journal, but the editor of *The Philatelist* answers for him, as being "a very energetic amateur," and its fourth number, from which we have already quoted certain items of news, is evidently the work of a true and honest collector. Although it is but a four-page octavo, it is full of information, and that too of a certain importance. Mr. Moschkau was not only the first to *an*nounce the adopted type for the new German stamps, but was also the first to *de*nounce the forged 27 para Moldavian, which has been making such a stir. Of this notorious imposition, he gives an analytic description, which we much regret our slight knowledge of German will not permit of our translating; and in another part of the number, under the expressive heading "Schwindel," he describes and warns collectors against the Breslau myths. We sincerely wish our new contemporary the success he deserves.

The American Journal of Philately.—The September number is accompanied with a well-printed catalogue of stamps, which, we presume, were sold on the 9th of October. We note the most striking specialities:

Lot 12.—Scarce uncatalogued San Francisco local, unused [why not have mentioned the name?].
,, 52.—Canada, 6d. perforated.
,, 60.—Charleston envelope stamp, in fine condition.
,, 61.—5 c. red Knoxville, unused and perfectly clean.
,, 69.—5 c. blue Lynchburgh, unused, but slightly rubbed. This is one of the scarcest known Confederate provisionals.
,, 70.—5 c. red Petersburg.

The number itself contains a continuation of the three following articles: "A Short History of the United States Post-Office;" "History of the Confederate States Post-Office;" "A Collector's Notes on the Stamps of New Granada." From the second we give an extract in our article on "New Issues," and we notice in reading it that the number of southern postmasters has fallen from twenty thousand to ten thousand. The last of the three, which is exceptionally well written, contains some remarks as to the probable date of issue of the large New Granadine which deserve to be carefully read and studied. They are as follows:—

On the next page of our note-book we have collected some few items about the issue (large rectangle), with the legend "Estados Unidos de Nueva Granada," designated by the catalogues as the third in order, of the year 1861.

The charming and unusual uniformity in the lists of these authorities, in all the particulars of date, design, values, and colours, as though each had copied from the

other, the profound silence of the writers in the magazines, broken only by the articles of Mr. Pemberton on forgeries (*Philatelist*, vol. i., p. 131), and that of Dr. Magnus on reprints (*Timbrophile*, page 464, reprinted *S. C. Magazine*, vol. iii.), like a calm between storms, is a great relief from the discussion about the issues just described, and indicates clearly the fact of their great rarity, and the little known about them. This, combined with the peculiar character of the engraving, the great dissimilarity in their size and design, when compared with the issues usually said to precede and succeed them, led us some time ago to suspect that Bellars and Davie, though standing alone, gave the right date, and that this was the first issue in 1858, instead of the third in 1861. Not finding that any of the authorities gave any reason for so unanimously assigning 1861 as the date of issue, we have searched long and carefully to find the exact date when the title in the legend was in use, with the unsatisfactory result of learning only that in addition to the names and dates given in our former article, there was a change of some kind in the constitution and name in May, 1853; and to have our suspicion partially confirmed by the statement of several writers, that the Granadine Confederation was *merged* in the United States of Columbia, in 1861. In this connection, the remark of *The S. C. Magazine*, vol. v., p. 78, that an American contemporary states that the postmaster of Columbia declared the issues of 1860 and 1861 to be unauthorized emissions by "the rebels" is rather significant, and increases our anxiety to have the date and history of these emissions definitely settled.

The Stamp Journal.—This is an unpretending little magazine, published by Messrs. Henry P. Harker & Co., of Hull, who, it is but justice to them to say, are not connected with the various firms to whose trade in forgeries we have deemed it our duty to call our readers' attention. The journal is edited by a "Monsieur Auguste Jacob;" but, although the writing is of a very amateur character, there is nothing un-English about its composition. As to the evidences of long life and prosperity given by the new comer, perhaps the less said the better. From a list published in an American paper, it would appear that no less than thirty-two philatelic journals have been started in this country, of which only two survive; and of the thirty which have died from lack of proper support, the majority, to our own recollection, were publications of about the same size, and neither more nor less promising than the one under review. Under these circumstances, whilst wishing success to the new enterprise, we cannot, in honesty, show much enthusiasm over it.

Le Timbre-Poste contains absolutely nothing of a reproducible nature. It is occupied almost exclusively with an instalment of Dr. Magnus' article on envelope stamps.

NOTES ON THE LOCALS OF CALIFORNIA AND THE WESTERN STATES OF AMERICA.

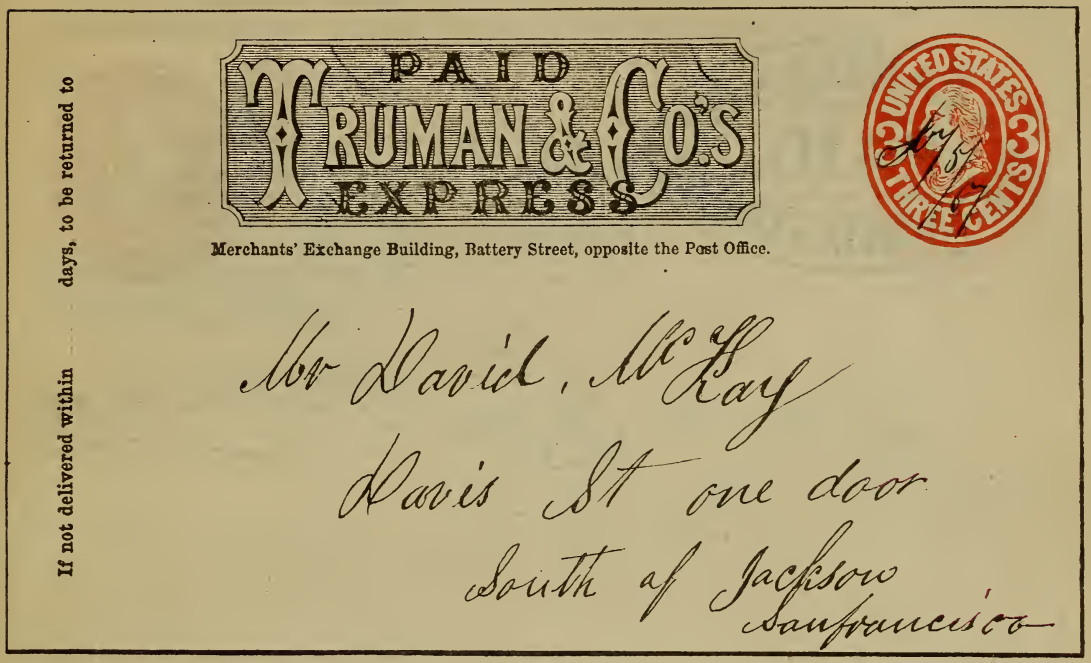
I.

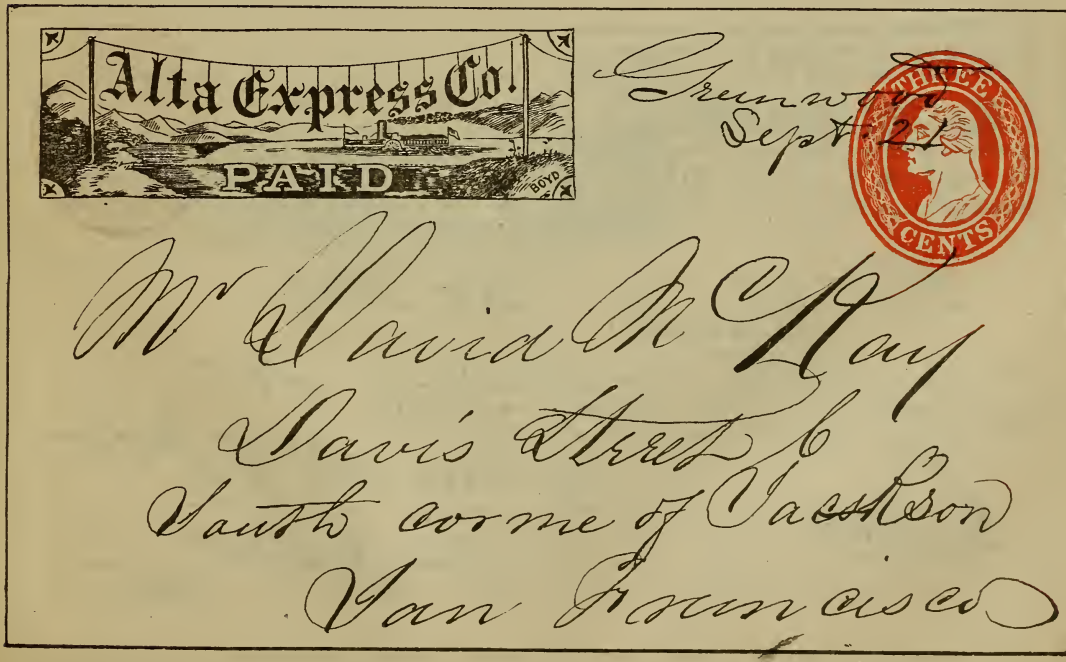
BY EDWARD L. PEMBERTON.

It may appear "considerably impertinent" for me to pretend to write on any American subject, with the avowed intention of diffusing knowledge or information, in the face of Mr. Coster's remark about "the usual blunders of English writers when they take up the United States local subject"; but, as it is hopeless to expect that any of our better-informed brethren in the States will give us the benefit of what they *do* know on the subject, I, after considerable cogitation and some diffidence, venture to indite these papers, as showing accurately what I know about Californian locals.

I no more profess to a complete knowledge of American philatelic matters, than I do to having spent two hundred pounds in preparing these articles; but I do say that this sum would not cover what has been paid for the specimens from which these notes are made. This I simply state, that my readers may not run away with the idea that I am describing rubbish.

It is to me perfectly inexplicable that there are collectors in the States, who, with opportunities for obtaining information, which appear to us, who have to make our inquiries by letter, and chance the getting a vague reply in a couple of months, almost transcendental—it is to me, I say, inexplicable that so little has been written by those who are undoubtedly well informed. If we in England, groping about in the dark as to facts, venture to attempt to arrange and describe such specimens as we have acquired from the States by a persistent course of heavy payments,—and that without any assistance but what we may glean from a few papers in *The American Journal of Philately*, which are valuable in themselves, but too often faulty in their grammatical construction—if we venture on "Notes on the United States Locals," straightway some one, who is professedly well informed, writes in the American jour-


If not delivered within days, to be returned to
PAID
TRUMAN & CO.'S
EXPRESS
Merchants' Exchange Building, Battery Street, opposite the Post Office.
UNITED STATES
3
THREE CENTS
Mr David. McKay
Davis St one door
South of Jackson
Sanfrancisco


Alta Express Co.
PAID
BOYD
Greenwood
Sept 21
THREE
CENTS
Mr David McKay
Davis Street
South corner of Jackson
San Francisco

J. BAMBER & CO.S
PAID.
CONTRA COSTA EXPRESS.

ANSWER BY
BAMBER & CO.S EXPRESS
OFFICE DAVIS ST
BETWEEN BROADWAY & VALLEJO.

THREE CENTS

San Francisco

TRUMAN & CHAPMAN'S EXPRESS.



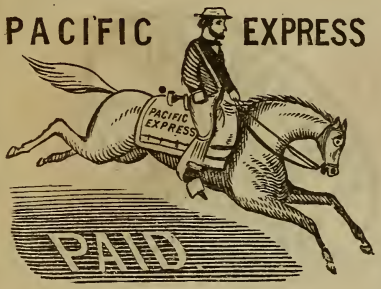
S. F. & S. J. RAIL ROAD.

UNITED STATES THREE CENTS

Mr- David Mc Kay
427 Davis St
one Door south of Jackson
Sanfrancisco
Cal

Order

PACIFIC EXPRESS





Mr David McKay
San Francisco

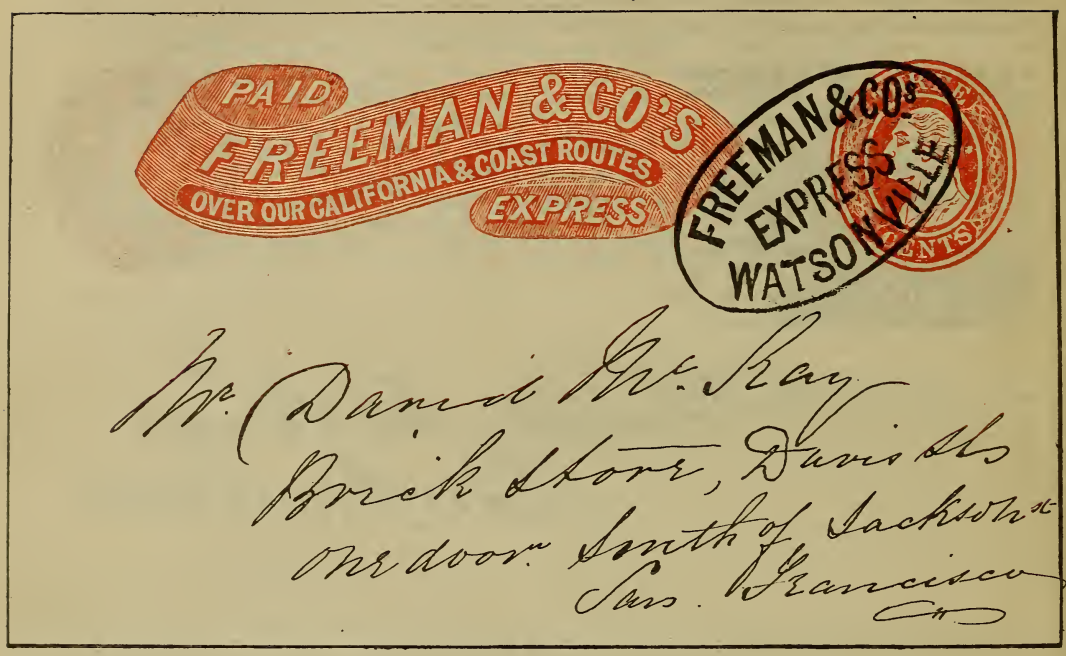
NICHOLS & CO.'S EXPRESS.



PAID.

Mr David McKay Grocer
Davis St near Oregan

San Francisco
Col


PAID
FREEMAN & CO'S
OVER OUR CALIFORNIA & COAST ROUTES.
EXPRESS
FREEMAN & Co's
EXPRESS
WATSONVILLE
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CENTS
Wm. David McKay
Brick Store, Davis St
one door South of Jackson St
San Francisco
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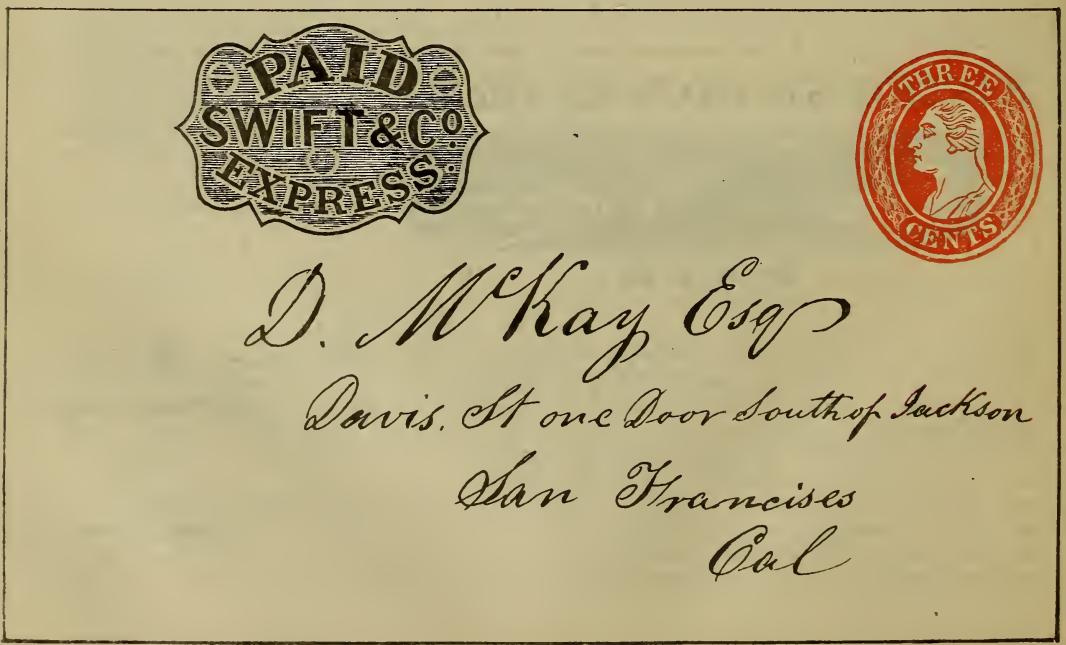

PAID
SWIFT & Co
EXPRESS
THREE
CENTS
D. McKay Esq
Davis St one Door South of Jackson
San Francises
Cal

nal, and, more out of jealousy than a desire to impart information, tells us just what we want to know. In hopes that my inconsiderable knowledge may produce criticisms as searching as the one on Boyd's Express (see *The American Journal of Philately*, for August, 1871, p. 97), I have extreme pleasure in writing the following sketches.

I am not prepared to guage the amount of knowledge that Mr. Coster deems necessary to form what he would call a lamentable display of ignorance; but I wish our American friends to understand distinctly that I shall only describe from the actual specimens which I possess; that I profess no knowledge of the dates of issue, or routes, or existence of the companies, but what is derived from the entire envelopes and letters before me. I shall describe what I have, solely to elicit further information; not to be called to account for withholding information which I have no means of obtaining.

The causes which led to the establishment of a series of Express Mail Companies were briefly explained in my previous paper on these locals, published in September, 1869. California was ceded to the United States in 1848, gold was discovered shortly after, and in 1849 the influx of miners commenced; although the "rush," as it is popularly called, was made in 1849, it must not be supposed that many arrived early in that year, for it was a six months' voyage from Europe then; but as soon as the mining camps were in full operation, it became a necessity to have reliable means of conveyance to forward letters and gold dust. This led to the establishment of express companies, mostly located in the country, near the miners, who then sent their orders down to the town or settlement now called San Francisco, for provisions, or any other necessaries of life. Most of these companies had but brief existence, the routes changing hands, and, as a rule, eventually passing under the control of Wells, Fargo, & Co., of whom we are told, that they will brook no opposition, and always buy up rival companies, if they can only hold out long enough to be bought up. These companies were rude concerns, for there was no regular post-office at first, and as the express offices had to take charge of letters, they went through all sorts of dangers and difficulties, and charged accordingly.

The early settlers in San Francisco were nomadic,—here to-day, gone to-morrow; what letters they received were soon destroyed; they had no need to hoard them up, —why should they, where their stay would be brief? This I am careful to explain, that the readers of *The Stamp-Collector's Magazine* may understand the well-nigh insuperable difficulties of getting the long-obsolete varieties.

When the history of a city does not extend beyond a period of twenty years, it can readily be understood that there are *no* old offices, and *no* old lumber-rooms, as in older cities, the natural receptacles for letters of a bygone generation. So with San Francisco: at the time of the finding of gold on the Sacramento river, it was little better than a sand-bank; but now it is the great trading city of the far west, and one which, from its position, must ever increase in wealth and splendid prosperity. It was early last year, that poor Craig went thither, and at once commenced a most rigorous search in every likely place for these interesting franks. Since his untimely death, the pursuit has been kept up by Mrs. Craig, and with very great success. From two particular offices I have obtained a few valuable handstamps used in 1851, and also a number of scarce printed franks on government envelopes; from these I have made a selection, which the publishers of this magazine have been enterprising enough to engrave in their entirety. It will be noticed that all bear one address—that of Mr. David McKay; and all earnest philatelists will join me in being for ever thankful that there was such a methodical man in San Francisco in those early days. For many fine and valuable specimens, I have to thank Mr. Lomler; and I have written to him, attempting to induce him to hunt up the past histories of these curious old expresses, which may be safely considered as the pioneers of civilisation in that far distant west.

As previously stated, the rush occurred in 1849, and in that year the "Pioneer Express," of California, was established by Todd & Bryan, of which I trust to give full par-

ticulars in due course. The earliest dated and franked letters which Mrs. Craig has been able to obtain are of 1851. They bear handstamped franks, are addressed to the same house in San Francisco, and are, briefly, the following:—

Palmer & Co.,	April, 1851.
Mumby & Co.,	May 12, 1851.
Gregory's Express,	July 28, „
„ „	Sep. 19, „
Todd's Express, Sonora,	May 29, „
Reynolds, Todd, & Co.,	Nov. 22, „
Todd & Co., Stockton,	Dec., 1852.

After the above we commence finding franks of Adams, Freeman, and Wells, Fargo & Co. After 1853 it would appear that printed franks came more into use, and the handstamp went out, save for obliterating purposes; whereas it appeared formerly to have all the powers of a frank, although the envelope frequently bore, in addition, the word PAID from another handstamp. Letters sent partly unpaid were marked NOT PAID, or else COLLECT; but still bore the handstamp frank, which leads us to infer that the letter must have been partially paid.

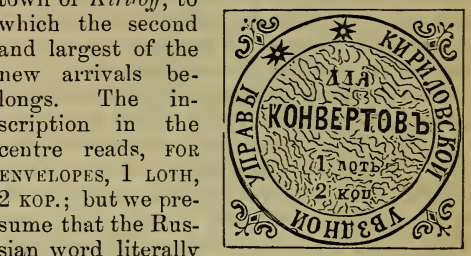
With these introductory remarks, I will, in my next paper, proceed to the actual description of the specimens.

(*To be continued.*)

NEWLY-ISSUED OR INEDITED STAMPS.

RUSSIAN LOCALS.—Slowly, one after the other, the Russian locals are finding their way across to this country. We have this month the pleasure of giving engravings of three, which answer in every point to the very accurate description of them given in our number for July last.

Taking them promiscuously, we come first to the *Tichvin*, the least interesting, as it is also the most primitive, of the three. When we have said that it is coarsely printed in red, on thick white paper, heavily gummed, and that the value—2 kopecs—is not indicated, we have said all that can be said about it, except that the town or district of Tichvin is in the Novgorod government.



In the same government is found the town of *Kiriloff*, to which the second and largest of the new arrivals belongs. The inscription in the centre reads, FOR ENVELOPES, 1 LOTH, 2 KOP.; but we presume that the Russian word literally translated "envelopes," should be understood to mean letters or correspondence. The inscription in the circular frame signifies, KIRILOFF DISTRICT COURT. *Entre parenthèse*, the anomolous spider-like ornaments in the frame are intended probably for stars. This stamp is printed in black on reddish-brown paper.

The third stamp comes from *Rjeff*, in the *Tver* country—a land apparently abounding in intractable consonants, and is at once the brightest and the most grotesque. The crown looks very odd, placed on the quadrupedal article of furniture which occupies the upper half of the rectangle, and the nominally "rampant" lion in the lower half would utterly disgust a member of the college of heralds. The entire design is printed in black on white; but the portion occupied by the arms is surcharged with a red disk. The translation of the marginal inscription is RJEFF RURAL POST; the value is 2 kopecs.



The divergence of the values of the Russian locals, ranging, as they do, between two and ten kopecs, is worthy of passing remark; and may probably arise from the greater or lesser distances which separate the districts in which the stamps circulate from the nearest imperial post-office. There is also another noticeable point in connection with these stamps, namely, the appearance on several of them, of two or more armorial emblems, apparently distinct from each other, inasmuch as they are completely separated. This peculiarity is to be observed in the Rjeff

2 kop. above represented, and leads to the inquiry whether the emblems in the upper half may not be those of the government, whilst those in the lower belong to the town.

NEW GRANADA.—A new stamp has just made its appearance, whose design shows a considerable departure from the long fashionable Grenadine type, and appears to be copied to some extent from that of the Montevidean series. As will be seen from the annexed engraving, an inscribed figure 2 occupies the centre of the stamp, the arms are ingeniously inserted in the curve of the figure, and heavily draped flags form a not ungraceful background. In minute letters in the two upper corners are the words LIBERTAD and ORDEN, forming the motto of the Republic, and in the lower corners are small figures of value; the whole impressed in dark brown on white. Altogether, this stamp deserves a separate and higher rank from that occupied by the majority of its congeners.



TOLIMA.—We last month announced the emission of a new 10 centavos stamp for this country; we have since learnt of the existence of a 5 c., and are now happy to be able to give engravings of both.





The 5 c. is brown; the 10 c., a rich blue. It would appear that both have been recently issued, and form part and parcel of one and the same series; and yet not only the striking difference in design, but also in size, would seem to point to a contrary conclusion. There are now in existence the emissions of not less than four of the United States of Columbia; but no explanation has been given, nor speculation hazarded, as to the reason for their "creation." Under these circumstances, we venture to suggest that these stamps may be used for the prepayment of all letters which originate, and are delivered within the limits of the issuing state, whilst the series common to all the states is used solely for correspondence passing from one state to another, or for letters to foreign parts. In support of this view, we may point out that the Tolima stamps above engraved, bear an inscription signifying POST OFFICE OF THE STATE, whilst the ordinary series are inscribed NATIONAL POST OFFICE; and when we remember that the New Granada states were until recently entitled a confederation, the apparent anomaly of co-ordinate "state" and "national" post-offices is explained. At any rate, we shall maintain our version until a better is produced.

FRANCE.—*The Philatelist* states that of the two higher values of the new *chiffre-taxe* stamps, the 40 centimes is printed in blue, and the 60 centimes in buff. We have seen both these values imperforate, and also rouletted.

From a French provincial paper we extract the following reference to some unexpected novelties.

> The postal department is occupied with the fabrication of a new class of postage stamps, the necessity for which has long been insisted on by commercial men, namely, stamps specially designed for the prepayment of letters to the colonies, and to be of the values of ONE, TWO, and THREE FRANCS. They will be rather larger than the ordinary postage stamps, and instead of the profile engraved on these last, they will bear a large figure of value.

Thus, then, it would seem that both the seemingly contradictory statements we lately mentioned, as to the design of the forthcoming stamps, are true. The ordinary stamps, such as the 25 c., 40 c., &c., and the low values, will all bear the head of republic, but with large figure of value at each of the lower angles, whilst the special "colonial correspondence" stamps will have the figure of value in the centre.

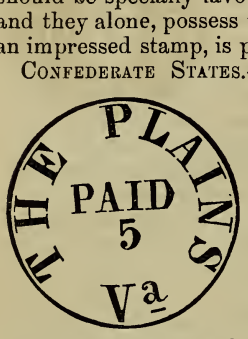
GREAT BRITAIN.—There appeared on the 30th September, 1870, an official postal notice, reading as follows:—

> On and after the 1st October next, certain copies of the London *Times* and of the *Stamford Mercury* newspapers will bear an obliterated postage stamp, impressed on the newspaper itself; but this impressed stamp will be available for such copies only as are posted at the General Post-Office, London, or at the Head Post-Office in Stamford, respectively. The postage on copies of the

Times or *Stamford Mercury* posted elsewhere, must be prepaid either by a halfpenny postage label or a stamped newspaper wrapper, otherwise they must be charged with postage.

As our Brighton contemporary remarks, there seems no reason why these two papers should be specially favoured; but that they, and they alone, possess the privilege of using an impressed stamp, is proved by this notice.

CONFEDERATE STATES.—Mr. Scott, in *The American Journal of Philately*, notices the emission early in the secession war of a number of hand-stamped envelopes (similar to the one here represented), that were probably made by nine-tenths of the postmasters in the Confederate States. He says,



The large number of stamps would make a list well calculated to frighten most collectors, even if they did not get a chance to be scared by the ugly originals. The design usually consisted of the dating stamp of the office, with (to use an Hibernianism) the date left out, and the figures of value either printed or written in its place. In some cases, they were authenticated by the initials of the postmaster, written across or on the back. Some, such as the Statesville and Columbia, which have a distinct design, I have included in the list. As I said before, the large number of these stamps, together with the impossibility of making a list of them, owing to the many deaths that have occurred among the old postmasters, and others refusing information, or forgetting, what they considered so trifling a circumstance, which occurred ten years ago, will probably deter most amateurs from trying to obtain a collection; but as they are as genuine and authentic stamped envelopes as ever any issued by any government, and fully as interesting as the much-sought-after British Guiana provisionals, I should certainly advise every collector to endeavour to obtain a few varieties of them. They were issued, like all other provisionals, because the postmasters could not get government stamps, and found it impossible to carry on their offices by taking the pay for each letter; and, when we consider, that in the South, there was not at that time any change under a dollar, it will at once be seen that it was simply impossible to take the pay and give change for each letter. This accounts for the enormous number of these stamps issued, as the dullest P. M. in the service had either to devise some kind of stamp or give up his office; and as office-holders are not usually prone to do that, the result was the simple contrivance that has been described. These stamped envelopes were usually sold nineteen for a dollar for five cent ones, or were stamped free when the parties brought their own envelopes for that purpose.

We think this is a sufficient notice of an unattainable, though not uninteresting class of stamps.

VENEZUELA.—We possess an official stamp of this country, which we describe in the hope of thereby eliciting information concerning it, and ascertaining whether it possesses any postal character. It is a rather large upright oval, adhesive, and printed in a rosy red on white. The inscription which runs round the stamp reads as follows:—EE. UU. DE VENEZUELA. MINIST° DE RELACIONES EXTERIORES; in the centre is the armorial shield, depicted as on the postal series, with the crossed cornucopiæ and stars above, and the motto LIBERTAD on a scroll beneath; below which again come two other scrolls, or rather the continuation of the one above; the first inscribed 19 DE ABRIL, 1810; the second, 5 DE JULIO, 1811. It appears to us probable that this stamp, or seal, may serve to frank the official correspondence of the Minister for Foreign affairs through the post-office. Can any of our readers give positive information respecting it, and also say what important event in Venezuelan history took place on the second of the above dates?

SOUTH AUSTRALIA.—A new Australian "error" is brought to our notice by one of our correspondents, in the shape of a current twopence, light red, watermarked V. and CROWN. This, we think, is the sole instance of a watermark special to the stamps of one colony being used for those of another, though a feasible explanation ought not to be difficult to find. The South Australian stamps are printed in the same office as the Victorian, or else both colonies get their supply of paper from the same maker, and in either case an accidental transposition has occurred.

ORANGE FREE STATE.—*The Philatelist* publishes the following rather odd intelligence:—

We have official authority for correcting all the previously received descriptions of the adhesives of this republic. It seems that the tree depicted thereon is not an orange tree, as everyone naturally supposed, but the tree of liberty. We are still left to conjecture what the fruit seen on the same may be intended to represent; but, judging by analogy from the fruits of liberty nearer home, we conclude that they are either large bullets or small cannon-balls or bomb-shells. This we have the more right to imagine, as the same authority pronounces the three pendants, hitherto supposed to be peaceful post-horns, to be in reality representations of powder-horns.

This is indeed a new rendering of the emblems on the Orange State stamps, and

we fear that, like many respected traditions, the belief that the tree is, "for a' that and a' that," an orange tree will long linger in the minds of young collectors—if not in those of older ones, more especially if they use their eyes, or a good magnifier, instead of swallowing official authority.

SURCHARGED GERMAN ENVELOPES.—In the article bearing this title, and published in our last, we, rather from inadvertence than want of knowledge, stated that the grey tablet was first impressed on the old embossed envelope stamp, and that then the adhesive was placed over it. The process is, in fact, just the reverse, as more than one correspondent has kindly pointed out. The adhesive is first stuck over the envelope stamp, and then down comes the tablet, not merely crushing out the relief of the latter, but also firmly fixing the former, and thus remedying any imperfection in the adhesion.

RUSSIA.—The exact use of a very large square blue stamp, bearing the Russian arms in the centre, and generally styled a Black Sea local, has always been doubtful. We are now enabled, on the authority of our St. Petersburg correspondent, to state that it was used about seven years ago, for prepaying sample parcels, &c., from the ports of the Black Sea to Constantinople, Alexandria, &c.

EGYPT.—A change has taken place in the inscription of the Alexandria official, which will probably be extended to all the others. Instead of *Poste Vice Reali Egiziane*, it is now POSTE KHEDEUIE EGIZIANE; and the Egyptian legend in the centre is likewise altered. Hence it will be seen that the entire stamp has been re-designed, and the title of Khedive supersedes that of Viceroy.

DECCAN.—We appear to have omitted to notice the shades of the issued stamps alluded to in our August number.

½	anna,	claret-red.
1	,,	russet-brown.
3	,,	light brown.
4	,,	slate.
8	,,	dark brown.
12	,,	pale greenish blue.

NEW SOUTH WALES.—By the Australian mail, *viâ* Brindisi, we have just received the tenpenny stamp of this colony printed in red, instead of lilac, and surcharged in black type NINEPENCE.

UNITED STATES.—Annexed is an illustration of the lately-issued 15 cents envelope. The type is ungraceful; the side ovals being inordinately large; but the colour—a bright vermilion—plays charity's part for the engraver's defects.



FIJI ISLANDS.—The following are the varieties with which we have met.

On *quadrillé* paper, 1d., 3d., 6d., 9d., 1s.
On *laid batonné* paper, 1d., 3d., 6d., 1s.
On *laid* paper, 1d., 3d., 1s.

ITALY.—The 10 c. unpaid-letter stamp of the new type, inscribed SEGNATASSE (figure in white oval), has now superseded the old issue, of which the stock is nearly exhausted.

GREECE.—The higher values appear to be printed on paper of a greenish hue, and the 40 lepta is changed again to a rich mauve tinge.

ROUMANIA.—The 5 bani stamp of this principality has been changed from scarlet to carmine.

CORRESPONDENCE.

BOYD'S CITY EXPRESS ONE *CENTS* STAMP.

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

DEAR SIR.—I notice in your November number that Mr. Atlee, in his reply to my criticism on Boyd's Express stamps, says that he will not believe in a clearly-defined specimen of the one cent stamp, reading 1 *cents*, until he sees one. I now enclose a specimen of this variety from my collection, in which the *s* of *cents* is quite as clear as any other letter. I would feel obliged by your mentioning that you have received this stamp from me, and find it as I represent.

Yours truly,
New York. CHARLES H. COSTER.

[The above letter was accompanied by a well-preserved, postmarked specimen of the 1 cents Boyd's City Express stamp.—ED.]

HINTS TO COLLECTORS OF CONFEDERATE PROVISIONALS.

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

DEAR SIR,—The search instituted by sundry persons in the States for these things appears to have been crowned with considerable success; so much so, that everyone, from truthful James to the extravagant Scott, discovers his provisionals week after week, as naturally as can be.

This is all as it should be, and is a testimonial to the perseverance of the finders; and no one would object to the discoveries if the authors of them would only be reasonable, and not discover so many copies of every hitherto unknown local. I am often compelled to wonder whether all are genuine. I do not now seek to inquire into the authenticity of the specimens, but will accept all statements of our American cousins with a trustfulness which they would not accord to us.

Let us, however, give a few moments to the consideration of the following; I call them facts, but will put them down as fancies:

The discovery of unknown Confederate provisionals is the result of persistently worrying everyone who is likely to know anything of the subject. When success rewards the seeker, and a new local or provisional is found, it is a rarity for some months, then, as a *general thing* (mind, I do not say as a rule), somebody finds a quantity, which "find" is explained by many hypotheses, of which the following are the two favourites:—

1st.—Somebody has died, and the relatives of the dear departed most curiously find that their lamented fellow-labourer had a habit of secreting a few hundred (sometimes) of one particular provisional (in his desk usually), the very existence of which had been most unaccountably overlooked. It sometimes happened that affection for the departed one (whose consanguinity with the finders is often about as clear as being their mother's uncle on the grandfather's side), prevents his relatives selling them (the stamps, not anything living), except in small quantities, or driblets, so to speak; they usually decline to sell them *all*, with a child-like reverence for memories of the past, which is absolutely touching.

2nd.—The "gentlemanly" postmaster of some out-of-the-way place, with a second-hand name, is impelled by curiosity to look over the papers of his predecessor; impelled thereto simply by the letters of stamp dealers; for no man would adopt the bold and hazardous policy of examining what papers he had lying about, if strangers did not goad him on to it! Results are, discovery of a few sheets which somebody else had caused to be made, or which the "gentlemanly" postmaster had himself made when he was in the bright Lexington of youth (as says the inimitable A. Ward), but the very memory of which had passed from him. These he is magnanimous enough, perhaps, to *give away* to some one (this is what the "some one" never tells *us* though), but, unhappily for poor human nature, a more lively regard for his own pocket usually prevents this flow of generosity, and induces him to allow a few ardent philatelists to place the specimens in their albums, on the interchange of the civilities of payment.

I ought here to state that I am in no way alluding to any but Confederate stamps, and my remarks are only meant for locals and provisionals coming under those States. This is a joking way of plainly putting recent practises; a man gets hold of an indefinite number of one kind of provisional Confederates, single copies of which have always been unattainable. Well, the holder of this stock dribbles out single copies at prices which would shock a conscientious Quaker or a scrupulous Jew. After a few months, every buyer who will pay well will become supplied; consequences are, the balance of these highly-priced locals will be sold for whatever they will fetch. Further consequences are, loss of confidence on all sides, disgust and vituperation, ornamental language from the States, and great harm done to philately.

Yours faithfully,

EDWARD L. PEMBERTON.

Birmingham.

ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS.

JAPAN, Dorking.—The V. R. albums are very suitable indeed for beginners. You cannot do better than choose one.

NIHIL, Bridgend.—We do not think any letters from France, bearing the surcharge, "TAXE ALLEMANDE, 2," are to be obtained in this country. They are among the minor postal curiosities of the war, and, perhaps for that reason, rare.

MARMADUKE, Rugby.—The 3 and 6 cent Newfoundland, with bust of Queen, co-exist with the other and older stamps, with value in cents; and we have not heard of any intention to issue an entirely new series adorned with the portrait of the Queen in widow's weeds.

A. S. S., Wokingham.—We cannot inform you the exact *date* of issue of the current black St. Vincent penny; it was first received in August last.—The 4 and 48 sk. of the new issue of Denmark appeared towards the middle of 1870; the remaining values in the early part of the present year.

J. H., Clevedon.—We have already had our attention called to the Glasgow dealer you mention, but we make it a rule not to refer to the proceedings of any one suspected of selling forgeries until we possess sufficient documentary proofs that our suspicions are well founded, acting on the old maxim that it is better ten guilty persons should be let free than that one innocent one should be convicted.

E. W. L., London.—We would advise you to use gum-arabic in the mounting of your stamps, as recommended in the article, "Hints for Mounting Stamps and Envelopes," at p. 35 of vol. viii. of this magazine.—Moens' album, just published, would, we think, answer your purpose; but if you wish to arrange your stamps after your own plan, then we would recommend Alfred Smith & Co's "Two Guinea" album.

E. S., HOMERTON.—Our cut of the rare Sydney embossed stamp is inaccurate, inasmuch as it has the name of the town spelt Sidney, instead of Sydney.—Please send us specimens of the different varieties of the United States one cent to which you refer.—We do not recollect receiving from you any notice of a Rheatown stamp, nor can we well describe it from the very rough outline you give of it; but if you will be good enough to entrust us with your specimen, we will take great care of it, and perhaps have it engraved.—Your 5 cent New Brunswick, pale blue, must be a doctored stamp.

PUZZLED, Guildford, wishes to know how to mount his post cards. We should recommend the use of a separate book for them, of plain thick white paper, with frequent guards; and in such a book the cards might be mounted one under the other, two or three on a page. The whole of the front, as it is covered with a design, should be exposed, and not the upper part alone, as is the practice in mounting envelopes; but, on the other hand, the backs of the cards offer very few points for study, and we almost think they might be hinged directly to the paper. The cards are not yet many in number, nor does there seem much likelihood of there being many values and varieties for each country, unless, indeed, a postal revolution takes place, and cards entirely supersede envelopes, in which event whole series of cards would be required. Meanwhile, their arrangement is easy, and, as they are not very thick, they will not cause the books in which they may be placed to bulge.