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THE

STAMP-COLLECTOR'S MAGAZINE.

PAPERS FOR BEGINNERS.—No. XVI.

BY OVERY TAYLOR.

EUROPE.

Brunswick.

THE Brunswick stamps offer absolutely no difficulty to the collector, not even that of price, for the rarest* can be obtained for a couple of shillings, and their history is devoid of any obscurity; the present paper can therefore hardly claim to be more than a catalogue of the various issues.

Everyone knows the Brunswick horse, the graceful and all but unique device of the Brunswick stamps—all *but* unique, for the crown on the ¼ gr. quartett alone prevents it from being entirely so. Simple and neat is the sole commendation which the type requires. The earlier issue appeared on the 1st January, 1852, and continued through different editions of colour, paper, &c., down to 1865, when it gave place to the second series, which remained in service until the Brunswick postal department was merged in that of the North German Confederation.



The first three stamps were the 1 sgr. rose, 2 sgr. blue, and 3 sgr. red. They are printed on white paper, and are devoid of watermark. Their circulation lasted only fourteen months; hence, as compared with subsequent emissions, they are rare. The second edition, which came out in March, 1853, is in black on coloured paper,—the coloured impression having probably been found hardly sufficiently *prononcée*—and the values are :—

1 sgr. orange, yellow, and nankin-yellow.
2 „ dark blue.
3 „ rose.

To these were added, in March, 1856, two low-value stamps for printed matter,—the ¼ sgr. brown and ⅓ sgr. white. All five stamps are watermarked with a post-horn.

In February, 1857, the post-office, apparently thinking that the oblong ¼ sgr. was too much for the money, introduced the economical and peculiar postal coupon here represented, of which each quarter, or any two or three, may be used separately. It was printed in black on thickly gummed paper watermarked with a post-horn, and continued in use until the extinction of the Brunswick post-office; but had that office continued a little longer in existence this stamp would have been superseded by an impression of the same design in dark bistre on white paper. The posthumous type is common enough, and should find a place in every collection. It is duly watermarked; it is not a reprint, but an original stamp, and its authenticity is beyond question. The stock, which had been prepared in advance, became the property of some speculative German dealer, and has been disseminated, together, in fact, with the entire oval series, over the four quarters of the globe.



The issue of 1857 continued in uninterrupted circulation until 1862, when, rather oddly, the postal authorities reverted to the style of the first edition, and issued a 3 sgr. rose on white paper, watermarked post-

* [We think our contributor's remarks must be understood to apply to *cancelled* copies only; for we believe that scarcely one collection known can boast of an *unused* series of the 1, 2, and 3 sgr. of the first issue. In the most famous and complete Continental, as well as British, collections, we do not remember to have seen an entire series; at best, one value was in the condition denominated by our French friends—"*passant pour neuf.*" It is the 1 sgr. which is so rare unused.—ED]

horn. Then, in 1863, they reverted to the black impressions, producing on this occasion a new value, the ½ sgr. black on green, and, finally, in 1865, they returned once more to their first love, the impression in colour, at the same time adopting the improvement of perforation or, rather, in this instance, piercing. At this last date they issued a

1 sgr. yellow, on white paper, perf.
3 „ rose „ „ „

and they issued a supply of perforated

⅓ sgr. white.
½ „ green. } black impression.
2 „ blue.

This completes the catalogue of the stamps of the first type, unless we add that the ½ sgr. is found perforated, to use the now generic term, by two other methods. It will be observed that the 2 sgr. was evidently less used than its companion values, as it continued to be issued on coloured paper when the 1 and 3 sgr. were emitted on white.

It was in November, 1865, that the second series of Brunswick stamps was put in circulation, after a delay of several months, during which a number of proofs of the new design circulated among collectors. These proofs were struck in black on white, blue, green, rose, and yellow papers, and were no doubt authentic. Besides this, the design appeared on post-office orders before the adhesives came out.

Four values only were issued in the new type, viz., ⅓ gr. black, 1 gr. rose, 2 gr. blue, and 3 gr. brown; the old oblong ½ sgr., black on green, continued in use concurrently with them, until all the stamps were withdrawn, nor even in the reserve stock does any supply of this value in the new type appear to have been found, a proof that it was not much used. The design is of the usual German style, though relieved by the central figure, and neatly executed. The perforation is in upright rectangles, which probably is the most convenient. The only notable colour variety is found in the 1 gr., which exists in rose and in a rosy red. Thus much for these adhesives, which were less common during their circulation than those of many other German states, but of which unused specimens have become dirt cheap, since they have been withdrawn from service. The stock must have been originally sold at waste-paper rates, to admit of single specimens being put at the prices at which they are now offered.

ENVELOPES.

The regular issue of envelopes did not take place until more than three years after the emission of adhesives; but at about the same time as the first series of these latter became current, a handstamped envelope was prepared for the special use of the town of Brunswick. Its design, if such it may be called, is excelled by that of many postmarks, and consisted simply of a circle, with the letters within; ST. P. on the first line, and FR. on the second. These letters stood for STADT POST, FRANCO (City Post, Free). This primitive type was struck generally towards the bottom of the envelope, and sometimes on the right, sometimes on the left. The official issue was in red on grey paper, but impressions are found on papers of all colours, and these are said by Dr. Magnus to be the envelopes presented to the administration, that is, as I understand, submitted to it. Still, without in the least impugning the learned doctor's authority, I may be permitted to suggest that, although impressions on all the known colours of paper may have been submitted to the post-office, it does not follow that all the known specimens were so submitted, and one is led to infer from their number that a reprint took place. The unindicated value of this handstamped envelope was 3 pfennige, and I presume it was used to frank letters posted and delivered within the town. No government envelope of the same value ever made its appearance, and it may be that this one continued to be used until 1867, but on this point I have no data whatever. I only know that at one time a specimen of the "stadt-post" envelope cost half-a-crown, and that now it may be obtained for threepence, which argues either a long currency or an extensive reprint.

The first government emission took place on the 1st August, 1855, when the large 1, 2, and 3 sgr. made their appearance. These

values were struck on the left upper corner of the envelope, and above them ran the oblique double-line inscription of value in minute letters, followed by the words POST COUVERT; the whole printed in blue. Of these stamps there exist several colour varieties, the principal of which may be noted.

1 sgr. yellow, orange-yellow.
2 „ light blue, dull blue, Prussian blue, dark ultramarine.
3 „ pale rose, bright rose, and carmine.

Besides these, two stamps—the 1 sgr. and the 2 sgr.—are found with the lettering in bluish lilac. Collectors who take differences in size and tint of envelopes will note that the stamps are impressed on large and medium-sized envelopes, of which some are white, and some of a rose, green, or blue tint.

The 1865 series is identical in type with the adhesives of the same year, but the relief of the envelope impressions is much higher than that of the adhesives; the same blue lettering as in the preceding series running obliquely above, the youngest collector cannot mistake the one for the other. Of the three values which form this series, the following are the colours:—

1 groschen, bright rose, pale rose, carmine.
2 „ ultramarine, pale and dark.
3 „ brownish bistre, pale bistre.

It will be noticed that in these and their companion adhesives the denomination is changed from silbergroschen to groschen.

ESSAY.

Borrowing from Dr. Magnus' valuable article in *Le Timbre-Poste* (No. 89), I am enabled to mention the existence of an essay of which the doctor gives the following description: Square stamp, of about five-sixths of an inch in size, in relief on colour, on white paper. Brunswick arms on a coloured ground in a round linear frame contained in a double-lined square frame, inscribed above BRAUNSCHWEIG; on each side, FREIMARKE; and below, 2 GROSCHEN. In the four angles of the frame the figure 2, which is again repeated in the triangular spaces left between the square and the circle. The colours of the four essays in the doctor's possession are—

Black, carmine, light blue, black-bistre.

He is unable to give any special information concerning them, but suppose that they were submitted with the idea, if the type were adopted, that it should serve for both envelopes and adhesives.

Many other colours than those above stated are known to exist in the collections of different amateurs. Some are struck on coloured, and some on laid, as well as on white paper.

NOTES ON SOUTH AMERICAN STAMPS.

FROM "THE PHILATELIST."

In the first volume of *The Philatelist*, page 38, is the following, which is evidently intended to set at rest the question of the ownership of the portrait borne by the Chilian postage stamps: "It may not be irrelevant to note here the recognition of the head on the Chilian stamps, so long considered to be that of Columbus, but which is now unanswerably ascertained to be a portrait of Ramon Freyre, governor of Concepcion." It seems very strange that, of all the presidents, &c., of Chili, Freire should have been the one chosen on whom to confer this honour (if it be one); for as far as I have been able to learn, stamps for Chili were not contemplated by him during his presidency, or afterwards; nor has he done anything to entitle him to have his portrait engraved on the stamps of his country. Be this as it may, I trust the following translation, from the *Post-office Ordinance* of Chili, may be considered a still more satisfactory answer to this question:—



Chap. viii., clause 132: "In order to facilitate the prepayment of letters, the Postmaster-General shall take care to issue, for the present, three kinds of postage stamps of the value of 5, 10, and 20 cents. All of them shall bear the bust of Columbus, the inscription 'Correos-Porte-franco-Chile,' and the designation of their respective values."

Now, turning to vol. iii. of *The Philatelist*, p. 109, in explanation of the word "colon" on the above-mentioned stamps, it is stated "that it is the port to which the stamp

franks the letter." This, again, I beg leave to correct. "Colon" is merely the Spanish for the Italian "Colombo," and refers only to the portrait of Columbus. Allowing that at first the stamps paid letters only as far as Colon, it is to be supposed that in a new issue the word would have been omitted, since, long before the present set made its appearance, the old stamps franked letters to any part of the United States, Cuba, &c.

In the translation given above, it will be seen that no mention is made of the 1 c. stamp of the first emission; this is explained by the fact, that, though nominally a postage stamp, it is in reality a fiscal. The same remark applies to the 1 c. and 2 c. of the present issue. The following may be taken as proofs of this:—(1) The lowest rate of postage in Chili is 5 c. the $\frac{1}{4}$oz. (about $2\frac{1}{2}$d.); and (2) they are not sold at the post-office. It might, however, be suggested, that they were used for local postage, or the payment of newspapers. In both these cases no postage is charged; and the only time the post-office is employed for the delivery of local letters, is in the case of the addressee having a box in the office; otherwise they would be left till called for. It may not be out of place here to state that newspapers, &c., from Chili to any country in South America, and *vice-versâ*, are carried gratis. It is not to be denied, however, that letters may be, and sometimes are, paid by 1 c. and 2 c. stamps. The same thing happens in Bolivia at present.

It may not here be out of place to correct a few of the mistakes made in describing some of the Central and South American stamps. In the Bolivian stamps, the bird surmounting the oval shield is a condor, not an eagle. The animal called by Mr. Atlee a "Noah's-ark-looking sheep," is a guanaco. A condor figures also in the Colombian arms.*

Again, looking through stamp catalogues, I find the stamps of Bolivia, Costa Rica, Salvador, &c., described as "mountain landscape," "sea view," "volcano," &c., respectively; whereas I see no reason why they should not be described as "arms," which the landscapes, flags, &c., on the above-mentioned stamps, represent.

In the June number of *The Stamp-Collector's Magazine*, the editor expresses a desire to know who was dictator of Peru at the time that the "llama" series was issued. His name is Coronel Senor D. Mariano Prado, who, it will be remembered, made himself president, or rather dictator, of Peru shortly before the Spanish war, and was deposed in January, 1868, by Coronel Balta, his successor and present president-elect of Peru, who revived the old type of stamp. Should the present governors of Bolivia follow his example, we may expect to see the "condor" series revived, as General Melgarejo, by whose government the present stamps were issued, was expelled from Bolivia about three months ago. Neither he nor Prado had been elected; hence they are styled "dictators."

* [In vol. iii. of *The Stamp-Collector's Magazine*, p. 153, this is queried.—Ed]

DEALERS IN FORGERIES.

The article which appeared in our November number has brought us several interesting and properly authenticated communications respecting the dealers in forged stamps. In the first place, we have received from one correspondent a so-called prize, won by him in the Yorkshire Stamp Union got up by Mr. Calvert, of Hull, and consisting of a set of perforated *forgeries*, of the *spurious* St. Thomas and Porto Rico stamps, of the estimated value of six shillings. The character of the Stamp Union needs no further illustration.

From the firm of Sidney, Simpson, & Co., George Yard, Hull, another correspondent has received a batch of forgeries, comprising imitations of the Salvador 4 reales, Mexican $\frac{1}{2}$ real blue, Bolivian 500 c., &c. All these stamps were comprised in a *sixpenny* packet, and the packet was accompanied by a sheet of forged stamps similar to the one described in our last, together with a letter identical in its terms with the one we reproduced.

We find, also, that a new firm, entitled Clayburn, Dixon, & Co., dating from 29, Trinity Street, Hull, has sprung up; and we notice that *it* also offers the imitation St. Thomas and Porto Rico stamps at six

shillings per set, the price quoted by Mr. Calvert.

Under these circumstances, we have a strong suspicion that the firms trading under the style of

Charles H. Calvert & Co., Derringham St., Hull;
Sidney, Simpson & Co., George Yard, Hull;
Clayburn, Dixon, & Co., 29, Trinity St., Hull;

if not all conducted by one and the same person, are worked by one and the same set of persons; are, in fact, the same concern under different titles, and each and all *sell forged stamps*. We do not deal in motives, or speak of the extent to which they may be aware of the character of the stamps, but we are free to assert the *fact* above given, leaving it to the interested parties to prove their integrity, and our readers, meanwhile, to draw their own conclusions.

Now we come to another dealer in forged stamps, named James Thompson, of 182, North Street, Glasgow. He appears to be driving a lucrative trade, if we may judge by the number of sheets he has already sent out. From him, through the intermediary of one of our correspondents, we have received two sheets of forgeries, each bearing the following heading:—

FOREIGN POSTAGE STAMPS
FOR COLLECTORS.
All Stamps must be returned within fourteen days.
No._____

The stamps are disposed with less artistic arrangement than those of the Hull firms. They are placed close together, so that on the larger sheet there are five rows of twelve imitations, and on the smaller, three rows of ten. The imitations are of the same class as those which reach us from Hull; among them we meet with several which have been described by Mr. Atlee in the pages of our contemporary, *The Philatelist;* such as the Salvador, the Straits Settlements, Roumania, Liberia, Mexico, Egypt, Bolivia, &c. Some of the stamps offered, would, if genuine, be worth from sixpence to a shilling and upwards; others are no cheaper for being forged, and the impressions of the Charles Van Diemen impositions are genuine. The St. Thomas and Porto Rico forged myths make their appearance, and, indeed, seem to be the distinctive mark of all the sheets of forgeries. All, or nearly all, come from those arch imitators,—not to use a harsher name with regard to a house which makes a great pretence of acting honestly—Messrs. Spiro Brothers, of Hamburg, who must find not only a good customer in Mr. Thompson, but in some other Glasgow dealers, whose wares we hope shortly to notice.

To Mr James Thompson we have to make the same observation as to the others. His responsibility is in no way protected by the omission of the words, "All guaranteed genuine," or others to the same purport, from his sheets. He offers "Foreign Postage Stamps," and such the imitations he sells are *not;* if, therefore, he knows that they are not, he is as culpable as a vendor of wooden nutmegs; if he is unaware of their character, he had better learn a little more about stamps before he advertises them, and, wittingly or unwittingly, is instrumental in deceiving collectors.

NEWLY-ISSUED OR INEDITED STAMPS.

Nicaragua.—There is nothing like waiting. After the necessary exercise of patience, the one centavo stamp for this republic, announced a twelvemonth since as about to appear, has actually turned up, and is found to agree with the description given of it in advance. The type resembles in the main that of the other values, the inscription being like that on the five cents; the colour is light brown.

United States.—We deem it as well to reproduce an illustration which appeared in our last number, as the paragraph—written hurriedly at the moment of going to press—requires recasting. By an oversight, which we profoundly regret, we described this stamp in terms which must have led our readers to suppose that it had been recently issued. In point of fact the design is that of an essay,



respecting which some really trustworthy information is wanted, for but little is positively known about it at present. M. Moens, who possesses the copy from which the above engraving was taken, says it is cut round, having a margin of four-fifths of an inch on all sides, and the *vergeure* is horizontal; which, he argues, is a proof that it is a newspaper band, the envelopes having the *vergeure* obliquely placed. But there never has been a journal stamp of that value in the United States, a fact which is conclusive against this impression being one. The colour also has not been borne by a fifteen cent adhesive, and the envelopes are always of the same colour as their companion label. The head is unquestionably that of Lincoln; and from this fact, coupled with the type of the design, we argue that the impression was probably struck as a proof at about the time of the emission of the 15 c. adhesive black, with head of Lincoln.

Since the above was in type, we learn that there are two copies of this essay in Mr. Philbrick's collection, the one on white paper, laid *vertically;* the other on buff, also laid *vertically*, but watermarked P. O. D., U. S., as in the United States envelopes then current (1868). Both impressions are in blue, of a deep tint, and so far from being cut close, are about 3 inches square. Mr. Philbrick informs us he received them as proofs of an envelope, value 15 cents, intended to be issued; and this fully explains our view,—that they are envelope *essays;* essays of the United States envelopes are usually on paper laid vertically, as contradistinguished from the oblique *vergeures* of the envelopes themselves.

German Empire.—We were really sorry to think that the engraving recently published in *The Philatelist* represented the adopted type of the series of German postage stamps. It was so ridiculously ugly that we could not but wonder what the German postal authorities were thinking about when they accepted it.

In point of fact, however, these said authorities have shown very good taste in their selection of a design for the initial series of postage stamps for imperial Germany; and our readers need only turn to the advertisement sheet of the present number to assure themselves, by ocular examination of the specimen of the ¼ groschen, which will be found there, that our opinion is borne out by the appearance of that stamp. The design is the same for all the values: the



new imperial arms—consisting of a one-headed eagle, with the Prussian escutcheon displayed on its breast—in white relief, on an uncoloured quadrille ground, in circle; DEUTSCHE REICHS-POST above, in a curved line, and the value below, the ground outside the circle being formed of network, and the whole enclosed in a thick linear frame of the same colour as the stamp, after the fashion of the Alsace and Lorraine series. Although these labels do not exceed, but, if anything, are rather under the usual size, they unite the two characteristics of a well designed postage stamp, namely, clearness and a pleasing appearance. The inscriptions are neatly cut and readable; the figures of value are unmistakably plain; the whole design is simple, and yet by the aid of bright hues, and especially of an external band of colour, the effect is charming. The values are—

¼	groschen	rich mauve.
⅓	,,	light green.
½	,,	orange-red.
1	,,	rose.
2	,,	ultramarine.
5	,,	stone.

There has also been issued a 1 groschen envelope, of which the design is substantially the same as its companion adhesive; but the lettering is sunken, and the white network raised; whilst the frame, instead of presenting a broad margin of colour, consists of a simple coloured line, of hardly more than the ordinary thickness; and a two-line inscription, in pale grey, diagonally crosses the stamp. The impression is more careful than that of the adhesives. These latter appear to be printed in two operations, the arms being struck after the frame has been impressed, and hence it arises that in them the arms vary in position, and are sometimes found encroaching on the border. For the envelopes, the two dies must have

been united, and greater accuracy is the result. It is likely that only this one envelope will be issued to accompany the groschen series, but the kreuzer series of adhesives, which we have to chronicle, will also have its companion 3 kreuzer envelope.

The *kreuzer* stamps are identical in design with the groschen series; the values alone are changed, and they are made, as in the preceding series, to correspond as closely as possible with their congeners. They are as follows:—

1	kreuzer	light green.
2	„	orange-red.
3	„	rose.
7	„	ultramarine.
18	„	stone.

In addition to these there have been issued newspaper bands of the value of $\frac{1}{3}$ sgr. and 1 kr., respectively, both printed in green like the adhesives.

Japan.—We referred, at vol. ix., p. 180, to the existence of a previously unknown Japanese stamp or seal, discovered by the *Magazin für den Sammler;* we are now able to give an engraving of it, and our readers will agree with us that the design is one of the most ingenious and grotesque ever seen. It has quite the look of a Chinese puzzle, and we may appropriately add that its employment is a mystery. It exists both perforated and unperforated;—another inexplicable circumstance, for the Japanese postage stamps proper are all unperforated. The emblems appear to be the same as those borne by the new silver coins, of American manufacture, namely, sun surrounded by rays, and three flowers; although on the coins the position of these emblems is reversed. In the ribbons, the roman letters X L J are several times repeated;—a further puzzle. The sun, the flowers, and the inscription on the disk, are printed in black; the rest of the stamp in blue; on white paper. No value being indicated, it is argued that the stamp may be used to seal official documents. If this should meet the eye——of any person capable of explaining its employment, or of giving any other information respecting it, he will confer a favour on philatelists by publishing the intelligence.



France.—It is asserted that the new stamps are to make their appearance this 1st of January; meanwhile, we may notice the emission of the new receipt stamp, as it presents several novel features. First of all, the inscription is simply "France," instead of "République Française;" and this has been deliberately done to meet the possibility of changes in the government, and to avoid wounding any person's susceptibilities by an apparent preference for any one form;—a most striking proof of the instability of all forms on the other side of the water. Secondly, the stamps are protected against forgery by the fabrication in the paper of rectangular white disks, of about half an inch in size, arranged between the stamps so that each stamp has the half of a disk on either side; the centre of the design, on which the figure of value appears, being left dark. When a sheet of these stamps is held up to the light, the effect of the semi-transparent squares is very curious. Thirdly, the design is printed on a lithographed reticulated groundwork; and, fourthly, the stamps are not perforated. We shall be curious to learn whether the changes in the style of engraving thus introduced, will be noticeable in the forthcoming postage stamps, and we certainly think it regrettable that engravers so renowned for their pre-eminence should retrograde so far, after the production of masterpieces such as the stamps of 1848 and those of the empire.

At the moment of going to press, we receive the following communication from a friend in Paris:—

I have seen the following announcement made in three papers, and (I believe) in the *Journal Officiel* also:—

The circulation of the new postage stamps, with a very conspicuous figure in the centre, commenced yesterday. The administration has commenced the issue with the five centimes stamps, those of 15 and 25 c. are to follow. (13 Dec., '71).

In consequence, I called at one of the principal district offices, and also at the head office, but they told me that they had not any of the said stamps. At the chief office they also told me the government had no intention to make any alteration in those actually in use, and that the stamps referred to must be for fiscal purposes, like the 10 c. receipt stamps.

We are none the less convinced that the

new stamps will shortly make their appearance, and have indeed seen some essays which we hope to describe next month; meanwhile, for information on postal matters, commend us above all to a Parisian official!

Russian Locals.—These now begin to form a regular item in our monthly batch of novelties, and we are very glad to be able thus to introduce them to our readers, as they present considerable interest, and are not now so rare as they once were; moreover, the makers of shams and forgeries have not yet contributed any spurious stamps or counterfeits; consequently no difficulties or suspicions surround their collection, such as render the attempt to collect American locals such an unthankful one.

Cherson.—The annexed type was duly described in the list published by us last July, and it represents the second issue for Cherson; but one important characteristic not mentioned by our correspondent distinguishes it from all the other locals—it is perforated. The design is very clear and far from devoid of merit. The courier in the centre is printed in black, and the rest of the stamp is in red. The value is a high one for a local stamp—10 kopecs.



Berdiansk.—This stamp we described so long since as in May last, and had not our sole specimen been mislaid, the annexed engraving would have been given immediately after. The design is, relatively, rather a neat one, and is printed in three colours; the upper section is printed in green, the plough and hovel being outlined in black; the lower section is blue, and the anchor is black; the external frame is uncoloured. The inscription reads —STAMP OF BERDIANSK RURAL POST.



Belozersk.—A year ago we published an engraving of the 2 kop. stamp for this district, a most unpretending affair consisting simply of an inscription in black, on a ground of coloured lines; but Belozersk aspires to something of a more ornate and distinctive character, and has just produced the annexed design, which presents a droll combination of emblems, crescent and cross together—to what event can such a mixture point?—and below that device two fishes *saltire*. The execution of this design is not so remarkable as its conception. The fishes are but half visible, and the whole impression, which is black on white, is very rough. The value is 3 kopecs.



Valdai.—Both Belozersk and Valdai are in the Novgorod government; and on the Valdaian stamp we find a crown of the same shape as that which figures on the Novgorod emission. The peak which occupies the right-hand half is probably the distinctive device of Valdai itself, if we may venture on the conjecture; but the sight of these stamps gives rise in our mind, and probably in that of our readers, to a great desire to *know* what may be the history and signification of their devices. These armorial bearings have not been lightly assumed; they must contain within themselves the souvenir of some obscure but interesting incident in Russian history, must perpetuate the memory of some curious local event, have been adopted in honour of some important local staple, or contain allusion to some little-known geographical feature. The Valdaian label hints at the existence of a mountain,—what and where is that mountain? By such inquiries, and the research to which they give rise, the value of stamp-collecting as an educational agent is vindicated to an extent undreamt of by the earlier philatelists. We, for our part, hope to learn a great deal more of Russia than we at present know, through the issue of these local stamps; and we venture to hope that our obliging correspondent at St. Petersburg will put us, and through us, perchance, our readers, in the way of acquiring some know-



ledge respecting the designs of the stamps, the mode in which the rural postal service is performed, and many other kindred matters. Returning, for a moment, to the Valdai stamp, we have only to say, repeating the information given in July last, that the design is printed in black, on deep rose paper, and that the inscription signifies VALDAI DISTRICT RURAL COURT.

FINLAND.—This province seems, in postal matters, to be always in advance of the rest of the Russian empire. It is now using post cards, whilst the St. Petersburg post office has not yet issued those which are intended for the "governments" under its control. The Finnish card is a handsome one, larger than most of the others, and the design is printed in green on buff, an excellent combination. The exterior frame is composed of an etruscan border, and in the centre of the card is the inscription KORRESPONDANSKORT, in an arched line, with FÖR FINLAND below. An impression from the die of the 8 pennia adhesive occupies the left upper corner, and the contrast is striking between its rough outlines and the finished engraving of the inscription and border. We should add that below the legend the usual lines for the address appear, and are accompanied by the words TILL and BESTAMMELSEORT in caligraphic characters; beneath these again come some short directions, printed in block type; and the back of the card is ruled with fine dotted lines.

Together with the card we have received a kind of stamp which will have to be classed "all by itself." When a registered letter is delivered, the receiver, under certain circumstances, may have to give (or must give, for we are not certain whether it is obligatory on his part to do so) a stamped receipt for it, which is returned (free) by the post-office to the sender. The receipt form is about 6 in. by $3\frac{1}{2}$, and bears an impression of the 10 pen. adhesive, in *rose*, in the upper left corner. The legend commences with the title, in large type—RETOUR RECEPISSE FÖR FINLAND—and then follows the form of receipt, supplemented by certain instructions at foot. On the reverse of the form is repeated, but in Finnish, the heading, reading—PALUUKUITTI SUOMENMAALLA. The form is gummed on the front side, down its left margin, for the purpose, we presume, of attaching it to the letter to which it relates. The stamp is evidently struck before the form is printed on, as some of the letter-press encroaches on it.

AUSTRIA AND HUNGARY.—Of the post cards for these countries there are two varieties which have not hitherto been noticed. The first Austrian post card has a shield and crown under the inscription CORRESPONDENZ-KARTE, and, moreover, the stamp is in rather pale yellow, whilst the card is buff; the second card has the double-headed and crowned eagle under the inscription; the stamp is printed in an orange yellow, the card itself being of a light yellow colour.

We gave an illustration of one of the Hungarian post cards in our June number, which has, in its upper right corner, an impression from the die of the current Hungarian adhesives, and in the centre an inscription, in two lines, the upper in Magyar, the lower in German; but this was not really the first card issued for Hungary. It was preceded by one which was in all respects but one the exact copy of the old Austrian card above noticed. It has the impression of the Austrian 2 kr. yellow in the upper right corner, and the same framework; it has also the crown and shield, but the arched inscription above is LEVELEZESI LAP, instead of CORRESPONDENZ-KARTE. At the back of the card, as on the Austrian, there are two lines of print, one at top and one at bottom. Even in size this first Hungarian card was identical with its Austrian prototype; whilst the new emission is quite one-fifth of an inch wider, and an eighth longer. Evidently the first card, on which the inscriptions are exclusively in Magyar, was prepared as if for the Hungarians alone, the authorities forgetting that for the Germans scattered there, a card with inscriptions they could comprehend would also be required; and in the new issue, care has been paid to this matter by printing the inscriptions in both languages.

Of the engraved Hungarian series (which we were the first to notice) there are now in circulation four values, viz., 2, 3, 5, and 10 kreuzer.

We have seen the cover of a letter from

the chief post-office at Vienna, which was franked by a 5 kr. fiscal stamp,—we mean one of the series with leaf groundwork and value in centre of a circle. This particular stamp has the value in words, following the under edge of the circle, and the date below that surcharged in dull green; it is post-marked like an ordinary label, and above it is a handstamp struck *before* the adhesive was affixed, consisting of a transverse oval, with the inscription K.K. POSTAMT, WIEN, within in three lines. This seems worthy of at least a passing notice.

FIJI ISLANDS.—*The American Journal of Philately*, in its current impression, publishes the following letter:—

U. S. Consulate, Figi,
Leouka, Ovalou,
Sept. 9th, 1871.

SIR,

Your favour of June 20th, touching the postage stamps of Figi, is received.

The *Figi Times Express* office has issued a stamp upon its own responsibility.

The Figi government has not yet issued a stamp. It is probable that such will be done within a few months.

I do not not know that I can give you any further information.

I remain, yours very truly,
J. W. BROWN,
U. S. Consul.

Our contemporary adds,

The government issue referred to in the above, was to make its appearance on Oct. 1st, and will consist of three stamps, of the values of 3, 5, and 10 cents; the first for inland postage, the second for letters to Sydney, and the third for letters to the United States; they will be adorned with a likeness of King Thakombau, or, as he is now called, Ebenezer.

In connection with these statements, one question occurs to us. Has *The Fiji Times* a postal service of its own; if not, then under what arrangement are its numbers carried?

MONTEVIDEO.—A new supply of the current 5 and 10 c. has arrived there. The disposition of the dies has been altered; for instance, on the sheet of 5 c., the errors *centecimo* are now second and fourth stamps of the seventh row, instead of being fifth and seventh, as before; and the stamp with blank space under horse is now the second stamp in the last row, instead of being fifth, as heretofore. For a list of these errors, we refer the reader to p. 146 of our eighth volume. We may add, that the 5 c. with the last s away from the rest of the word, which was the sixth stamp of the fifth row, is now the third stamp on the first row; so that, for some unexplained reason, the whole sheet has been rearranged. The impressions, too, are more like lithographs than formerly. The sheets are watermarked T. H. SAUNDERS, 1870. We believe Messrs. Maclure, Macdonald, and Macgregor are the engravers.

PORTO RICO.—A correspondent forwards for description an official frank stamp for this colony, which has not yet been described. It is of large size—an upright oval, about $1\frac{1}{2}$ in. by $1\frac{1}{8}$—and struck in black. The Spanish escutcheon and collar occupy the centre; the border is inscribed GOBIERNO SUPERIOR CIVIL DE PTO. RICO. This stamp was received by our correspondent three or four years since, and was the only stamp on the letter on which it came; it is certainly entitled to be classed with the other handstamped impressions of Spain and her colonies.

NATAL.—We draw our readers' attention to an interesting contribution respecting the varieties of the provisional stamps of this colony, in the shape of a letter, the joint production of five Natal collectors, which appears in the "Correspondence" columns of the present number. We wish success to the studies of this informal little association of philatelists, and hope their example will be followed by our subscribers in other countries.

ROUMANIA.—There seems to be some reason for supposing that the $1\frac{1}{2}$ bani blue and yellow, hitherto printed only on wrappers, is also used as a label. Our publishers have communicated to us an unused and ungummed specimen *percé à la roulette*, but they state that it is the only one they have seen. The piercing may have been done by some person for a whim, or with intent to deceive, and the issue of the design as an adhesive cannot as yet be considered certain.

ENGLAND.—The Keble College stamp is no longer obliterated with a pencil mark, as stated by our Brighton contemporary, but by a handstamp, with five projecting knobs, producing five round black marks, of which one is in the centre, two above, and two below. We possess a specimen thus obliterated.

TOLIMA.—We are indebted to Mr. Pemberton for notice of the existence of error varieties in the newly issued 5 centavos, occasioned in the transfer of the design from the original die to the lithographic plates, the chief one being the word "*cinco*" written "*cingo.*"

ROMAN STATES.—The lately current series has the 5 centesimi with and without stop after figure of value. Similarly the 40 c. is found with the stop *after* "cent," and the stop *between* the figure and the word "cent."

CEYLON.—We have official information from Colombo to the effect, that from the 1st January, 1872, new postage labels will, in connection with the decimal system, be issued in *rupees* and *cents.*

SWITZERLAND.—The colour of the impression upon the 5 centimes band has been altered from red to pale rose. We do not know whether the 2 c. has undergone the same transformation.

AUSTRIAN BRANCH OFFICES.—A correspondent informs us that the 25 soldi stamps received on letters by the last Turkish mails are purple-black.

SHANGHAI.—Of the first issue another variety has been discovered, viz., the chocolate (cand.), with the word candareen spelt gandareen.

SERVIA.—We have the authority of the *Deutsche Briefmarken Zeitung*, for stating that a post card is to be issued for this principality.

LUXEMBOURG.—The 30 centimes is now issued perforated, on line of colour; the stamp itself remains unchanged.

MEXICO.—The 12 c. stamp of the republic is now printed on brown paper, same as that used for the 6 c.

ST. THOMAS.—The sole label used in this island—the 3 cents—is now perforated *à la roulette.*

CASHMERE.—The 1871 issue of the 4 anna green, and 8 anna red, is on *glossy* thin laid paper.

HELIGOLAND.—The one schilling is issued with machine perforations.

HOLLAND.—The current 10 centimes is found on bluish paper.

ANGOLA.—The 10 reis is now of a rich golden yellow.

POSTAL SPHERES.

DURING the Prussian siege of Paris great interest was excited, not only in the French provinces, but also in foreign countries, among all those who had relatives or friends in the besieged capital, by the announcement that letters properly prepaid and addressed, *Paris, viâ Moulins (Allier)*, would duly reach their destination. It was an official announcement; the grounds on which it was made are exposed in a report of the meeting of the French Academy of Sciences on the 21st November, published by the *Journal Officiel de la République;* and as the facts therein narrated disclose a novel phase in the history of postal communications, we make no excuse for reproducing them.

As soon as the armistice was signed (says the report), how many persons, confident that their letters had been duly delivered, asked the Parisians, "But what signified the mysterious words, '*viâ* Moulins (Allier)?'" and the Parisians were much puzzled to reply, for at that time only the governor of Paris and the provincial delegation were in the secret, together with the inventors of the mode of communication which gave rise to the formula.

In fact, on one of the first days of October, MM. Vonoven, Delort, and Robert presented themselves at the Louvre, with a plan, asserted to be infallible, for getting letters through from the provinces to Paris. It was very simple, but very efficacious, and consisted in the use of spheres, or balls of zinc, with float-boards, like those of a mill-wheel fixed over their surface; the balls to be hollow, and 800 letters to be packed in each. These balls were to be flung into the Marne or the Seine, as near as possible to Paris; and it was suggested, that being drawn along by the current, they would roll down the bed of the river, dragging themselves (by means of the float-boards) over such obstacles as they might encounter, and descending the stream as far as Paris, where, at the Port-à-l'Anglais, was to be stretched a large receiving net. Was this practicable?

The proposed system was first tried in the Bièvre, near the Hautes-Bruyères, and under the enemy's cannon. The progress of the

spheres was rapid; they were seen rolling along the bed. Clearer proof, however, was required. On the 1st December, a gun-boat ventured up to within 150 metres of the Prussian out-posts, bearing on its deck the postmaster-general, M. Rampont, and one of the spheres was flung out in the direction of the town.

After a great deal of trouble a net of the required dimensions had been manufactured, and placed across the stream at Port-à-l'Anglais. The next day, in presence of a number of witnesses, the globe, sealed and fastened by the administration, and flung the previous evening into the Seine, was found caught in its meshes.

Thenceforth hesitation was at an end; the inventors received orders to work their plan in the provinces, and a balloon carried off them and their *matériel*, depositing them at La Ferté Bernard. It was not so easy as one might have supposed to get the necessary authority to fling the spheres into the river, for MM. Delort and Robert did not obtain the permission to do so until the 27th December. From that date a postal agent went religiously, night and morning, in rain and snow, and during the bombardment, to take up the net at the Port-à-l'Anglais,—but nothing came as it ought to have done.

The first batch sent consisted of four spheres; the Prussians had retaken Auxerres; the balls had to be flung in at Bray-sur-Seine, the letters themselves having been brought from Moulins (Allier). One of the inventors, M. Robert, collected them, deposited them in the spheres, and by a circuitous route arrived at the forest of Fontainbleau. The immersion of the spheres took place sometimes at Thomery, and sometimes at the bridge of Sannois; and thus things went on until the 1st February. Fifty-five balls in all were flung into the water, and contained a total of more than 40,000 letters. The cold weather had arrived at Paris, then the frosts. The ice had swept away the dams and stockades; the net could not make any resistance; everything was carried away; and by the time a new net had been got ready, the armistice was signed. And the spheres—and the letters? A great number were fished up in the Seine and on the sea-coast. The balls had performed their journey so well that the sea, at high tide, sent them back again on the shore. Those thus recovered have been opened and the letters distributed.

And this is the way in which the letters for Paris, *viâ* Moulins (Allier), *ought* to have reached the capital in proper time, if, in that unfortunate year, 1870, the very elements had not taken sides against France.

THE HAITIAN 25 c. STAMP RECONSIDERED.

From time to time a 25 c. stamp, which we have persisted in believing to be spurious, has been the subject of discussion; and not a few collectors, including so good an authority as Mr. Pemberton, have asserted their faith in its genuineness. Mr. Pemberton grounds his belief on the remarks of Mr. William Thomas Kitt (an old and respected collector, well acquainted with Haitian affairs), published at page 174 of our sixth volume. Mr. Kitt says that the device on the stamps really represents the armorial bearings of the republic, and that the Haitian currency being—in contradistinction to that of the neighbouring state of St. Domingo—a decimal one, modelled on that of the French, it was only natural that the value should be expressed in *cents* or *centimes*. But Mr. Kitt, on the other hand, observes, that as the arms are those of the republic, and General Salnave had just changed the form of government from a republic to an empire, the stamp in question could at most be only an essay, as Salnave would not tolerate the emission of stamps bearing republican emblems. Thus, then, the authority on whom Mr. Pemberton most leans is more against than for the stamp, and, except that our objection to the denomination of value is overruled, our opinion of the character of the stamp remains unimpeached; and we are now in possession of important testimony in favour of our judgment, in the shape of a letter, written by the British Vice-Consul and Post-Office Agent at Port-au-Prince, to one of our correspondents who had had the "happy thought" of inquiring of him whether he knew

anything of the stamp. His letter reads as follows:—

H. B. M. Consulate General,
Port-au-Prince,
November 8, 1871.

SIR,—In reply to your letter of the 10th ult., I have no hesitation in stating that the postage stamps you speak of are *forgeries*, and made for the mere purpose of sale to persons who, like yourself, may be curious in such matters.

I have been resident in Hayti, with but two short intermissions, for nineteen years; and am able, consequently, to state very positively that no government of that country has ever adopted or authorized the manufacture of any postage stamps whatever. I should be very glad, however, if you would send me a specimen of the stamps you refer to, in order that I might show it to the government of this country.

I am, Sir,
Yours, faithfully,
HENRY BYRON,
H. M.'s Vice-Consul in Hayti, and British Post-office Agent at Port-au-Prince.

Now the evidence of a gentleman who has so long resided, and still resides, in the very town in which, if anywhere, the stamp must have been used, seems to us conclusive; and it is hardly necessary to seek an explanation of the issue of this now unquestionably spurious impression. Still we may observe, that in 1867 the well-known sham 2 reales carmine of St. Domingo made its appearance, and was so extremely well got up that it deceived almost everyone. It was not only that the design accurately represented the arms, but the obliterations also were of a nature to disarm suspicion. Seeing that this imposture took so well, what is more probable than that its concoctors should have turned their attention to the fabrication of an equally plausible type for the Haitian Republic; or, that finding this second humbug was at once discredited, they should have discontinued to print it. It was only a twelvemonth after the fraudulent St. Domingo was launched that the equally fraudulent Haitian was brought upon the market, and the accuracy with which the arms of the republic were depicted, and the currency adhered to, only shows that the contrivers of the sham had been careful to give it every chance of success. It could be a matter of no great difficulty to discover what were the true armorial bearings of Haiti. Mr. Kitt possesses coins which show them; and other persons could, with but little research, discover equally authentic copies, or could obtain the necessary information from books. That there existed sufficient obstacles to the emission of stamps in Haiti during the years 1867-8, is proved by a letter published at page 86 of our fifth volume, in which the writer, dating from Port-au-Prince (March 20th, 1867), says:—

I have just returned from Cape Haitien, and did not forget to make the inquiries respecting stamps (which you requested me to do) there, as well as in Port-au-Prince. The Haitian government is too much occupied with internal broils—in the shape of revolutions—to give much attention to postal matters, consequently the republic of Haiti cannot at present boast of possessing postage stamps.

The state of things here indicated existed until, and after, the appearance of the illustration of the stamp in our pages, and is testified to by Mr. Kitt, in the letter referred to at the commencement of this article.

We have reason to give a pretty shrewd guess as to the parentage of the impostures. Boston, of course, knows all about them; and that 'cute philatelist, Mr. S. A. Taylor, will doubtless be able to supplement our efforts by tracing them to their unclean source.

POSTAL CHIT-CHAT.

VALUABLE TO CATALOGUE MAKERS.—The inscription on the Chili stamps written short,—"; " (colon).

THE SWISS TRAVELLING POST-OFFICE.—Letters posted at the station whence the travelling van starts, are stamped with the word "Ambulant," and a number.

WRAPPERS from which the contents have slipped out are now marked at the post-office with a handstamp consisting of the inscription, FOUND IN N. P. B. WITHOUT CONTENTS, and also with another stamp—a linear oblong, with notched corners, bearing within the letters N. P. B. and the date. They are then sent out for delivery.

STAMPS IN LETTERS.

IT seems that postmen, evil scamps,
Steal, because they can smell, our stamps:
Therefore, when sending them, you'd better
(A lady writes) perfume your letter·
And with the profit be content;
'Twill be a case of *sent per scent.—Punch.*

AN ODD POSTMARK.—We possess the envelope of an unstamped letter from France, bearing a handstamped upright oval, transversely divided by a bar, above which are the letters FR., and below 1F. 50C.; beside this oval is a large handstamped "6d.;" and as sixpence was all that was claimed, we should like to know why the sum of 1 f. 50 c. was mentioned. A sapient French postal employé told us it was always put, but could not say why; and as we had never seen it before, we take leave to doubt the exactness of his statement.

THE "FIJI TIMES."—This paper enjoys the distinction of having had a set of postage stamps issued for its exclusive benefit. The type was figured in our May number, and we now extract from *The Printers' Register* respecting this highly-honoured paper, and its editor's trials:—

"There is only one newspaper published in the Fiji islands, and it is, of course, called the *Times*. The gentleman who edits it appears to be held in high estimation by the white settlers, for the *Fiji Times* is the court of appeal in all cases of dispute. Unfortunately, however, the editor's decision is not always accepted as final; and it occasionally happens that the parties non-suited fall upon the umpire and grievously beat him. Thus, at the date of the last advices, the editor had been 'assaulted thrice in three weeks—once by the Consul's secretary, once by a sea captain, and once by the post-master.' It is evident that if matters go on at this rate, there will shortly be a vacancy on the staff of the leading journal in the Fijis, and a favourable opening made for a series of 'gentlemen of literary tastes' who find the home market overstocked."

CURIOUS ADDRESSES ON LETTERS.—Some time about the first decade of the present century, a letter arrived at the post-office, Edinburgh, bearing the Inverness post-mark, with the following address:—"Here she goes to Embro to Donal my brother chairman to a chairmans master up a close and down a stair if this no find him the Deil no find him." The letter was exhibited in the shop-window of a confectioner in the upper end of Northbridge-street, where the Highland porters usually congregate, in expectation of its being claimed by the rightful owner.—

Messrs. Mac Arthur, Mac Vicar, and Mac Corquodale, stationers in Liverpool, a few years since, duly replied to a letter addressed to Mac Adder, Mac Viper, and Mac Crocodile.

The following was received by a relative of a correspondent:—

Dear, honest Postman, be so kind
To take this to a friend of mine;
She is a Fox, Lucy's her name,
In Swallow street you'll find the same;
She is a little cruel toad,
And lives not far from Oxford road.

—*Notes and Queries.*

THE DEAD LETTER.

BY JOHN G. SAXE.

And can it be? Ah, yes, I see,
'Tis thirty years and better
Since Mary Morgan sent to me
This musty, musky letter.
A pretty hand (she couldn't spell),
As any man must vote it;
And was't, I remember well,
A pretty hand that wrote it!

How calmly now I view it all,
As memory backward ranges—
The talks, the walks, that I recall,
And then—the postal changes!
How well I loved her I can guess
(Since cash is Cupid's hostage)—
Just one-and-sixpence—nothing less—
This letter cost in postage!

The love that wrote at such a *rate*,
(By Jove! it was a steep one!)
Five hundred notes (I calculate),
Was certainly a deep one;

And yet it died—of slow decline—
Perhaps suspicion chilled it;
I've quite forgotten if 'twas mine
Or Mary's flirting killed it!

At last the fatal message came;
"My letters—please return them;
And yours—of course you wish the same—
I'll send them back or burn them."
Two precious fools, I must allow,
Whichever was the greater;
I wonder if I'm wiser now,
Some seven lustres later?

And *this* alone remains! Ah, well!
These words of warm affection,
The faded ink, the pungent smell,
Are food for deep reflection.
They tell of how the heart contrives
To change with fancy's fashion,
And how a drop of musk survives
The strongest human passion.

CORRESPONDENCE.

TRANSVAAL ENVELOPE AND GERMANIC CARDS.

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

DEAR SIR,—I cannot claim the credit or discredit of denying the authenticity of the ladies' size South African envelopes, which I received direct from the postmaster as a genuine postal emission. The reply to C. W., in the November number of *The Philatelist*, as well as the review of Brown's Price Catalogue, were penned by some other hand. I should not have used such an expression as "miserable Germanic cards;" believing, as I do, that, notwithstanding their want of facial beauty, being employed for strictly postal purposes on government authority, they are, and should be, equally interesting to collectors, in a philatelic point of view, with the black Nova Scotians, or the most exquisite productions of the American Bank Note Company.

I am, dear sir, yours faithfully,
THE EDITOR OF *THE PHILATELIST*.

ECUADOR AND BOLIVIAN VARIETIES.

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

DEAR SIR,—By the last mail from Panama, I received the 2 and 4 rls. of Ecuador on *bluish*, instead of white paper. It is just possible that the remaining values may also have appeared on the same paper.

I have noticed lately, that the Bolivian dollar pieces, coined in this year, have *eleven* stars, instead of the ordinary number, *nine*. The same difference has been noticed in the stamps (see August *Philatelist*).

Now, as both coins and stamps bear the *arms* of Bolivia (and not a landscape, as described in all the stamp catalogues that I have seen), and as the *nine* stars represent the nine departments into which the country is (or was) divided, it is evident that there must be some cause for this addition to the arms; and though I live in a neighbouring republic, I have read nought in the papers about an augmentation of the number of Bolivian provinces.

The Bolivian stamps with eleven stars, may therefore, I think, be accepted as belonging to a *new* issue.

Yours obediently,
Valparaiso. F. W. M.

BOYD'S EXPRESS STAMPS.

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

DEAR SIR,—Since writing last month, I have obtained proof of the authenticity of Mr. Coster's second type, then disbelieved in by me. Having seen this type in a genuine cancelled state, my doubts are set at rest, and I now acknowledge its true worth. The following is a correct description of it: Ground plain; head of eagle thin and pointed, left wing pressing against the border; more than half of the globe shown, and with oblique shading at top and on right side; middle line of longitude carried through the outer oval, and touching the figure; no stops; central oval with line outside, and outer oval with line inside.

Even as I correct others, so I correct myself.

I see that want of space caused you somewhat to condense my last paper. One sentence in particular has been expunged, which, in justice to myself, I must now set right.

Relative to the fictitious locals, I wrote, "All the following are, *I fully believe*, purely imaginary labels of imaginary companies." The omission of the words in italics made me the author of an unqualified assertion, admitting of no doubt, when I simply meant to register a certain belief.

Yours faithfully,

Birmingham. W. DUDLEY ATLEE.

DOUBTFUL ERRORS IN IMPRESSION.

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

DEAR SIR,—I find in glancing over some old numbers, that at page 42 of the last volume a sharp-eyed correspondent thought he had discovered some mysterious figures (10) representing the month of issue in each corner of the new halfpenny. I have always viewed these with suspicion, as it requires a slight effort of imagination to make them into 10, the 1 being anything but clear. I have many times studied these mysterious markings in copies which have come before me, and have at last got a clue which enables me to say pretty conclusively that these so-called figures are mere accidental results of the pattern composing the background. If you will now examine a specimen, you will find that these markings are repeated at regular intervals above and below those in the corners, so far as the medallion in centre permits them to be seen; and, moreover, at both sides of stamp, both above and below, may be seen *between* the two marks which have been called figures 1 (though they are more like 3's) a similar mark inverted, as if they were intended as a sort of finish to the horizontal lines of the background. This is only a small matter, but may, perhaps, interest you.

NORTH GERMAN CONFEDERATION.—In vol. viii., p. 90, I notice, in the mention of the varieties with shaded figure of the 1 groschen, which I pointed out to you, that you say that you have never come across a specimen of the envelope with shaded figure. I may say that *I* do not remember to have seen a copy *without* the shaded figure.

FRANCE.—The varieties of the laureated series of the Empire with lined background are clearly the result of some peculiarity in the process of printing, and not of an alteration in the die. If you will examine a specimen, you will find the lines are visible wherever there is a sufficient surface of colour to show them; in the borders, &c., as well as in the circle containing the head.

I have a 30 c. which has the lines quite distinct on the right-hand side of stamp, and scarcely visible on the left. This easily accounts for the 80 c. existing with the lines running vertically, instead of horizontally.

I am, dear Sir,

Yours truly,

Manchester. J. C.

P. S.—The 25 soldi of the current Austrian series, arriving by the last Turkish mails, is purple-black; have you met with this variety yet?

THE ARRANGEMENT OF A COLLECTION.

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

DEAR SIR,—It seems to me very difficult to limit and complete one's collection; shades and varieties of colour are constantly turning up that one cannot discard, and yet they necessitate the rearrangement of a page or more in one's album, if one wishes to keep the specimens in their proper order.

My stamps are all hinged with tissue paper to the paper itself (a plain book); but I have for some time past wanted to move them into another album, and am desirous of getting the *right* and *last* one this time.

Can you inform me what the principle of the "crotchet" system is? As to mounting the stamps on card, and then affixing these to the album, I do not think the plan a good one at all; the book must necessarily be very bulgy, and the card mounts would tend to keep the leaves apart, and admit dust and damp.

I have never seen the stamps mounted as described some time ago in your magazine, by cutting out a square hole, and then just gumming the edge of the stamp (I allude to the description of the double-card sheets with eyelet-holes), but should fancy the stamp would not show up at all well, having no background, and in many cases being, perhaps, just over a stamp (on the next sheet) of quite another colour. I think, however, the rims round each sheet a capital idea to keep out dust, and prevent pressure on the stamps themselves (though those not embossed often look the better for it). The great difficulty, to my mind, in getting, say, one issue all in order, is this: you get two or three distinct shades of one colour, and supposing there are shades of other colours, you leave room for them also; perhaps they never turn up, and the vacant space looks unsightly; or, it may be, you do not leave room for them, having no idea they existed; and, to your surprise, they turn up quite unexpectedly, and you have to alter a whole page or more.

What is wanted, is a method of securely holding the stamps to the page, and yet the power to move them from place to place. This I suppose is unattainable.

I have sometimes thought that it would be a good plan to cut strips of pure white paper, about an inch broad, and, say, 3 inches shorter than the width of the album page; then attach the stamps to the bottom of it, in a row, and fix the strips to the page, one under the other, by means of a touch of gum at each end; they could then be easily moved or altered, and any description necessary could be neatly written over each stamp.

I shall esteem it a great favour if you will kindly give me your advice on the matter.

Apologizing for this lengthy and troublesome epistle,

I am, Sir,

Yours very faithfully,

Homerton, London. E. S.

A QUERY RESPECTING A 20 CENTIME OF THE PRESENT FRENCH.

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

DEAR SIR,—In your September number is the following extract from a Parisian newspaper:—"Paris is now suffering from an inundation of false 10 and 20 centime postage stamps. 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."

This account of these dubious labels is so vague and valueless to collectors, that I have been endeavouring to procure specimens of the impostures themselves, so that I might afford some tangible help to their detection. After considerable trouble and inquiry I have obtained what I think must be the *soi disant* 20 c. I believe this, because it has every appearance of being from the unfinished matrix, and because copies of it are so difficult to find. I shall give the leading discrepancies between it and the undoubtedly genuine stamp, in the hope that my remarks may elicit the required information. These differences are, to use a hackneyed expression, more apparent than real, and it is no easy task to seize upon any salient peculiarity.

As every collector has the acknowledged stamp, I need not describe its details, but will simply state in what points the queried label varies from it.

The shading in the latter, upon the chin and neck of the profile, is not so prominent as in the recognised die and the hair is indistinctly shown, instead of being carried almost unbroken from the crown. Through the lack of shading, and the blurred condition of the ears of wheat, the head has a depressed appearance, although it in reality is the same. In the ordinary die there are several dots running obliquely above the eye, and between that organ and the nasal one; with the exception of a few minute specks under the eye, they are wanting in the copy under surveillance. The spandrels are *very* poor, but this defect is noticeable in a lesser degree upon some of the later-printed stamps. A marked variation is traceable in the beads surrounding the circle. In each there are ninety-eight; but, whereas in the Simon Pure these are of uniform size, and at equal distances apart, in the doubtful label they often run into the white linear circle, and into each other. The bead upon the right-hand side, on a level with the fifth horizontal line from the bottom of the Etruscan border, is prominently out of its position, being farther off the circle than its companions.

The paper used is thin and bluish, but, strange to say (if it *is* from the stolen die), the perforation is exactly like that upon the known genuine.

Some really reliable particulars concerning the origin of this doubted stamp are much needed.

Yours faithfully,

Birmingham. W. DUDLEY ATLEE.

MORE VARIETIES OF THE PROVISIONAL NATALS.

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

SIR,—Thinking that some of your readers would like to know some of the varieties of the provisional Natals, we give the following description of those we have seen up to date. As you have, in a former letter, had the 1d. and 3d., we begin with the 6d.

1.—That with POSTAGE printed with black ink, below the face of Queen, in thick, short capitals,—mauve.

2.—That with POSTAGE printed with black ink across the crown; the P of the postage a capital, the other letters small, and of unequal thickness.

3.—That with POSTAGE printed across the crown, the same as No. 2, but the letters thicker and longer. No. 2 and 3 are lilac.

4.—That with POSTAGE printed with black ink across the crown, in thick, short capitals,—*mauve.*

5.—The same as No. 4, but *lilac.*

6.—That with POSTAGE printed across the crown, with black ink, in thin, long capitals,—*mauve.*

7.—The same as No. 6, but *lilac.*

8.—The same as No. 2, but mauve.

Of the 1s., we have seen three varieties, viz.,—

1.—That with POSTAGE printed with black ink, below the face of Queen, in thick, short capitals.

2.—That with POSTAGE printed with black ink across the crown, with thick, short capitals.

3.—That with POSTAGE in a curve, below the face, printed in *green* ink.

RECEIPT STAMPS.

We have seen two varieties of the 1d. embossed Natal receipt stamp, viz.,—

1.—Yellow, rect., perf., oblong; size $1\frac{13}{16}$ inch by $\frac{15}{16}$ inch.

2.—Orange, rect., perf., oblong; size, $1\frac{7}{16}$ inch, by 1 inch.

Both the above are *obsolete.*

By inserting this in the next number of your valuable magazine, you will oblige

Yours faithfully,

PHILIP F. PAYN.
L. R GORDON.
H. HOLLIDAY,
VINCENT J. GORDON.
E. CROMPTON.

Pine Town. }
Pietermaritzburg. } *Natal.*

P. S.—Since writing the above, we have seen two more varieties of the 3d. blue, viz.,—

1.—That with POSTAGE printed with black ink across the crown; the P of the postage a capital, the other letters small, but of equal thickness.

2.—That with POSTAGE printed with black ink across the crown, in thin, long capitals.

ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS.

B. H., Braintree.—The New South Wales and South Australian varieties, to which you are kind enough to call our attention, have been already described.

REV. K. D., Bedworth.—The broad-arrow perforation, as a cancelling mark for post cards, is perhaps unusual, but not new. It was noticed and figured on page 42 of our last volume.

H. P., London.—We should think either Moens or the "V.R." album would suit you, though the step you propose taking in removing your stamps from a blank to a ruled album is, generally speaking, a retrograde one.

F. H. S., Carlsruhe.—Thanks for the information respecting the German stamps. There is not any 3 centime stamp for the French republic in existence at present, but we should think that that value would be found in the forthcoming series.

CHARLES B., Canonbury, London.—Your Fenian essay, with harp in centre, is a spurious one, and therefore of no real value. The other stamp you describe can hardly have been issued by the factious brotherhood, inscribed as it is CORREOS, and 20 C. D'ESCO. You had better send it to us for examination.

NEWLY-ISSUED OR INEDITED STAMPS.

FIJI ISLANDS.—The great sensation in philatelic circles during the last month has been the arrival of specimens of the newly-issued Fijian stamps proper. Our New York contemporary was the first to publish the rumour of a forthcoming issue, and we quoted his information in our last; it is, however, the reverse of accurate as to the design and values. The new stamps do *not* bear Thakombau's portrait, and their denominations are *not* 3, 5, and 10 cents. Whether they came into use on the 1st of October, or not, we are not in a position to decide, but already two series have been printed, and the first of them is rare. Both



bear the design here represented, and the values and colours are the same. The difference between them consists in that the second series is surcharged, in black ink, with the denomination in *cents*. The words "two," "six," or "twelve," are above the crown, and "cents" below the initials; and we may suggest that the decimal equivalents of our English pence have been added to satisfy the American colonists in Fiji. The colours are as follows:—

One penny	(2 cents)	light blue on white.
Threepence	(6 ,,)	light green ,,
Sixpence	(12 ,,)	rose ,,

The frame differs in each value; the circle is beaded in the penny, notched in the threepence, and scalloped in the sixpence; and the highest value is further distinguished from the others by the word FIJI being in white letters on coloured ground, the band on which it appears having also different end ornaments. The central device is simple, but the letters C.R. are very puzzling, and we are quite unable to explain their signification—Qy., *Christopherus Rex?* On the sixpence the crown and initials are enclosed in a hexagon, faintly scratched over the ground of the disk.

The first issue (without surcharge) was perforated, and as only one batch was printed, very few copies are now to be had. The second series we are describing from specimens cut from the proof sheet, and obligingly communicated to us by a correspondent at Sydney, where the stamps have been designed and printed. These proof impressions are, of course, unperforated; but the issued stamps will be perforated, like their predecessors. The impression is clear; and the surcharge is in ordinary Roman old-style type.

The *Fiji Times* stamps, we learn from our new Birmingham contemporary, were issued by the proprietors of the paper, under the superintendence of the British consul. This information is not so precise as we could wish. We should like to know in what sense, and for what reason, the consul "superintended" the issue. Had he a control over the numbers printed, and was the postal service (conducted, we presume, by means of the mail-steamer from Sydney) initiated or regulated by him? Furthermore, for whose profit were the stamps issued?

Our contemporary suggests that this series is now obsolete, but we can hardly assume this to be the fact until we know how the regular Fijian stamps are to be employed; and there is one important point in connection with this matter to which we think it right to refer—we mean, the possibility of the *Fiji Times* stamps, especially if they are obsolete, being multiplied *ad infinitum* by reprinting. The sale of several thousand copies, even at prices far below their facial value, would be no despicable source of revenue to the proprietors of a journal whose circulation cannot be other than limited, and with reprinting would come all manner of paper varieties and printer's errors.

With a view to restrict the chances of success of such possible reimpressions, we place on record a list of the existing varieties, copied from *The Philatelical Journal*. They are as follows, all black on pink paper, and rouletted on a dotted line.

Paper—	*quadrillé*	1d., 3d., 6d., 1/-.
,,	laid	1d., 3d., 6d., 9d., 1/-.
,,	*batonné*	1d., 3d., 6d., 9d., 1/-.

VENEZUELA.—The design here represented is that of a stamp which, we are informed by the correspondent from whom we received the sole specimen we possess, came from Venezuela. It is printed in yellow on thin wove paper, and across the centre of the stamp are two rather faint horizontal black and apparently type-printed lines. We observe traces of similar lines just over the upper edge and also along the lower margin, but cannot say whether or not these lines are intended as obliterations; in fact, when we have added that the stamp is unperforated and unwatermarked, we have said all we know about it. We have not had time to ascertain whether "Escuelas" is one of the Venezuelan provinces or states, and we solicit information on this point, as also respecting the name and claims to notoriety of the person represented. The stamp has a genuine look, but our correspondent may have been imposed on, and it is not entitled to a certificate of merit until its authenticity is proved.*



WESTERN AUSTRALIA.—We annex an engraving of a stamp for this colony which has just made its appearance, and is principally intended, as our correspondent at Perth, W. A., informs us, to be used for postage on intercolonial letters. The design is finely engraved, the bird's plumage being admirably depicted; and it will be observed that the reeds, which seem to be included in the Western Australian arms, form a neat frame to the oval. By-the-way, we should like to know *why* the reeds, as we call them, are thus represented; surely not merely for pictorial effect; do they then indicate a colonial staple? The colour of this elegant addition to our Swan River sets is a kind of salmon-tinged brown,—a hue, indeed, very difficult to describe accurately. It is surface-printed, and the usual perforations and the crown and CC watermark form the stamp's appurtenances.



SWITZERLAND.—*Maderanerthal.*—About ten miles south of the lake of Lucerne is Amsteg, to the east of which lies one of the most beautiful of the Swiss valleys—the Maderanerthal, which would probably have long since numbered among the lions of the country, but for its comparative inaccessibility, there being no outlets from it, except by glacier passes. Seven years ago the proprietor of the *White Cross* at Amsteg built an hotel, *Zum Schweizen Alpent-club*, with about 50 beds, on a hillock in the valley about 2½ hours up, and about eighteen months back this hotel was enlarged to nearly twice the size. It was then, our informant believes, that the stamp here represented was engraved, ostensibly, as we presume, to prepay postage from the hotel to Amsteg, but in reality, we are inclined to think, as an advertisement. A traveller who would give no more than a halfpenny for carrying a letter a two hours' descent over rocks must have queer notions of liberality, and it is hardly likely small Swiss hotel-keepers would be content with such small remuneration. Perhaps the Rigi-Kaltbad establishment is large enough to make it worth while to establish a kind of private mail service, but we now lean to the belief that such stamps as the Rigi and the Maderanerthal are really issued to serve as an advertisement to the hotel-keepers and a gratification to their guests, who are pleased with the idea of putting them on their letters for England or other parts. However, we deem it our duty to notice the new comer, which is printed in ultramarine on white, and may add that it is not likely to be very common. Our correspondent, who received his specimen on a letter in September, 1870, says, "I am afraid that unexpected misfortunes, as the Franco-Prussian war, have crippled the prospects of the hotel."



The 25 c. envelope of the Swiss republic

* Since the above was in type we have referred to a collection of doubtfuls, forgeries, and *soi-disant* essays, which we have by us, and there we found a precisely similar stamp, excepting the legend, which we received some years ago, through M. Moens, as an essay of Belgium, the authenticity of which he considered more than questionable, and our opinion coincided with his

is now printed sea-green. We lately met with a postmarked 30 c. envelope, which we keep as a curiosity.

SWEDEN.—We are not yet in possession of the new adhesive stamps for this country, but we are enabled to give an engraving of a new envelope stamp. In shape, it is a transverse oval; three crowns, two above and one below, occupy the centre, and a small transverse oval disk on either side bears a post-horn. The word SVERIGE runs round the upper half, and the value in words—TOLF ÖRE—fills the lower half. The impression is blue, the crowns and horns are in white relief, and the inscriptions are sunk on a white reticulated ground.



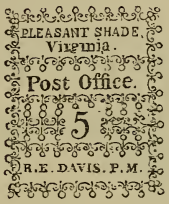
At the last moment before going to press, we received from our Stockholm correspondent a specimen of the new Swedish post card, which turns out to be of the same value, and to bear the same design as the envelope above described; but the blue of the post card is of a much darker shade than that of the envelope. The stamp is impressed on the right upper corner of the card, and bad taste is strikingly shown in printing the border and inscriptions in mauve. The border, which is an important item in a post card, is extremely neat, and the inscriptions (BREFKORT, &c.) are as finely engraved as on the Finnish post card. The card is white, and the reverse side is quite plain. The envelope, we may mention, *en passant*, has no device on the flap. Both card and envelope were issued on the 11th January. We are sorry to learn that the report of an entirely new series is unfounded, our correspondent now informs us that only two new values are to appear—6 öre and 1 riksdaler—and they will not be ready for a month or two. Our correspondent offers no explanation of the issue of a post card and an envelope of identical value.

RUSSIAN LOCALS.—*Bogorodsk.*—M. Moens, remedying his omission when he described the envelope for this district, which was figured in our November number, states that its colour is blue, varying from pale to bright.

Charkoff.—Another of the stamps comprised in our July list has just come over, and is here represented. It is printed in pale to bright red, and "each specimen is surcharged in black with a portion of the third word, and the whole of the last, of the inscription, in a linear oblong, placed diagonally on stamp;" so says our Birmingham contemporary; but this surcharge must be a postmark, as our correspondent does not speak about it. It will be observed that there is a very striking similarity between this stamp in its general dispositions and the 5 kop. of Bogorodsk (see vol. vii., p. 105); the size, the central oval, the star at the bottom of the oval, the corner numerals, and the waved outer lines, are common to both, and we are half persuaded they must be the work of the same artist.



CONFEDERATE STATES.—Many locals have been recently discovered in the Southern States, and the two here represented have been only known for a comparatively short period. Both are really rare, and the





Rheatown has already been the subject of the forgers' delicate attentions. They carry their history on their face, and we need only say that the Pleasant Shade is printed in light blue, and the Rheatown in red.

BRAZIL.—In *The Stamp-Colllector's Magazine* for August last, we quoted from the New York journal a description of a new 300 reis adhesive for this country; the oval containing the portrait in green, the frame in violet.

The Rio correspondent of our Birmingham contemporary denies its existence, but our own correspondent at Rio, has seen it at the post-office, though it is not yet issued to the public. He fully endorses the encomiums passed on its appearance by the *American*

Journal of Philately, but says the outer frame is printed in *orange-yellow*, and not in violet. It is therefore probable that the last-named journal described from a proof. Our correspondent states that the 300 reis stamp, which equals in value 15 cents, will be employed for the postage on letters between Brazil and the States.

The *Deutsche Briefmarken Zeitung* states that a postal treaty between Germany and Brazil has been signed, fixing the rate for letters between the two countries at 15 sgr., or about 720 reis; so that another new stamp will probably be required.

EGYPT.—We have been officially informed of a new emission of stamps for this province, and having been favoured with a complete set, we now proceed to describe them.

The design is very similar to the late series, but the sphinx is to the left of the pyramid, instead of in the centre, as before; Pompey's pillar and Cleopatra's needle are absent, and Arabic and Roman inscriptions take their place; the star and crescent are represented in the spandrels; the numerals of value occupy each corner, and the lower margin has the inscription, POSTE KHEDEUIE EGIZIANE.

The series consists of seven values, an additional one being added in the form of a $2\frac{1}{2}$ piastre.

5	paras,	light brown.
10	,,	mauve
20	,,	dull blue
1	piastre,	red
2	,,	orange
$2\frac{1}{2}$	,,	purple
5	,,	light green.

These stamps are lithographed, and their execution is very poor, if we may judge from the blurred specimens before us. In our next number we hope to give an engraving and further particulars.

RUSSIA.—The Russian post card was issued on New Year's Day, and is found to lack one of the chief elements of interest, a monetary value shown by an impressed stamp. What there is on the card is finely engraved, namely, a broad, shaded, ornamental border; the Russian arms on the left; a dotted and inscribed rectangle in the right upper corner; an inscription, signifying OPEN LETTER, between them, and below, *five* lines for the address, followed by instructions, which are:—

1.—An open letter must be fully prepaid with the proper stamp.

2.—On this side nothing but the address may be written.

In the border, in small type, we find OFFICE FOR THE PREPARATION OF IMPERIAL PAPERS. At the back there is a double-lined border, broken, above, by the words PLACE FOR THE LETTER, and below, by THE POSTAL ADMINISTRATION DOES NOT ANSWER FOR THE CONTENTS OF THE LETTER. The card is grey, and the inscription, &c., in sepia. The postage is 3 kop. for town letters, and 5 kop. from town to town.

AUSTRIA.—Our old friend, Mr. Max Joseph, sends us a post card for Bohemia. It is exactly like the current Austrian, and has the 2 kr. orange-yellow in the corner; but under the German inscription, KORRESPONDENZ KARTE, comes the Sclavonic (?) KORESPONDENCNI LISTCK. Our correspondent says that these cards are, "as it appears," already prohibited (*qy.*, withdrawn) by government, but we do not think so, nor see any reason why they should have been called in. The two German papers, *Deutsche Briefmarken-Zeitung*, and *A. Moschkau's Magazin*, concur in stating that cards are to be issued with duplicate inscriptions for every one of the peoples of the empire. There will be German-Ruthenian, German-Polish, &c.

GERMANY.—Quite a novelty in the way of post cards has been communicated to us by a gentleman connected with a German publishing house at London. It is none other than a post card issued by a German bookseller; and it *does* surprise us that booksellers are allowed to issue their own cards, which go through the post, provided they are prepaid with the proper adhesive stamp.

The one before us is of grey *paper*, of large size (about 6 in. by $4\frac{1}{2}$ in.); has BUCHER BESTELLZETTEL at the top, followed by the usual lines for the address; and in the right upper corner, a dotted and inscribed square for the stamp. The back is filled with trade announcements. Here is a nut for the ultras to crack. Of course they will accept these cards.

New registration stamps—value 10 and 30 gr.—for the empire have made their appearance. They do not in the least differ from their predecessors, except it be that their colours are somewhat brighter and richer. The inscription, NORDDEUTSCHES BEZIRK, is replaced by DEUTSCHE REICHS-POST.

NORWAY.—At the moment of going to press, we have received from an esteemed correspondent a postmarked specimen of a new stamp for this country, an engraving of which we hope to give next month. Meanwhile, we may briefly state that the design of the new comer is as follows: Numeral of value in white circle formed by post-horn, surmounted by a crown; all enclosed in broad oval band, inscribed above, NORGE, and value (*tre skilling*) below; each angle is occupied by a winged wheel. Colour, a deep rose. Whether this is the only value of this type, we cannot say.

NEW ZEALAND.—A redistribution of the colours of three of the New Zealand stamps has taken place; the penny exchanges its vermilion for the sober brown of the sixpence, and the twopence takes the colour dropped by the penny, and passes its blue to the sixpence. Thus (to make matters clear) we now have—

One penny	pale brown
Twopence	vermilion
Sixpence	blue

The two former values which we possess are both star watermarked.

BAVARIA. — Two more returned-letter stamps have recently been issued, one for Nürnberg, the other for Augsburg. They are composed only of four lines of type, are printed in black on creamy-white paper, and replace the old well-known "arms" stamps.

Commission
für
Retourbriefe
Nürnberg.

CEYLON.—We alluded in our last to a forthcoming series with value in *cents*. Preparatory to its issue, says our Birmingham *confrère*, the existing issues have been called in, and among the adhesives found at outlying post-offices are a few of the unattainable 2s. unperforate.

The stamps surcharged "Service," though prepared, were never used; a case containing them lies in the post-office, and they are now to be destroyed.

SPAIN.—Mr. Ysasi informs us he has heard from Madrid, that the post-office is busy printing off the supply of the new postage stamps, but that they will not be ready for another four months! Senor Manuel Prua de Figueroa writes that they will not be issued for several months.

SIERRA LEONE.—The handsome and solitary stamp which has so long represented this colony in our albums, is, we are informed, to be replaced by a series consisting of five values: 1d., 2d., 3d., 6d., 1/-. This information comes from an official source.

LUXEMBOURG.—The 4 centimes stamp is now printed of a bright green. This is a change for the better, as it serves to distinguish it from the 1 centime, to which it formerly bore a close resemblance.

CANADA.—We have received by the last mail specimens of a new 6 cents brown of the small size. It is printed of a warm tint, and is as effective as its congeners.

SPANISH COLONIES.—A new series, issued on 1st January, is announced, but details are wanting.

PAPERS FOR BEGINNERS.—No. XVII.

BY OVERY TAYLOR.

EUROPE.

THE DANUBIAN PRINCIPALITIES:

Moldavia.

IT is with the greatest diffidence that I enter on the task of discussing the stamps of Moldavia, and I should have preferred to omit all notice of them but for the recent arrival of documentary evidence, which lifts the history of the early issues, to some extent, out of the shroud of conjecture in which it was previously enveloped; and in presenting the conclusions I have ventured to draw from the facts before me, I beg it may be understood that I do so with all possible reserve, and shall willingly accept the emendations of philatelists who may have made these stamps the objects of special study. For my own part, I had long since "given up" the first Moldavian series, in respect of

which the principal doubts arise, as a nut which I could not crack, and my opinion was confirmed on observing that even Dr. Magnus, whilst giving a careful analysis of all the known types of the stamps of that series, could form but comparatively vague conjectures as to their respective value.* The official documents, however, above referred to, and published by M. Moens, in *Le Timbre-Poste* for 1871, throw light on several points of the first importance, and by their aid, it will, I trust, be possible to determine, with tolerable exactness, the facts connected with the emission of the two series. Let us, however, begin by ascertaining what was the state of our knowledge of the first series before the arrival of these documents, after premising that that series was composed of the four following values :—

27 paras, black on rose paper.
54 ,, blue to bluish-green, on greenish paper.
81 ,, ,, on pale blue ,,
108 ,, ,, on rose tinted ,,





The designs being here represented, no description of them is necessary, further than to say that the impressions were handstruck in a random manner.

The earliest mention I find of any of these stamps is at p. 76 of the first volume of *The Stamp-Collector's Magazine*. Dr. Viner there refers to the existence of a tradition of an early issue of Moldavians, and in confirmation of it states that two years previously (1861) he saw the three higher values (which he describes) in a Parisian collection. Prior to this, Mount Brown, in the first edition of his list, had noticed a mythical 62 paras, but had omitted it from the succeeding two. In his fourth edition, which appeared not long after Dr. Viner's notice, the 54, 81, and 108 paras were included; and in August, 1863, the late Mr. Stockall, of Liverpool, for the first time, advertised the three stamps, unused, for 5/6. No attempt was made, at that time, to gain any definite information respecting them, and, indeed, no further notice was taken of them, until, in the second vol. of *The Stamp-Collector's Magazine*, Dr. Viner, at the close of a sketch of the history of the principalities, remarks of the three higher-value stamps (p. 109), that "whether current, remainders, or reprints, they can yet be procured uncancelled from the post-office of Jassy;" adding, "we must take it for granted that the postal officials there do not forge their own stamps; but being one of the few individuals fortunate enough to possess a genuine postmarked specimen of these emissions, very rare in that state, we must say the discrepancy is so great as totally to preclude the possibility of their having been stamped from the same die. This cannot proceed, as in the instance of the Corrientes, local Melbourne, &c., from the engraver having made several designs on one plate, the stamps of the Danubian principalities then and now being individually and irregularly handstamped."

Here the key-note of scepticism was struck, and with great accuracy, too, as we shall hereafter see; and it is also noticeable that at the time these observations were written, nothing was known of the date of emission. A short time afterwards, however, M. Rondot, in the *Magazin Pittoresque*, argued that the use of postage stamps was introduced into Moldavia in 1854, and professed to have seen letters of 1855 bearing stamps of the first issue. This conjecture was forthwith adopted by all the catalogue-makers, and remained uncontested until recently proved to be erroneous. At that point matters rested, and no fresh researches were made into the history of the stamps until Dr. Magnus took them in hand, and, towards the close of 1867, published, in *Le Timbre-Poste*, the minute and laborious analysis of the various known types, which was reprinted in the 1868 volume of this journal. He therein enumerates no less than five types of each of the three higher values, but plainly states that he does not make a point of guaranteeing their authenticity; and, in concluding his

* [We have reason to think that the learned doctor's opinion now coincides with that which Mr. Taylor expresses.—Ed.]

article, he says, "The counterfeits are certainly very numerous, and we fully admit our inability to distinguish them." The learned doctor invited criticism and further details, but all he received was a brief notice from the pen of Mr. Pemberton, in which the latter states that among the five types are some which he had always considered as forgeries, beyond a doubt, but that, in his opinion, that was a matter of no moment, "the acknowledged forgeries being quite as valuable as the *very* dubious originals."

In the autumn of 1868 the 27 paras stamp was discovered, and up to the present time only one copy has, if I am rightly informed, been found. It may, however, be useful to remind my readers, *en passant*, that Mr. Engelhardt Fohl has a large supply of forged specimens, for which a couple of guineas each, are, in his estimation, not too much.

In 1870 Mons. Moens obtained, through a correspondent, information from an official source of the true date of issue of the first series, together with other particulars, to which allusion will hereafter be made in the proper place. Finally he received, and, in the last volume of *Le Timbre-Poste*, published the translation of the government orders and correspondence respecting the first and second series, and to these we now turn for information.

The first impulse towards postal progress was given by a memorial, prepared by Prince Demetrius Cantacuzen, probably by government order, in which the necessity of a reform, not only in the letter rates, but also in the mode of transport was advocated. The exact date of this memorial is not known, but it is referred to in the order of 11th July, 1858, No. 6313 (which, together with all the other documents, are annexed to the present in the form of an appendix, that my readers may study them for themselves), and we may assume that it was presented in the spring of that year. It received the approbation of the Moldavian Administrative Council, and of the Prince Caïm Mekam (the Deputy Grand Vizier), and a new tariff was projected in, or sprung from it, consisting of the following rates:—

For *small* letters [whatever they might be], and for a distance of 1 to 8 posts (9 to 70 miles),	27	paras.
For small letters for a greater distance,	54	,,
For "large" letters, - -	81	,,
For registered letters [letters with a receipt]	108	,,

Whatever may have been the elementary postal system which it succeeded, this new tariff can scarcely have been a great advance on its predecessor, and, as we shall see later on, it did not long remain in force, but it sufficed to occasion the issue of the first series of Moldavian stamps.

The first document, in order of date, which refers to these stamps is a letter dated the 1st May, 1858, and addressed by the postmaster to the finance minister, in which he sets forth the necessity of preparing stamps in accordance with the 4th paragraph of the new postal regulations. Whether this was merely a formal request on the part of the postmaster, or was really the consequence of his perception of an oversight, is not a point of much importance; we are more concerned with the second state paper, dated 1st July, 1858, and consisting of a letter from the finance minister, Balche, to a personage described in the Belgian translation as *M. le Secretaire de l'Atelier du Timbre*, and whom I venture to describe, for want of a better term, as superintendent of the stamp (printing) office. The minister thereby notifies his subordinate of the decision taken by the government to issue stamps of the above four values, and then adds, that "to give it effect the finance department had prepared the necessary seals [or dies], *of the number of four*," which he therewith transmits to him; and he instructs the superintendent, with them, to strike off at once 24,000 stamps, composed as follows:—

6000	of the 27	paras
10,000	,, 54	,,
2000	,, 81	,,
6000	,, 108	,,

This done, the dies were to be returned to the department.

Upon the 11th of July 5984 handstruck stamps of all values were ready, and were on that day forwarded to the post-office by the finance minister, accompanied by the minute No. 6313, advising them and directing the post-office to commence the issue on the 15*th*

July, which is thus authoritatively fixed as the date of issue. The 5984 stamps were all that the stamp superintendent could prepare between the 1st and 11th July, and the product of these eight or nine days manual labour looks ridiculously small, when compared with the results given by typographic stamp-printing machines in more civilized countries. But between the sounding official formalities and their effect in the shape of an issue of 24,000 postage stamps, there is the same disparity, and half the errors in connection with this first series have arisen from the difficulty of conceiving the possibility of such rough productions having been otherwise than informally struck at random.

However, duly ushered into circulation, as we have seen it really was, the first series became an accomplished fact. In the four days intervening between the last finance-office letter and the actual emission, the stock was, we may assume, distributed among the country offices. Very soon afterwards, however, the new postal tariff was found to work unsatisfactorily. In September a revised system was proposed and adopted, and on the 1st November the initial series was withdrawn, after a currency of just *three months and a half*. On the 26th February, 1859, an inventory was taken of the stock of stamps of this series remaining on hand "in the deceased cashier's safe," and there were returned to the finance minister (with a promise that the account should shortly be handed to him) the following quantities, viz.,—

3,432	stamps of	108	paras
1,307	,,	81	,,
5,244	,,	54	,,
2,325	,,	27	,,
12,308			

Therefore, on deducting these numbers from those of the original supply, as ordered, it results that there were issued out of stock—

3,675	stamps of	27	paras
4,756	,,	54	,,
693	,,	81	,,
2,568	,,	108	,,
Total, 11,692			

or rather less than half the supply printed for a year's consumption.

Moldavia.—Post and Diligence Office.—No. 975.

1858, 1st May.

Honoured Chief of the Finance Department,

Besides what has been put in force pursuant to the new postal regulations, and the reform of the diligences, it is absolutely necessary that stamps, of graduated prices, should be issued, conformably to the 4th paragraph of the instructions concerning the transport of letters, which says,—"For the payment of letters there shall be introduced stamps of the value of 27 paras, 54 paras, 81 paras, and 108 paras, *treasury currency*. These stamps shall be sold in the places where revenue stamps are kept, and in the post-offices; the said stamps shall be stuck on the letters, pursuant to the tariff, according to the weight and the distance." This being submitted to the honoured chief of the department, he is requested to arrange for the fabrication and delivery of the stamps in such manner as he may deem best.

(Signed) The Director, V. GRIGORIOU.

Finance Office.—No. 5895.—1858, July 1st.

M. le Secrétaire de l'Atelier du Timbre,

According to the postal and diligence regulations, approved by the Council, and sanctioned by H. E. the Prince Caïmacam, it has been decided that, for the payment of postage, there shall be introduced stamps of the values fixed by the tariffs, after a scale of weight, which are 27, 54, 81, and 108 paras, treasury currency. To that effect the department has had prepared the necessary seals, of the number of *four*, which it sends you, requesting you to make for the present a supply of 24,000 stamps, divided as follows:—

6,000	stamps of	27	paras.
10,000	,,	54	,,
2,000	,,	81	,,
6,000	,,	108	,,

The paper, and other necessary articles for this operation, you will obtain at the post-office, according to the approved specification; you will prepare the prescribed number of stamps in the shortest possible time, and you will deliver them to this department, sending the seals with them.

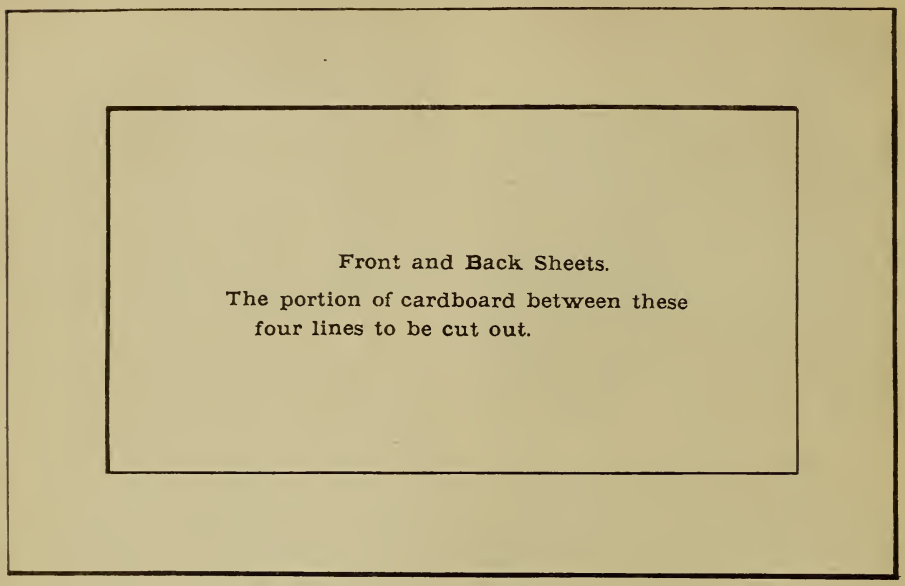
(Signed) The Minister, BALCHE.

Finance Office.—No. 6313.—1858, July 1st.

To the Postal Administration.

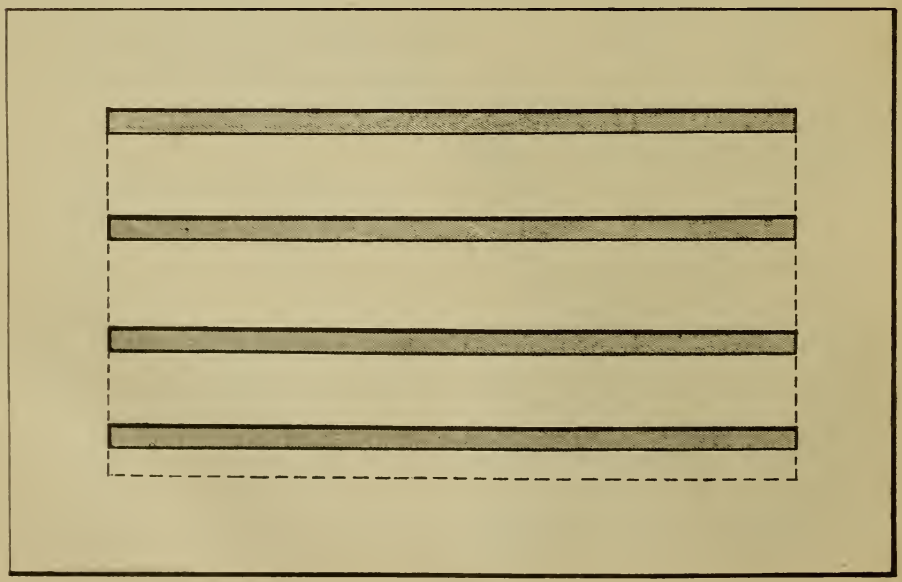
The Secretary of State has communicated (No. 2663) to this department the memorial prepared by Prince Demetrius Cantacuzen, for the accomplishment of the project, which has been found indispensable, relating to the postal and diligence service. The memorial having received the approval of the Administrative Council, and this latter having submitted it to H. E. the Prince Caïmacam, it has been decided, *inter alia*, that stamps of different values shall be issued, to be used by the public for the prepayment of its letters. It has furthermore been decided that the stamps should be printed in the stamp-office, pursuant to the estimate of your administration of the quantity necessary for one year's consumption. According to the report of the Secretary to the

I.



II.

Middle Sheet. Shaded portions to be cut out.



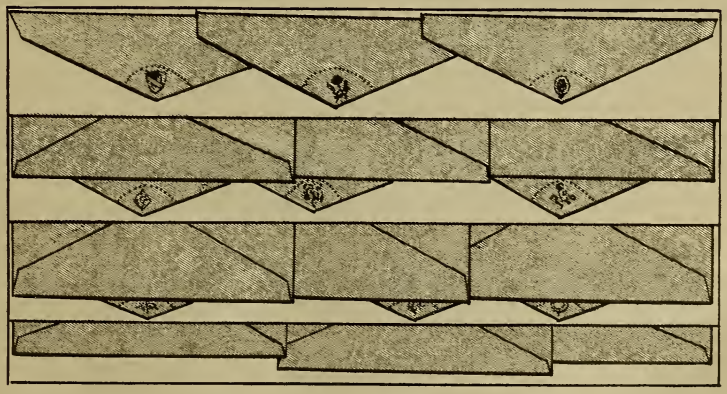
III.

Front view, shewing arrangement of Envelopes.



IV.

Back view.



said office (No. 62), the following stamps have been received, to the number of 5,984, namely,

992	27	para stamps.
992	54	,,
480	81	,,
3,520	108	,,
Total 5,984		

This department transmits them to the post-office, that it may arrange for their employment, conformably to the postal regulations, and the memorial above referred to, beginning on the 15th July instant. The department claims a receipt for the stamps immediately.

(Signed) The Minister, BALCHE.

Post and Diligence Administration.—No. 548.
1859, Feb. 26.—*Jassy.*

To the Hon. the Finance Minister.

On opening the safe of the defunct cashier, Nicholas Costin, there were found the following old and unserviceable stamps, viz.:—

3,432	of the 108	paras
1,307	,, 81	,,
5,244	,, 54	,,
2,325	,, 27	,,
12,308	stamps.	

(say, twelve thousand, three hundred, and eight stamps), which are sent to the hon. minister pending the preparation of the account, which will be submitted to him, and of the reception of which the administration solicits an acknowledgment.

The Postmaster, C. TULBURE.
The Controller, J. BOGDAM.

(To be continued).

PLAN FOR MOUNTING ENVELOPES.

(ILLUSTRATED WITH DIAGRAMS.)

In our impression for June last we inserted an article written by a very enlightened American collector, Mr. Tiffany, and reprinted from our New York contemporary. Towards the end of that article Mr. Tiffany describes his plan for mounting envelopes, and he has since been good enough to prepare for us, at considerable trouble we are sure, a model of a page of his envelopes on a scale of $2\frac{1}{2}$ in. square. This we now reproduce in the four annexed diagrams, as we think it is well worthy of being studied, and a mere written description would not fully convey to the mind the exact method employed.

The mount is composed of three sheets of cardboard, or it would, perhaps, be more correct to say of two frames and a sheet between them. The diagram No. 1 represents (on the same scale as the model) the shape of the back and front sheets; and No. 2, of the middle sheet, which shows four transverse slits. No. 3 gives a front view of the page, whence it will be seen that the rows of envelopes are hung over the successive bars of the middle sheet, and that the bottoms of the envelopes are turned under and kept in their places by the next line. The back view of the sheet further illustrates the arrangement, and at the same time demonstrates the facility it affords for the examination of the flaps. The three sheets are lightly but firmly gummed together by the top and bottom edges; a linen hinge with eyelets at each end runs along the back, and behind all is a fly-sheet of white paper, to preserve the flaps of the envelopes.

This method seems to unite the advantages of extreme neatness, due prominence to the envelopes, and perfect security; besides which the sheets thus arranged would not cause a properly bound book to bulge in the least. It has, it is true, one drawback, which is shared by all the really good methods, viz., that it is expensive to get made, and it would take considerable time to make at home, but the result is well worth the cost or trouble. We do not know how Mr. Tiffany proceeds, but we should think the best plan would be to get two deal boards—one of the size of the rectangle which has to be cut out of the exterior sheets in order to turn them into frames for the middle one, the other with transverse slits in it; it would then only be necessary to lay them on the cards, and cut out accordingly; by this means a considerable number might be prepared in a short space of time. It must be borne in mind that each sheet would be complete in itself, and might be kept in a drawer or portfolio, pending the preparation of a sufficient number to form a volume—if, indeed, it be necessary to bind them.

Postal Delays in India.—A good story comes to us from Kashmir, and, we are sorry to say, a true one. One day no letters were distributed at Srinnugger, and anxious inquirers at the post-office could obtain no information or redress. At length an official circular came round to all the residents, stating that as an English officer had severely thrashed the postmaster that morning, this functionary was disabled by his wounds from discharging his duties, and no letters would be issued until his recovery.—*Calcutta Englishman.*

FIJI AND THE FIJIANS.

BY THE EDITOR.

Not many, perhaps, of our readers as yet have become possessors of specimens of the Fijian stamps; they are still but new and little-known arrivals of very unattractive and almost suspiciously plain appearance, but they form, nevertheless, a veritable emission which has been brought out under the auspices of King Thakombau and his Council, and they are certainly a striking sign of the times.

But a few years back the Fiji group was known only as the abode of a cannibal race, and even now the practice of making away with their enemies piecemeal is still in vogue among the interesting Fijians. Better days, however, are dawning upon the islands, and if their inhabitants can only live through the trying ordeal of civilisation, they may yet take rank with their neighbours of Hawaii as polished Polynesians.

The Fiji islands number two hundred in all, of which the majority are inhabited. The principal one, named Ovalau, is but 1780 miles from Sydney, and is surrounded by a stupendous reef, through which an opening only 500 yards wide leads to the bay on whose beach is built the town of Levuka. The island is remarkably beautiful; craggy ridges rise abruptly from the shore to a height of 2000 feet, clothed with dense vegetation, except where bare peaks and precipices appear among the foliage. As for the town itself, it cannot as yet lay much claim to be considered picturesque or attractive; its most remarkable feature being its hotels, in which the ne'er-do-weels of the settlement gamble away their time, week in week out. There are no streets, properly so called, and sanitary reform is a thing as yet undreamt of, the refuse of the place being thrown out on the beach, which is thus rendered at once unsightly and ill-smelling. Among the other islands the principal are Bau, on which the king usually resides, Vitilevu, and Likuri, all capable of high cultivation, and likely to furnish at no distant period a considerable supply of cotton.

The people, taken altogether, are as rough and barbarous a lot as any enthusiastic philanthropist could wish to try his hand on. Their wants are few; the earth yields sufficient harvest for them without requiring any preliminary tickling with a hoe, and in the waters around fish are always abundant. But this practical immunity from toil brings with it its curse; the white men who go amongst them cannot get them to labour systematically, or for any length of time, and it is to be feared that, like the aborigines of Australia, the race is gradually shrivelling up. The men take but little care of themselves, and are, consequently, a prey to epidemics; whilst the women, in search of fish—a pursuit which is with them a passion—expose themselves at all seasons of the year with the most injurious results. Very frequently for most of the night they are to be found in companies upon the reefs fishing by torchlight, wading, swimming about, and shivering with the cold, and nothing but a sickness which confines them to the house will deter them from their pleasure. The results of these practices are a diminution in the birth rate and an augmentation in the death rate. There are four deaths for every birth. In one district there were ten years ago 800 people; three years ago in the same district the inhabitants could not muster 400. Such startling statistics point the way to certain extinction, if the practices which give rise to them be continued, and the introduction of fire-water is hardly needed to complete the work.

That a people so low in the social scale should possess a king and a constitution must seem at first sight strange, but it finds its explanation in the advent of the white man. There are some three thousand scattered over the islands, and a tenth of their number is congregated at Levuka. The leading men, as a matter of course, have gained an influence over old king Thakombau, and impressed him with the necessity of establishing law and order with their usual accompaniments, taxes. There was a precedent to go by in the establishment of a constitution in the Sandwich Islands; that constitution was accordingly introduced into Fiji some four years ago, and Thakombau crowned king at the same time with much ceremony; but it was never kindly taken to

by the people, and it fell into abeyance. Now it has again been revived, and an executive council of seven formed, five being white settlers and two natives. How it will work remains to be seen, but certainly the Fijian powers that be will have no light work to do, for they will have to govern a people which, it is calculated, are split up into a thousand tribes, each small village of one or two hundred inhabitants usually boasting of two or three, besides which king Thakombau has to count with the whites, who are a formidable and motley set, comprising not a few men who are under a cloud for one reason or another.

The really respectable settlers (merchants and planters) are the greatest support of his authority, and they form the aristocracy of Levuka, the leading men amongst them having each his house of business on the beach and his residence on the hills behind. To know them is accounted an honour, and visitors to the island find in their houses a welcome as hearty and pleasant as it is homely. Behind them, however, come the men who, as our authority for the present description quaintly puts it, have "made themselves conspicuous elsewhere," and who brazen out their claims to a position in Fiji; whilst behind these again comes the crew of lounging adventurers, who always flock to semi-civilized places—men who will not work, and men who would work if they could find employment. Such men as these latter are likely to throw the greatest difficulties in the way of the orderly government of the island. The more reckless among them will probably resist when taxes come to be levied, and a collision and bloodshed may possibly ensue. Besides this, the division of the people into a multitude of tribes destroys the sentiment of nationality, and must be a fruitful source of opposition. It is true that Thakombau has the character of being a shrewd, determined man, and when he appeared before the people of Levuka to publicly announce the formation of the ministry he was attended by a body-guard of fifty-five athletic men, armed with breech-loading rifles; still all his energies will be required if he is to render his authority general and undisputed.

In June last a tribe called the Lavoni, in the interior of Ovalau, was in open rebellion, and the king brought over 600 men from another island to attack them. His troops were victorious, and marched past Manton's hotel, in Levuka, brandishing a human arm and hand at the end of a spear. Whether these were all the fruits of victory does not appear, but it is certain that the war against the Lavoni is carried on in a very slow way. It must not, however, be supposed that the 600 men above referred to represent the sum total of the king's military forces; he is said to have several thousand men under his orders, and it is alleged that the operations against the Lavoni are only intended to mask his preparations for the more serious contest which is likely to take place between him and an ambitious Tonga chief, named Maafu, who rules some of the windward islands. Maafu is believed to cast a longing eye on the richer islands governed by Thakombau, and the latter—quite a barbarian Moltke in his way—concentrates his forces, in anticipation of a declaration of war from his rival.

Such is the latest political bulletin from Fiji, but since it was written we have seen it suggested that, in consequence of the murder of the devoted Bishop Patteson, the Fiji group ought to be annexed by England, and summarily civilised, a course which would probably result in another "little war" of the New Zealand type.

The source of the native distrust, as unhappily exemplified in the occurrence above referred to, is unquestionably the kidnapping which goes on, not only between the various groups of islands and some of our colonies, but also between these said groups and Fiji itself. The planters, finding the Fijians will not work, import labour, and under this cloak the grossest crimes are committed.* And yet in Fiji there is a Scotch-

* One vessel engaged in what is really a slave traffic called at an island where the natives could not be induced to come on board, but they were anxiously looking out for Bishop Patteson. Thereupon the trader stood out to sea, repainted his vessel so as to make her look like the "Southern Cross," constructed a flag like that carried by the latter vessel, and again stood inshore. Some natives then came on board eagerly, were told that Bishop Patteson had met with an accident at another island and were carried off to Fiji.

Since the present article has been in type, news has been received of the murder of several white men engaged in the labour traffic.

man, who, by the simple use of kindness and persuasion, gets more hands than he wants for his plantation, and natives of other islands come over and apply to be taken on before the season commences.

It will now be interesting to watch the progress of Fiji; if its rulers succeed in levelling up their people they will be doing a great and praiseworthy work, for many are the habits and prejudices that will have to be undermined before that happy result can be obtained; among others, that of the vendetta, which obtains as much here as it ever did in the wilds of Corsica. Not merely the man who commits an outrage on another is held responsible, and pursued by the clansmen of the injured man, but his whole tribe are marked out for vengeance and made to expiate his crimes. If the task of civilising be too difficult for the present governors, some European power will have to step in, either England or another, and, at whatever cost, subject the Fijians to the necessary discipline. Meanwhile it is a noticeable fact, from our special philatelic stand-point, that the Fijian Council has thought fit to issue a series of postage stamps, and the emission of *The Fiji Times* set is equally noteworthy. Respecting the latter, we now know that the English consul "superintended" the emission, but we are not in possession of the circumstances connected with the issue of the government series.

We have been able to give some details of the islands and their inhabitants, but the history of the stamps remains to be written.

NOTES ON THE UNITED STATES LOCALS.

BY W. DUDLEY ATLEE.

VI.

EAST RIVER POST OFFICE, NEW YORK.

FROM particulars supplied to me by Mr. Casey, I am able to give the following history of this post. It was established by Messrs. Clark and Wilson, either in 1850 or 1851. An office was opened at 23, Avenue D, and letters were received there for the mails, as well as for city delivery. After being in business for about a year, the original proprietors disposed of their concern to a Mr. Adler, who shortly afterwards removed across the street to number 18, where the post was carried on until some few years since, when the government postal improvements drove Mr. Adler from the field.

At first, letters were simply hand-stamped:—

EAST RIVER
POST OFFICE,
23 AVENUE D

either alone, or in conjunction with PAID in large letters. Sometimes this was struck in red, but more often in black, to judge from the very few known specimens.

Soon after the opening of the post, an adhesive was adopted, and this is of priceless rarity, for I do not believe a single copy is to be found in any collection, either in the States or in Europe. Its very existence seems to have been unknown, for no mention of it has been given in any catalogue or magazine that has appeared from the birth of philately until now.

Mr. Casey has become the fortunate possessor of a fine black proof on card-board of this scarce local, and this is all (for the present, at any rate) that is known to us of the earliest East River postage-stamp. This proof was obtained from Mr. Clark, who discovered it in going through his old papers.

The design consisted of a ship in full sail, within a circle, surrounded by an outer circle, inscribed EAST RIVER P. O. 23 AVENUE D, and with a six-pointed star at each side. Below the waves is the engraver's name, which I refrain from giving, for fear of lending aid to forgers. The stamp appears to be from a wood-block: its execution is very good.

Mr. Clark is unable to recollect the colour in which it was issued, but Mr. Adler is under the impression that it was black on brown paper.

When Messrs. Clark and Wilson sold their business, Mr. Adler had another die prepared for his own use. He gave the commission to Mr. Julius Bien, who lithographed a design of the following description: steam ship, sailing to left, with EAST RIVER P. O. above,

and abreviated address below, all within a transverse single-lined oval. Each stamp divided by line of ruling.

Of the stamp issued at 23, Avenue D, we have two distinctly and separately drawn types, and of the later of these two, there are three slight but marked varieties. From Mr. Bien comes the assurance, that the stones from which these early stamps were printed are undoubtedly destroyed, for which we cannot be too thankful.

The only mention I can find of these "23" stamps is in M. Berger-Levrault's French catalogue, and in *Timbres d'Offices Américains* of Moens, wherein the name is presumably collated from Levrault. This shows how little is known concerning them. As the results of a careful examination, I am now able to give an analytical account of each type emitted by Mr. Adler. They are all printed in black on green surfaced paper, varying from a dull to a much brighter tint.

I.—23 AV. D. Figure 3 with flat head. The whole execution comparatively very fine; and upon the side of vessel a distinct trellis-work pattern. All the letters in upper inscription thin and clear. Funnel of steamer very narrow, not perceptibly larger at its opening, and without any line connecting it with the side of ship. The smoke extends to the mizzen-mast, and is shown by undulating lines, forming under R some resemblance to the letter H. The mizzen-mast slants towards the left, and comes below the space between R and P. Sails are done in outline only. The flag has no perceptible staff, except the line uniting it with the stern; it is entirely unshaded, and almost a true oblong rectangle, broken in the lower line. The sea reaches on the right to a level with the end of flag, and on the left to level of the ship's bow. On the right it is shown by six horizontal lines, with an oblique line touching the ends of the four upper, and going through the two lower horizontal ones. There is less space between RIVER and P.O. than between EAST and RIVER. The top of the first R is small, and badly proportioned; second R is better shaped, but the tail comes below the line. This type is a little larger than any of its successors.

II., *a*.—23. AV. D. Figure 3, with rounded head. The execution much poorer than in I. Side of ship has a solid appearance, but, with a glass, faint traces of the trellis pattern may be discerned. Funnel of ship thick, and with well-defined mouth, smoke from which is composed of dots, extending to and curling upwards beyond O. There is an oblique line running from the left of funnel to the side of ship. The mizzen-mast is straight, and comes to a level with the second R in RIVER. Some of the sails are shaded. Flag more or less solid, curling downwards to a point, and fixed just below the head of staff. The sea extends on the right some distance past the flag and almost to side of oval; it is shown by matted lines with two wavy lines beneath. On the left it is represented by six long wavy lines, and one short one, all at about equal distance from the frame. Upper letters are thick, and the first four of RIVER huddled together. Between RIVER and P. there is more space than between EAST and RIVER. In EAST the S is large and misshaped above, giving T the appearance of being lower than the other letters.

II., *b*.—23.. AV. D. Two dots after 23, otherwise a worn state of *a*, showing absence of bottom stroke to the T in EAST.

II., *c*.—23. AV D. No dot after AV. Evidently *b* touched up, without much improvement. S and T of EAST uniform.

III.—18 AVE. D. Still poorer in every detail. Keel of ship solid, with seven port-holes on left side of paddle-box, and six on right. Funnel not so thick as in II., but thicker than in I.; mouthpiece scarcely distinguishable. Smoke represented by flaky lines, reaching to below the period after O. A line from funnel to the side of vessel, but specimens are known, in which, through wear of the stone, this line is absent. The mizzen-mast is straight, and comes under the first stroke of R. Some of the sails are shaded, and those on the mizzen-mast seem to be furled. The flag is solid near the staff, and seemingly shaded towards the point, which is an acute one. In most copies, through heavy printing, the entire flag appears solid: it is fixed about half way down the staff. The sea extends, on both sides,

almost to the oval. It is very indistinct; but appears to consist of wavy lines on the left, and matted lines on right. Upper inscription of rather finer letters than in II. First R with small top; second better proportioned; S deeper than the other letters. The space between EAST and RIVER is a little more than between RIVER and P. This type is the smallest of the three.

Forgeries.—I believe that counterfeits exist of the "18" type only. Those I have seen have no line connecting the funnel of the steamer with the side, and are much too clearly drawn.

I know of two varieties of these impostures: in one the paddle-box is very distinct, and shows six wedge-shaped solid pieces. There are ten port-holes on the left side, and five on the right. The flag has a solid square of shading in the upper portion next the staff. No dot after AVE.

In the second imitation, the paddle-box resembles the section of half an orange. On the left are ten port-holes; on the right, six. There is a dot after AVE, and the flag is as in the previously named forgery.

REVIEWS OF POSTAL PUBLICATIONS.

The Philatelical Journal. Birmingham: JAMES R. GRANT & CO.

THIS journal, of which the first number lies before us, is brought out by a newly-established firm of stamp dealers, and edited by our old friend, Mr. E. L. Pemberton. His name in connection with it is a guarantee that the new comer will be properly and spiritedly conducted, and of this the opening number gives fair promise. It is well written and well printed, and we cordially welcome it as a *confrère*.

The programme with which it opens, gives, as its *raison d'être*, that it will be published on the 15th of every month, and thus break the void between the old-established magazines. This is not, perhaps, a very powerful reason, for no apology of the kind is really needed for a publication whose excellence will be its best justification; but we must not bear too hard on a programme, which everyone knows is a most difficult thing to write.

Among the other temptations which it offers to philatelists is that of publishing the illustrations of the stamps in their proper colours, following, in this matter, the example of the *American Journal of Philately*, and, especially for very rare and unattainable stamps, these coloured engravings will, no doubt, be found useful, if only the exact tint of the real stamps can be reproduced. Then our "young" friend proposes "to give monthly, under the title of 'Cream of the Magazines,' a MOST IMPORTANT condensation of the contents of ALL the leading stamp papers, so that its subscribers get the benefit of everything published elsewhere." We confess we feel gratified at this adoption of the plan we have for the last three years carried out in our pages, in the articles entitled "Our Contemporaries," for we have always believed that such articles, in which matters of varying importance can be conversationally discussed in a few sentences, are extremely useful, whilst the interchange of criticism acts as a corrective on every journal concerned. We are glad, indeed, to see the system taking root, and to see our Birmingham *confrère* putting forward his "cream" as a valuable article; but, in so doing, it affords to this magazine the means of offering a superior attraction. Its speciality will be the *cream* of the magazines, but, as we, in "Our Contemporaries," shall be able to review *The Philatelical Journal*, as well as all the other leading stamp papers, *we* can offer *la crême de la crême*.

Now, passing from the programme, we come to the first article, which, as it would not have been difficult to predict, is by the editor, and treats of forgeries, and how to detect them. Mr. Pemberton has taken the highest honours in forgery-detection, and whatever he writes upon the subject is of value. This latest effort of his is written with his usual freshness and *verve*, and the division of forgeries into classes will admit of unusual brevity in the descriptions.

In the "Cream of the Magazines," *The Stamp-Collector's Magazine* "comes to the top," but only to be the object of some good-humoured criticism on the absence of any means of ascertaining the dates of the separate numbers when they are bound.

This is a little matter which our publishers will no doubt set right.

We are glad to find that *The Phil. Journal* (we *must* abbreviate) agrees with us about the German field-post cards. Our Brighton contemporary stands up for them on strictly logical grounds;—they are postal, therefore they ought to be collected. But, says our new *confrère*, "It is a penance to gaze on them to anyone with the *slightest* taste for art;" and though purists may cry out, in that observation lies the gist of the matter. These field-post cards have come in their tens and their twenties—had there been only one or two it wouldn't have mattered much—and they come from one of the foremost of European countries. One might have accepted them from Madagascar, as an interesting evidence of social progress, and carefully noted them; but from a European state one expects something better, something worthy of the country which issues them, and the incongruity so impresses one as to lead to the reflection—if that's all that Germany chooses to offer, then, coming from her, they are not worth collecting.

In the same connection, towards the end of the article, occur the following remarks respecting Dr. Magnus' monograph in *Le Timbre-Poste*:—

> Dr. Magnus gives us more of the entire envelope business; taking Bavaria in this number, he exhibits a wonderful amount of care, and a wearisome amount of verbosity, quite inseparable from the subject, of course (the care, not the verbosity); but, really, these interminable lists and dissections of field-post envelopes become, like a dietary of boiled veal, just a little monotonous, and after a few months of either, we should feel inclined to express our intention of being buried shortly, if the thing went on. Far be it from us to contradict any statement of Dr. Magnus, or to ridicule anything he writes in his own earnest and scientific manner, for so long as he writes on STAMPS, so long shall we be delighted to republish, but lists of these ridiculous field-post envelopes are more than we can stand; they are a waste of time to examine, chronicle, or collect.

This is a frank outspoken protest, in which we need hardly say we quite coincide.

Following this article comes "Novelties, Discoveries, and Resuscitations," and then, "The Stamps of La Guaira," by the Rev. R. B. Earée, after which appears "Our Black List." In this list, Mr. Atlee, following the system we are proud to have inaugurated, exposes no less than fifteen dealers in forged stamps; or rather, we should say, fifteen addresses, for they appear to be shared amongst some five or six dealers. The Hull "merchants" and Mr. Thompson, of Glasgow, whose doings we lately discussed, are among the number. With Mr. Thompson are mentioned four other dealers:—

C. T. ROBINSON, Garnet Hill Street,
C. H. HILL, Gordon Street,
JOHNSON & EWING, Elderslie Place,
J. BELL GORDON, 181, Crown Street,
} Glasgow.

They all send out the same kind of sheets; each of the five sheets is numbered and priced by the same hand, and *the writing on each directed envelope is identical.*

We are glad of such an able colleague as Mr. Atlee, the writer of the "black list," in the work of exposing the sellers of forgeries, and he may at all times count on our assistance.

"Reviews," "*Facetiæ Philatelicæ*," and "Correspondence" conclude the number. The *facetiæ*, entitled "Our Visit to a Bung and Gargle Label Store," is a clever hit at our American friends, though slightly strained. The correspondence consists of a very curious letter from the States, received by the editor, which is either a good satire or a bad attempt to swindle, in connection with pretended discoveries of Confederate locals.

We have now exhausted our allotted space. We give our new *confrère* kindly greeting; we shall be looking out for him about the 15th February, and we have no doubt many of our readers will be on the look out also.

CORRESPONDENCE.

POSTAL TELEGRAPH CARDS.

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

SIR,—Some of your readers may be glad to learn that a postal telegraph card is to be issued. It will be about the same size as an ordinary post card, of a dark buff colour, with an olive-green embossed shilling stamp (like that issued in 1847) in the left upper corner, and twenty spaces in which to write the message. On the back are printed directions for use, &c. By keeping a stock of these cards, one can write a telegram at any time after the post-office is closed, and slip it into a pillar-box, which being cleared the first thing in the morning, the telegram will be copied at the post-office and sent off to its destination at once.

Your obediently,

Forest Hill. W. J. H.

RUSSIAN LOCALS.—VALDAI.

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

DEAR SIR,—In the January number of your magazine I saw described and illustrated the Russian local stamp of Valdai, which, being divided by a line into two halves, shows in the left one a crown, and in the right a peak. You say further, in the course of its description, "The label hints at the existence of a mountain; what and where is that mountain?" You are perfectly right in asking that question. The mountains do exist, and bear the same name as the small town of Valdai and its district, whence the above stamp comes. The Valdai mountains, about 200 English miles long, 50 miles wide, situated in the south-eastern part of the "gouvernement," or county, of Novgorod, are the highest elevations in Russia Proper, and it is there that the Volga, Duna, Dnieper, and other rivers, take their source.

The peak on that label may therefore be an intimation of the geographical feature of the country, or probably the crown, together with the peak, may represent the coat of arms of that small town, or rather the district of Valdai.

I shall try to get some more information as to these Russian locals, which, when obtained, I shall be glad to communicate to you, if desirable.

Trusting these remarks may prove of some use,
I remain, dear Sir,
Yours very truly,
Liverpool. JOHN SIEWERT.

[Another correspondent writes us that "the Valdai hills are about 1200 feet in height, and, with the exception of the Ural Mountains, and a few eminences in the Crimea, are almost the only hills in European Russia; they have therefore attracted more attention than they would have received in a less flat country."—ED.]

ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS.

W. E. C., Matlock Bank.—Many thanks for information respecting the New Zealand stamps in the new colours.

C. M., Plymouth.—All the large sixpenny New South Wales are from the same dies, or casts, but there are great differences in the execution.

W. H. D., Great Grimsby.—The fact that the vermilion penny Nevis were not from the same die as the old lake-red has been duly noticed.

W. E. H., Grantham.—We are obliged for manuscript copy of your communication to *The Philatelist* (of January), respecting the Trinidad too-late stamps.

H. W., London.—We do not remember having heard that it is the intention of the Indian government to adopt the decimal system, though we should not be surprised if such were the case, but no step in that direction has yet been taken.

J. K. L., Cork, asks us to explain how two Wells Fargo, & Co.'s envelopes, which he found in an Irish country town, could have got there. It is a difficult question, but we should think that some one who had been in California, and had received them, brought them over.

B. H., Braintree.—Your provisional 9d. Victorian was noticed at p. 104 of our last volume; the provisional South Australia 3d. has also been duly catalogued.—The British Guiana, on watermarked paper, are accepted by all collectors.—No argument is needed to prove that the head on the current Sarawak stamp is that of the present Rajah; it is a known fact.

A. W. S.—The very coarsely lithographed 20 c. republic, blue, respecting which you are in doubt, is quite genuine, though but few of this variety are to be found. We had a portion of a sheet, purchased at a French post-office, of which all the stamps were like yours; and the very first specimen of the lithographed series that we saw was one of this kind, which we received on a letter from Laval.

W. V., Alston, Cumb.—This gentleman has been a subscriber to our magazine *from its commencement;* and, on remitting our publishers his subscription for the present year, he is kind enough to express his satisfaction at its appearance. He also encloses a letter on the different album systems, which we shall have pleasure in reproducing in our next. Our old friend may rely upon our publishers introducing, as often as possible, illustrations of rarities, such as those of the Californian envelopes in our December number, with which he, and many other of our readers, were pleased.

JAS. N. R., Scarborough.—The translation from the *Opinion Nationale*, which you are good enough to send, is, in effect, the same as we published in our January number.—The design described in our July number cannot really have been used in Lorraine, *malgré* the assertion of the war correspondent to whom you refer.—The black penny South African Republic was noticed on page 80 of our last volume; but we must plead guilty to having omitted to notice the lilac Rigi-Scheideck.—We have handed your Admiralty frank stamp to Mr. Atlee.—Your English 4d., with inverted garter, is also mentioned by another correspondent this month.—Your information that the broad-arrow obliteration on the post cards is used exclusively at St. Martin's-le-Grand, the notch in the side of the card by the Manchester office, and the round hole punched in the centre stamp by that of Bradford, is new and interesting. Your observation that the date-stamp is nearly always struck over the stamp, and is unaccompanied with the second obliterating stamp, with number and bars, is also worthy of note. No doubt the cards are sorted and postmarked apart from the others, only the date-stamps, the more important of the two, being used for the cancellation.

B. del C., Torquay.—We attach no value whatever to your "Lorin" 5 c. stamp, supposed to have been issued by a private office, during the reign of the Commune, even though offered for sale by M. Maury. Private offices did exist, and did a fair stroke of business, but not enough to *necessitate* stamps. The proprietors would not go to the expense of printing them, whilst they could get on so well without them, especially as they could not tell, from day to day, how soon the insurrection might cease. We saw a good many office-proprietor's advertisements in the French papers, and placards on French walls, during the Commune, and, in none of them, was it ever a question of employing stamps. No offices were opened in the provinces for the sale of such stamps, the government would not have allowed it, and in Paris the postal service was performed by the Communist authorities. In M. Maury's circular, offering private-office labels, among others, there are three chiffre-taxe stamps—as if a regular system of postage had been elaborated by the issuers! Had any stamps really been issued, they would be very rare now, and the facial values also would have been high, for the service they would have been supposed to purchase was a risky one; but the facial value of those offered by Maury varies from 5 to 50 centimes, and the present selling price from 10 to 75 centimes. The stamp you send has, to us, every appearance of being as much got up to deceive collectors as the Hamburg labels, and we hope that, though they may find a place in the albums of Lallier and Maury, all English collectors will have the sense to reject them.

NOTES ON THE LOCALS OF CALIFORNIA AND THE WESTERN STATES OF AMERICA.

II.

BY EDWARD L. PEMBERTON.

(*Continued from vol.* ix., *p.* 182.)

It is difficult to make a commencement, or to lay down any plan of arrangement, but it appears to me equally impracticable to describe alphabetically or chronologically; the latter my knowledge will not permit me to do, whilst the former cannot be done completely, owing to fresh information of defunct expresses continually arriving. As these franks are at once divisible into, 1st, handstamped; 2nd, type set, or engraved; 3rd, adhesive; I cannot see a better plan than to follow this simple and natural classification. There are great diversities of opinion as to the postal value of many of the earlier handstamps, so when I have described what are known, I shall throw all the light I can upon their character; meanwhile it is my opinion that they are perfectly collectable, for of the postal nature of the majority there seems no doubt; they were made to answer a sudden want, and their plainness does not militate against them in the least.

The handstamped franks are nearly exclusively confined to the earliest years of San Francisco's existence, and are, consequently, mostly to be found on letter-sheets and plain envelopes, before the introduction of embossed envelopes, and before the government rights as to the transmission of mail matters *appear* to have been properly settled or understood; but in this latter idea, I may be mistaken. Mr. Lomler, Mrs. Craig, and other friends in California, have given me extracts from the advertisements of their oldest newspapers, which are of extreme value, and which bring before our notice numerous expresses of whose existence hardly any collector was aware, and of whose franks there are no known specimens in many cases. The value of such notes must be apparent to all philatelists, and I trust that collectors possessing information, or specimens unknown to me—and these are most certain contingencies—will have the kindness to assist me, or to add to my stock of laboriously acquired facts. It is very difficult for me, so far away from the birthplace of these scarce old locals, to elicit information. Persons sending me specimens seem to imagine that no more can be desired, so there are many things I cannot describe in these papers, because I have no means of authenticating them, and fear to "put my foot in it," to use an expressive vulgarism. As instances of what I mean, I may particularize by name *M. P. Freeman's Pony Express*, and *Langton's Nevada Mail and Express Company*, both on 1864 envelopes, and quite unauthenticated, though pretty well known.

There are no exhaustive monographs on these locals to be found in the American magazines, and the only list ever published by anyone but the writer is in *The American Journal of Philately*, copied from the *Curiosity Cabinet* of last August. As a specimen of how an American editor can spell the names of indigenous expresses, this list shows merit. Taking a fair average, not more than twenty per cent. of the names are spelt wrongly (I don't reckon errors of technical description at all in this calculation). I have only to say, that when a man is reading Russian, he knows what to expect, and nothing will surprise him, but when he comes to the American journals on Western Locals, there ought to be no orthographical vagaries: one might stand vermilion with "ll", but not the following American renderings of nineteen names in their own States:—

Atla	should be	Alta.
Dougherty	,,	Doherty.
Downie Villa	,,	Downieville.
Evarts (twice over)	,,	Everts.
Grant & Taggart	,,	Grant I. Taggart.
Lotta	,,	Latta's.
Los Angelos	,,	Los Angeles.
Nicols	,,	Nichols.
Oregan	,,	Oregon.
Perce's	,,	Perces.
Pescadora (twice over)	,,	Pescadero.
Pescadoro	,,	
Tale	,,	Yale.
Thomas	,,	Thomes.
Tibbetts	,,	Tibbett's.
Tracey	,,	Tracy.
S. I. R. (Trumans)	,,	S. J. R.
Vancouver's	,,	Vancouver.
Wand & Davies	,,	Mead & Davis.

From this sample the student may judge that there is not much to be learnt from this list; errors in description of locals, formerly described by me from hearsay, are righteously copied, though without acknowledgment.

The following dates and names of earliest expresses are from information received in many cases from the original proprietors:—

July, 1849.	Todd & Bryan.
Sept., ,,	Hawley & Co.
Nov., ,,	Berford & Co.
	Adams & Co.
	Gregory & Co.
	Lount & Co.
	Craik's Express.
May, 1850.	Brown's Express.
	Reynold's Express.
	Todd & Co.
Nov., 1850.	Oram, Rogers, & Co.
	Hunter & Co.
	Bowers & Co.
	Langton & Co.
Oct., 1851.	Newell & Co.
	Reynolds, Todd, & Co.
April, 1852.	Todd's Express.

The following expresses are advertised in papers of the annexed dates, and I am indebted to Mr. Lomler for the information:—

Winter & Latimer,	Jan., 1850.
Angle & Co.,	May, ,,
West & Co.,	Aug., ,,
Dodge & Co.,	Nov., ,,
Mumby & Co.,	May, 1851.
Rhodes & Lusk,	April, 1852.
Anthony & Co.,	March, 1853.
W. F. Here,	End, 1853.
J. W. Hoag,	Oct., 1855.

In addition to the above, I have to add the following, which appear handstamped on plain envelopes:—

Palmer & Co.
Blake's Express.
Rumrill & Co.
Wine's Express.

I have only seen the first.

After this date printed franks became more numerous, and will be described in their due order.

In that very valuable work, *The Annals of San Francisco*, page 200, we find in the chronicle for 1848 the following item:

April 1st.—The "California Star Express" left San Francisco, to proceed overland to Independence, Mo. The passage was guaranteed to be accomplished in sixty days. Fifty cents was charged as the postage on single letters.

The title of this Express appears to have been copied from a paper of the same name. It is not improbable that the Express itself was established by the proprietors of the journal. The men who possessed enterprise enough to start a paper in the then insignificant Mexican town, are likely also to have perceived the necessity of initiating some means of communication with the States. Their newspaper, *The California Star*, was almost the earliest published in California; the first number was issued January 7, 1847, and it appeared every Saturday. It was published by Mr. Samuel Brannan, and edited by Dr. E. P. Jones. The very first newspaper published in English, or indeed in any other language, in the State, was *The Californian*, also a weekly issue, which was started August 15, 1846, and published at Monterey, by Messrs. Colton and Semple; Commodore Stockton, however, was its originator. As a specimen of the difficulties experienced in getting out their paper, the proprietors give the following explanatory and apologetic note for its rude appearance on one occasion, which we copy literally.

Our Alphabet.—Our type is a spanish font, picked up here in a cloister, and has no VV's in it, as there is none in the spanish alphabet. I have sent to the sandvvich Islands for this letter; in the meantime vve must use tvvo V's. Our paper at present is that used for vvrapping segars; in due time vve vvill have something better: our object is to establise a press in California, and this vve shall in all probability be able to accomplish. The absence of my partner for the last three months and my buties as Alcadd here have dedrived our little paper of some of those attentions vvhich I hope it vvill hereafter receive.

VValter Colton.

This is rather a digression, but will show our readers the extreme primitiveness of everything in those early days of San Francisco. In the latter part of June, 1847, the population of the city was but 459; and, until the 30th of January, 1847, the town held its old local Spanish name of Yerba Buena, signifying *mint*, great quantities of which herb grew about the spot. "The name of so insignificant an herb for the rising city being, perhaps, judged not sufficiently imposing, it was changed into San Francisco, by an ordinance of the three alcaldes of the place; and under this last designation it has been alone known to the

world at large." To revert to the *California Star Express:* it is the opinion of my San Francisco friends that there is some sort of a mistake about it, and, at all events, as it ran before California was formally ceded to the States, it was on a different footing to the other express companies, and, *most probably*, had no frank of its own. Perhaps some of our Californian readers can find a trace of this old express in the file of the two earliest papers.

It is difficult for Europeans to properly understand the enterprise of such men as Mr. Samuel Brannan, Commodore Stockton, and others, in establishing a press in California, or of Mr. Todd in commencing the Express business, but the civilising effects, and the wondrous changes that they have assisted to bring about in that magnificent territory, should be matters of history.

In April, 1847, we read, "Semi-monthly mails established between San Diego and intermediate places."

And now we come to the time when San Francisco began to attract attention in the States, and we find the following intelligence in the above-quoted work.

On February 28th, 1849, the steamship *California*, being the first of the line of mail steamers along the coast, arrived. March 31st, Col. Geary had been appointed postmaster for San Francisco, with powers to create post-offices, and appoint postmasters throughout the territory; also to establish mail routes, and make contracts for carrying the mails. He brought with him *the first regular mail from the Atlantic States that was opened in San Francisco.*

That is all the information we can glean from *The Annals* as to postal matters, and as altogether nearly forty thousand immigrants landed in San Francisco during 1849, it will not cause surprise that many expresses sprung into existence when the public arrangements for the conveyance of letters, &c., were so inadequate. These we now proceed to discuss.

First Part. Handstamped Franks, on plain Envelopes, without paying Government Tax. Collectable at option.

We must commence, we suppose, with the earliest express in operation after California was formally recognised as part of the Union, and, therefore, ignore the *California Star Express* in this connection.

Todd & Bryan's Express.—In July, 1849, Messrs. A. H. Todd and Benjamin Bryan conceived the idea of starting an express between San Francisco and the Southern mines, for the purpose of taking all letters from the post-office (the only office in California being Col. Geary's, in San Francisco), and delivering them to the miners, at the then so-called moderate rate of 8, 12, or even 16 dollars each; and the happy recipients of these favours were so pleased to have news from home, that they often insisted on the express agent taking a lump of gold, worth much more, in payment. Often one of the proprietors had (after a hard day's riding, swimming rivers, and bringing the mail in at the peril of his life) to be called on, by diggers who could not write, to answer their letters, receiving in return 50 dollars for the service! Such sums appear to us almost fabulous; but dip into *The Annals*, and this remuneration is nothing; on page 367 we read that an egg was worth 1 dollar, and common iron tacks, of the smallest size, sold for their weight in gold; and, for a long period, were in request at from five to ten dollars *an ounce!* Everything that was really useful and needed in those earlier days commanded the most astonishing prices; the supply of necessaries was limited, and the demand great, while money was suddenly plentiful.

From carrying letters, the business of Todd and Bryan soon became a large one, and extended itself to transporting treasure, packages, &c., and many thousands of dollars were weekly sent to all parts of the world. Mr. Todd is now called the "pioneer expressman of California," a name which he undoubtedly deserves. This paper would be quite incomplete without an acknowledgment of the extreme courtesy with which he has given every information in his power, information here embodied which few persons were so competent to supply, and which few would have taken the trouble to impart. As the name of Mr. Todd is mixed up in the constitution of four distinct expresses, we had better take the other companies, into which Todd's name afterwards extended, and go through all their ramifications.

In September, 1849, two gentlemen—

named, respectively, Hawley and Spear—seeing what a good business Todd & Bryan were doing, followed suit, from Sacramento, calling themselves Hawley & Co.'s express. Shortly afterwards, other companies sprang rapidly into existence; the population was so increasing, and communication was so undeveloped, that we must not wonder at the quantity of names, all of which represented flourishing expresses.

The expresses through which the name of Mr. Todd runs, and with which it is connected, are the following:—

July, 1849,	Todd & Bryan.
May, 1850,	Todd & Co.
	Brown's Express.
	Reynold's Express.
Oct. 3, 1851,	Newell & Co.
	Reynolds, Todd, & Co.
April 22, 1852,	Todd's Express.

MAY, 1850, TODD & Co.—About this time Messrs. A. H. Todd & B. Bryan dissolved partnership, and A. H. Todd entered into partnership with L. W. Newell and E. W. Colt, and carried all express matters under the name above. The only handstamp we have seen is a large oval, simply inscribed FORWARDED BY TODD & CO.'S EXPRESS, STOCKTON.

MAY, 1850, BROWN'S EXPRESS.—From a paper of this date we extract the following advertisement:—

BROWN'S EXPRESS.—This Express will hereafter connect with Todd & Co., through them with Adams & Co. to the States and Europe.

Persons wishing to send letters or packages to any mines on the Mokelumne or Calaveras rivers, and Murphy's, Angel's, and Carson's diggings, can send daily through this Express, by leaving their letters at the office of Todd & Co., Stockton and San Francisco.

MAY, 1850, REYNOLDS & Co.'s EXPRESS.—The proprietors of this express were Angerine Reynolds, Aug. S. Reynolds, and J. D. P. Wilkins. They started about this date, and ran from San Francisco to Stockton, Sonora, and the southern mines. The only handstamp we have seen is one similar to Todd & Co.'s, but a double oval, with name of town in centre. They ran in connection with Todd & Co., until a notice, dated June 14, 1851, tells us that their connection with that company having ceased, they had made arrangements to run a daily express through from San Francisco to Stockton, &c., on their own account.

OCT. 3, 1851. NEWELL & Co.—From a paper of this date we hear of the dissolution of the firm of Todd & Co.; this is the advertisement:—

Stockton, Southern Mines and Oregon.

NEWELL & CO.'S EXPRESS.

The undersigned, formerly partners in the firm of Todd & Co., having purchased the interest of Mr. A. H. Todd in the said firm, will continue the Express business under the name and style of NEWELL & CO.

We shall continue to draw, in Stockton and Sonora, Bills of Exchange upon Adams & Co., payable in all the principal cities of the Union.

Also, to receipt through to the States for packages by their express.

No *other Firm in Stockton or the Southern Mines* being authorised to do the same.

Our Express between San Francisco, Stockton, Oregon, and the Southern Mines, will be continued as usual.

L. W. NEWELL,
E. W. COLT.

NEWELL & Co. are authorised to draw Bills of Exchange on any of our houses in the Atlantic States.

ADAMS & CO.

We have not seen any frank of this express company. Mr. A. H. Todd now joined the firm of Reynolds & Co., mentioned above, and in a paper of the above date is a notice of the new firm, viz.:—

OCT. 3, 1851, REYNOLDS, TODD, & Co.—Their advertisement says that "Mr. A. H. Todd, formerly the senior partner in the firm of Todd & Co., is now one of the partners in the firm of Reynolds, Todd, & Co." They ran a daily express from San Francisco to Stockton, Sonora, Moquelumne Hill, and all parts of the southern mines. About this time they purchased out Brown's Express. Their handstamp is a large oval, of the usual type, with name of issuing town in the lower edge.

APRIL 22, 1852, TODD'S EXPRESS.—The following was their first advertisement:—

TODD'S EXPRESS.—C. A. TODD, Proprietor, successor to Reynolds, Todd & Co.—On and after this date, C. A. TODD will run a Daily Express to Stockton, Sonora, Columbia Mariposa, Agua Frio, Quartzburg, Double Springs, Moquelumne Hill, and all parts of the Southern Mines.

Gold Dust, Specie, valuable Packages, &c., &c., received and forwarded. Notes, Accounts, &c., collected, and all business pertaining to an Express promptly attended to.

A Stage will leave the office on the Levee at Stockton daily, for each of the above-named places.

C. A. Todd having purchased the business together with the good-will of the late firm of Reynolds, Todd & Co., would respectfully solicit a continuance of the patronage heretofore so liberally bestowed upon the old firm, and trusts by strict attention to his business to merit the same.

Office in San Francisco with Joseph W. Gregory, corner of Merchant and Montgomery sts. C. A. TODD.

San Francisco, April 22, 1852.

It will be observed that the original partners—the two Reynolds, J. D. P. Wilkins, and A. H. Todd—were all bought out by C. A. Todd, of this last *Todd's Express*. There are two handstamps, one an upright octagon, with four short angles, lettered FROM TODD'S EXPRESS OFFICE, SONORA; the other is the usual transverse oval, FORWARDED BY TODD'S EXPRESS, with name of

issuing town or office; PAID on these and on all the others is invariably struck away from the handstamp. This express had an independent existence until September 1st, 1853, when it was bought out by Wells, Fargo, & Co., and after then we hear no more of Todd in connection with express companies. We annex the public notice, to render the matter complete.

EXPRESS NOTICE.—The undersigned, proprietor of TODD'S EXPRESS, has sold out his entire interest therein, together with the good-will of the same, to WELLS, FARGO & CO., and commend them to the favour and patronage of his friends and the public generally.

C. A. TODD.

San Francisco, Sept. 1st, 1853.

WELLS, FARGO & CO.

SOUTHERN EXPRESS.

Mr. TODD having disposed of his interest in the SOUTHERN EXPRESS to us, we shall run a DAILY EXPRESS to and from SAN FRANCISCO, STOCKTON, SONORA, COLUMBIA, MURPHEY'S FLAT, and MOKELUMNE HILL.

Connecting with a Daily Express at Stockton, for Mt. OPHIR and MARIPOSA.

A special messenger is sent from San Francisco to Columbia.

WELLS, FARGO & Co.,
114, Montgomery st.

Thus out of the seven expresses mentioned, six of them were gradually absorbed, till at last their business fell into the hands of Wells, Fargo, & Co.; the only one which appears to have had a separate existence being *Newell & Co.'s*, but we have no further notes to offer respecting them.

(*To be continued*).

OUR CONTEMPORARIES.

Le Timbre-Poste.—The October number contains an analysis of Dr. Magnus' arguments respecting certain stamps of the Philippines, and in the succeeding number appears the learned doctor's reply. We have not yet had time to go into the matter ourselves, but we hope shortly to lay before our readers a *resumé* of the disputants' views; more especially, as in a former volume of this magazine we gave a literal translation of Dr. Magnus' original paper on the stamps in question.

In the October number there also appears a readable article on the Luxembourg stamps, and an instalment of Dr. Magnus' monograph on envelope stamps. On glancing over this latter, we are gratified to observe that the doctor's verdict on the field-post envelopes with lithographed sketches on the front, is, that they are but of very mediocre interest, and should be placed in the same category with the illustrated envelopes of this country; by which he no doubt intends to allude to the fantastic Ocean Penny Postage vignettes. In the December number Dr. Magnus states that the value on the Bavarian envelope has never been written otherwise than *drey*,—therein confirming the general belief. He also notices the handsome Bavarian envelope essays which appeared some six years ago, and were thought to possess a certain value. The doctor's impression respecting them is, that though they probably were submitted to the Bavarian administration, they were unquestionably struck off in quantities for speculative purposes after their rejection.

Our friend, Senor M. P. de Figueroa, sends for the December number of *Le Timbre-Poste*, a copy of a Spanish postal circular of the 13th August, 1857, in which the distinctive features of a forged 4 cuartos stamp then in circulation in the province of Almeira, are given with a minuteness worthy of our own writers on forgeries; and Senor de Figueroa states that that circular is but one among many similar ones. What a strange mania Spaniards seem to have for forging stamps! What invaluable assistants some of the more skilful would doubtless prove to the enterprising Messrs. Spiro! and what price might they not obtain for their services from some of the Glasgow counterfeit sellers, whose names we recently gave! It is, in sober truth, surprising that the Spanish government did not long ago perceive that the best way to stop forging would be to issue stamps so finely engraved as not to be imitated, except at great cost. The present administration, however, appears to have at last appreciated this fact.

The possessor of one of the finest collections in the world,—Baron Arthur de Rothschild,—contributes to the January number of our Belgian contemporary an article, detailing a scheme submitted to our government by a Mr. Samuel Forrester, in 1839, for the issue of postage stamps. It is a curious and a cumbrous scheme, hardly, however, worth the trouble of disinterring from among the piles of similar documents which found their way to the treasury or the post-office when postal reform was first

agitated. Three engravings of proposed impressed stamps illustrate M. de Rothschild's article, and he is the possessor of the three unique originals.

The Philatelist.—In the December number, the most remarkable item is a paper on Unused Confederate Locals, in which due warning is given to collectors of the unscrupulous mode in which American dealers—even those who lay claim to respectability—deal with the supplies of unused old locals which they hunt out or reprint. They are, in the first instance, represented as almost unique, and sold at abnormally high prices, and are then put on the market by hundreds. Certainly, Brother Jonathan is very sharp, but his fine appreciation of the excellence of thorough honesty and truthfulness, like his acquaintance with the English grammar, is in an embryonic state.

The January number contains nothing of note, except the always valuable Spud Paper, and an article on Philatelic Literature, in the course of which Mr. Overy Taylor's labour in the fifth edition of Gray's catalogue is very warmly and generously acknowledged. We believe that edition will soon be quite out of print, and a sixth will certainly be called for.

In the last number we are glad to observe that space is accorded to an article similar in purport to the one we are now writing, under the heading of "The Philatelic Press." The author, who is known for his catholic proclivities in reference to stamps, appears to have a leaning in favour of the revenue labels of the United States; we venture to hope, however, without disrespect to him, that collectors will double clasp their albums against the whole tribe.

Mason's Coin and Stamp-Collector's Magazine has at length dropped out of the ranks of the philatelic press, leaving unfinished a paper commenced in its November number, entitled "Philately Considered as a Moral Agent." Henceforth it will treat exclusively of coins.

The American Journal of Philately commenced its fifth volume in January. About half the January number (six pages) is composed of reprints, and the remaining contents are totally uninteresting. Half of the February number is also filled with reprints; including among them a paper, "On the Origin and Progress of Postage Stamps," contributed by Mr. Edwin Hill, to *The Journal of Applied Science*, in which reference is made to many facts with which collectors are acquainted, and to some which are new. We shall extract the plums from this article as soon as we can find a place for them. Of the remaining half of the February number, three pages are occupied with a list of local stamps; so that the residuum of readable matter is not enough to surfeit the most easily satisfied subscriber. The two most striking features about these two numbers are (1) the excellence of the coloured engravings, and (2) the absence of the contributions of the "able English philatelic writers," whose services have, it is said, been engaged.

The Philatelical Journal.—If this journal comes last in order of notice, it is certainly not because it is the least important, but because it is the last to reach us, the publication having been retarded by the non-arrival of certain engravings. The second number, taken altogether, is an improvement on the first, and is exceedingly readable. We cannot give it all the attention it deserves, but will pass rapidly over its more prominent features.

The article that interests us the most, is that of which the Rev. R. B. Earée is the author, entitled "British Packet Agencies." Though not written primarily for the purpose of affording an answer to our inquiry as to the part played by the British consul in the Fijian postal arrangements, it yet gives us the information we sought, namely, that our consul is also the packet agent for our post-office. The article displays such a thorough acquaintance with the subject of which it treats, and is so well written, that, in defiance of the old warning with respect to him "who takes what isn't his'n," we meditate transferring it bodily to the pages of our next number. Mr. Atlee's monograph on the Hawaiian stamps promises to prove of considerable value to collectors; the initial paper is well worth studying. The same writer, in "Our Black List," quote an amusing letter from one of the expose

forgery sellers, who (using the commercial "we") says, "As to there being any forged stamps on our sheets (*though wishing rather to be called rogues than fools*), we must assert our ignorance of their presence." He further says in a postscript—generally the most important part of a letter—"We shall be most happy to give up the sale of forged stamps in packets, or in any other way, and also in urging others to do likewise." The zeal of this new convert is very remarkable; and the spectacle of a penitent seller of forgeries going about among his still dishonest brethren, and exhorting them to turn from the evil of their ways, would be decidedly edifying.

On the "Cream of the Magazines" we refrain from commenting, simply because it either treats (and treats in very courteous terms) of the contents of our journal, or it discusses those of other journals; to which journals we also refer in another part of the present number.

Of the remaining contents, the "Notes on the first issue of Moldavia" are contributed by a philatelist of standing, who, under the *nom de plume* of "A Parisian Collector," has made valuable additions to the general stock of knowledge on every subject on which he has treated. This paper has reference to the documentary evidence published by Mr. Overy Taylor in our last number, with whose conclusions he agrees.

In the article on "Novelties," the editor notices a perforated 1 c. Confederate, which he gives as being undoubtedly genuine, and he also refers to the existence of a few "genuine used *perforated* copies of the 10 c. blue (Jeff. Davis)." We confess, however, that we have grave doubts respecting their authenticity. A perforating machine, had there been one at Richmond, would have been used on a large number of stamps, and its presence at Richmond would have long since been witnessed to by Mr. St. George Offutt and others. We should require something more than the mere assertion, even of so high an authority as Mr. Pemberton, to induce us to accept perforated Confederate stamps, seven years after the fall of the Confederacy. Nothing short of the direct testimony of responsible officials, would suffice to habilitate such stamps with a genuine character.

Under the heading "Bogus Novelties," our contemporary refers, *inter alia*, to the reproduction of the Transvaal stamps in fancy colours, though from the real stones. These valueless impressions are obliterated with a blue or black mark, composed of concentric rings, in imitation of the real postmark. The colours are:—

One penny,	blue,	imperf.
Threepence,	blue, rose, yellow,	,,
One shilling,	blue on bluish,	,,

and besides these impossible colours, the full current series is to be had with like cancellation. The original lithographic stones have remained in Germany, where the first supply of the real stamps was struck off, and have, either with or without official sanction, thus been used for fraudulent purposes. The person by whom the spurious impressions are offered is named E. Enterlein, and he hails from Mecklenburg.

Reviews, Forged Stamps, Correspondence, and Answers to Correspondents, conclude the February number.

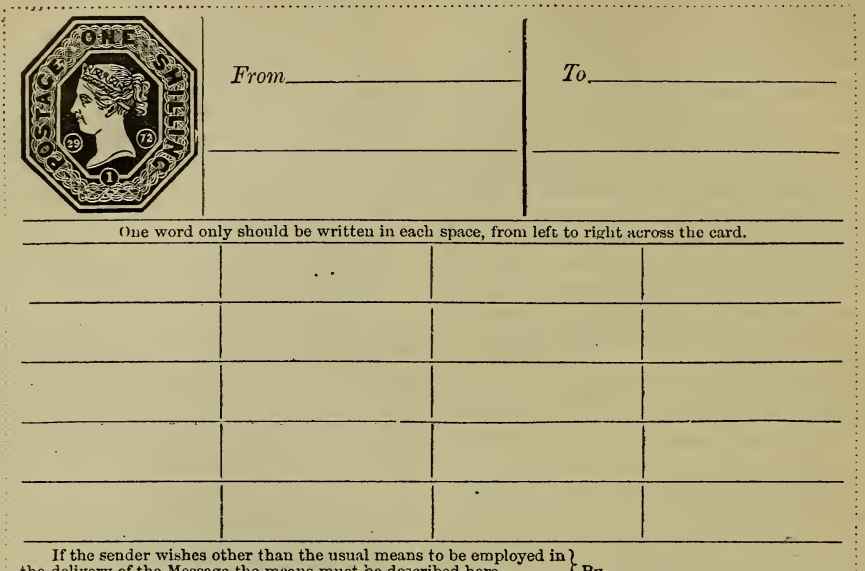
NEWLY-ISSUED OR INEDITED STAMPS.

We think we cannot do better than commence our usual chronicle this month by reproducing the following important piece of telegraphic intelligence, culled from the *Standard* of the 22nd ult.

BERLIN, FEB. 21, 2.35 P.M.

Prince Bismarck is about to convoke at Berlin an International Postal Congress, with the view of establishing a general system of postal arrangements, which will apply to Europe, Asiatic Turkey, and Russia, Egypt, Algiers, Madeira, the United States, and Canada. For a single letter it is proposed that the postage shall be 20 centimes.

All the details of the project, which have been, if not initiated, supported by the German chancellor, are given on p. 135 of our last volume, to which we refer our reader. The hard-headed, practical German statesman will probably secure the acceptance of the scheme, much, we feel sure, to the benefit of every country concerned; and if we give prominence to the meeting of the Postal Congress, it is because the adoption of Prince



Bismarck's suggestion is almost certain to lead to the emission by every European state of a special international postage stamp. The proposal to establish an international rate, coupled with other recent innovations, some of which will be found noticed lower down, conclusively prove that postal progress is yet far from its zenith.

GREAT BRITAIN.—We have never been much in favour of collecting telegraph stamps, considering as we do that most philatelists have enough to do to get up a collection of orthodox postals, yet we cannot deny that a certain amount of interest is being shown in them, and our Brighton contemporary urges their collection on the ground that telegrams are express letters conveyed by the state post-office. This is a view which has something to commend it, and we invite the opinions of our readers on the question, whether telegraph labels should be collected or not; in the affirmative case, we shall feel bound to notice them regularly. In this present number, however, we deem it best to confine our attention to the English telegraph card just issued, and represented above, which has perhaps a special claim to notice from the fact that it bears the impressed shilling stamp employed for our envelopes. It is struck in green, and the design comes out unusually well, as the card is a thick one. This card has both a postal and a telegraphic character. It is intended for persons who cannot, or do not desire to, send their messages direct to the telegraph-office, and who are content to throw it into a pillar or wall-box, or ordinary letter-box, whence it is carried free of charge to the telegraph-office at the next ensuing clearance.

We do not anticipate that these cards will be much used, except in very out-of-the-way districts, as most people who wish to make use of the wires at all will not be satisfied to defer the forwarding of their telegrams several hours by throwing them into a letter-box. Should, however, the plan work, still the shilling card is not likely to have a lengthened currency, as the post-office has avowed its intention of reducing the telegram rate to sixpence as soon as the necessary arrangements can be made.



CHILI.—Our Chilian correspondent kindly sends us, by the last mail from Valparaiso, information of two newly-issued post cards for this republic. He says:—

I have the pleasure to enclose specimens of our new post cards, which appeared in December last. They are of two values—2 and 5 centavos. The first is used for messages by land routes, and the other when sent by steamer. This issue is only provisional, as it has been found too expensive to have the cards manufactured here. The new ones are to be made in the United States (probably by the American Bank Note Company) after the model of the English post card. It is not stated what colour the card is to be, but the values will be 2 c. black and 5 c. red.

The above illustration faithfully represents the design of these new arrivals, which are type printed in black ink on white cards, having, respectively, the current 2 c. black and 5 c. red adhesives stuck in the right hand upper corner.

CEYLON.—The new series, of which we had the good fortune to be the first to receive tidings, has now made its appearance. The stamps are real acquisitions, being well designed and executed in De La Rue & Co.'s finest style. They are surface printed, and all bear the usual diademed fancy portrait of the Queen, turned to left, in variously shaped and patterned frames. From amongst them





we have selected the 36 and 96 cents for engraving. The colours are very delicate, and are as follows:—

2	cents,	light brown.
4	,,	grey.
8	,,	orange-yellow.
16	,,	lilac.
24	,,	green.
36	,,	light blue.
48	,,	carmine.
96	,,	greyish brown.

The two lowest values remind one closely of the Straits Settlements stamps, both in colour and type. In the two cents the portrait is in a circle, and the inscriptions and

value are in the upper and lower margins; in the four cents the words CEYLON POSTAGE are inscribed on the frame of the circle; the eight cents, the least graceful of the series, has the portrait in an upright oval, and the inscription in top and bottom margins, the sides being filled in with an etruscan border; the 16 cents resembles the 36 c. above figured, but has the value in a curved label below the circle, similar to the inscribed one above it; the 24 c. is identical in design with the 96 cents, of which we give an engraving, the spandrel ornaments alone differing; the 48 c. has the word CEYLON above and POSTAGE below the circle on plain arched labels: the colour of this stamp is very fine. All the values bear the crown and CC. watermark. Our correspondent states that up to the present time no new envelope stamps have been issued, but in case any do appear he will lose no time in sending us specimens.

SPANISH COLONIES.—These colonies were, if we remember aright, supplied with the current "decapitated-head" type before the mother-country had the privilege of employing it. In like manner the adopted design, containing the portrait of Amadeus, has already been utilised for Cuba, whilst nothing is





known of the date when it will be issued in Spain. The mother gives to her children before she thinks of herself. We have not yet received information of the values of the new type, but probably they will be the same as those of the current one. The above engraving is from a die proof. Side by side with it we reproduce the illustration we published in our September number of the adopted type in its "essay" state, that our readers may see how far it has been altered. In the portrait the hair over the ear has been literally cut away, so that the ear itself is quite uncovered. Small circular disks have been inserted in the angles, and the inscription above the portrait is cut off from the border. The lettering is very poor, if the engraving may be trusted, and one might think from the great difference between the boldness of the portrait and the meanness of the border, that the frame and portrait are by different artists; just as in landscapes, one artist sometimes paints the scenery and another the men or animals.

EGYPT.—The annexed illustration represents the new Egyptian type, respecting which we gave some details last month. The design is poor, and the execution beneath criticism. The change in the ruler's title from Viceroy to Khedive would seem to have been the chief motive for the issue of the new series, coupled, perhaps, with the decision to issue a new value—the 2½ piastres. The postal decree in reference to the emission is given below: *



Instead of the crescent and star being *impressed* on the back as on the old issue, these emblems are *watermarked* in the new comers. The paper is rough and unsurfaced, and the inks employed are so thick that the entire design is more or less blurred, and the first copies now before us might be

*POSTAL ADMINISTRATION OF THE EGYPTIAN KHEDIVATE.
HEAD OFFICE.

NOTICE.

ISSUE OF NEW STAMPS.

His Highness the Khedive has been pleased to approve of the emission of new postage stamps of seven different values, viz. 5, 10, and 20 paras, and 1, 2, 2½, and 5 piastres.

These stamps will be put into circulation on the 1st of January, 1872, and during that month the promiscuous use of the present and the new type for the prepayment of letters and printed matter will be permitted.

On the 1st of February, 1872, the former will cease to be legally current, and letters bearing the old stamps will be considered as unpaid, and treated strictly according to the tariff. The public will, however, be allowed to exchange the old stamps against new ones of equal value, at the post-offices, until the 31st March, 1872, after which they will not be accepted under any pretence.

A copy of this advice, together with specimens of the new postage stamps, will be affixed during the whole of the above period at every post-office.

The Director-General,
MUZZI BEY.

Alexandria, 19 Dec., 1871.

supposed to have been obtained from worn-out stones. Our list of colours requires some slight revision, and, as many varieties of this carelessly printed set are likely to occur, we are anxious to put clearly on record the exact tints of the first arrivals.

5	paras,	red-brown.
10	,,	bright mauve.
20	,,	Prussian blue.
1	piastre,	rosy red.
2	,,	deep chrome-yellow.
$2\frac{1}{2}$	,,	purple.
5	,,	emerald green.

The inscription—in one sense the most important point—is most scampishly done, to use a common phrase, the letters being crowded one over another, and the letter T in the word POSTE is represented by an inverted L. A short life, if not a merry one, may be predicted for the new series.

UNITED STATES.—The annexed engraving represents the very handsome seven cents envelope—head of Stanton—but recently issued, and already scarce; the stock having, it is asserted, been withdrawn from circulation, in consequence of a reduction in the postal rate between the States and Germany to six cents. The colour is a bright vermilion, on pale lemon, and on white paper.



It seems that the system of halfpenny postal cards is likely to be adopted in the United States with some improvements on our own arrangements. The revival of the plan for adopting the British system of one cent postal cards has (says the *New York Tribune*) already produced a number of inventions which aim to combine the small size of the card in use in England with a means of concealing the writing, and thus obviating the objection urged against the system on the ground of the publicity given to correspondence. One of these inventions is to make the card broader than the English card, with a crease across the middle and a little gum-arabic on the edge, so that the card can be doubled and sealed, the address being on the outside, and the communication within. Another invention attaches a piece of brown paper, a little longer than the card, to its lower end in such a way that it can be folded over the face of the card so as to conceal the writing, and be sealed upon the back. The address and stamp are to be on the brown paper, and a business notice can be printed on the reverse of the card.

The sensitiveness of the Americans with respect to the exposure of their correspondence surprises us, for our impression has always been that they were fond of publicity. The idea of closing the card is somewhat absurd. The cards are intended for communications of minor importance, which the sender does not care about putting under cover. If the Americans wish to forward a correspondence which they desire to keep secret at the postal-card rate, the simplest plan would be to agitate for a reduction of the letter rate, instead of inventing cumbrous contrivances for closing the card.

GERMANY AND ITALY.—We group these two countries together for the moment; for the former has issued, and the latter is on the point of issuing a new kind of post card—a double one, one half for the sender's message, the other half for his correspondent's reply. We have not seen the German card, and are describing it from the Birmingham journal. We can, therefore, only say that the first half contains the inscription, RUCKANTWORT BEZAHLT under CORRESPONDENZ KARTS; and the second half, intended for the reply, BEZAHLTE RUCKANTWORT; and, further, that it is printed in black on rose. As no mention is made by our contemporary of an impressed stamp, we understand that prepayment is to be effected by means of adhesives as before. The Italian post cards, as it would appear from the *Perseveranza*, of Milan, whence we draw our information, will be stamped. The ordinary ones will be issued at ten and the "reply-paid" cards at fifteen centesimi.

The idea of issuing double cards is both ingenious and practical. It reduces the trouble of correspondence for both sender and receiver to a minimum. The sender, who has hitherto had to write a letter, and enclose with it a stamped and addressed envelope, if he wished to ensure receipt of a reply, can now in one single operation, and

without having any recourse to envelopes, effect his object by employing a "reply-paid" card, whilst the receiver can put his answer beneath the question without any superfluous formalities We should be glad to see the idea taken up in this country, although we question whether the double cards could be sold at less than a penny, so that there would be no pecuniary saving, but the great economy of time and trouble such cards would effect would render them very popular with business men, and being sold at the same price as two separate cards, the post-office would be no loser.

We should have been rather surprised to see Italy in the van in a matter of postal progress, seeing that her crippled finances sometime back rendered an increase in the letter rates advisable, but it is evident that a change has come over the spirit of the administration, for in the *Riforma*, of Rome, we read that the government "has it in contemplation to reduce the rate of inland postage from 20 to 10 centimes, and to charge newspapers by weight."

Finland.—Our Birmingham contemporary notices a second type of the new card, which is distinguished from the first one by the following peculiarities; the border is the tenth of an inch shorter, the impression is in dark green, the lines on the back are continuous, instead of dotted, and the card is surface-tinted a dirty greenish yellow. Our *confrère* looks on this new type as a lithograph, but we cannot convince ourselves that it is not engraved. The impression is not equal to that of the type we described, but this we think is due to the imperfect surfacing and porousness of the card itself; and after careful examination we have arrived at the opinion that the inscriptions on both types have been printed from the self-same plates or stones, the border alone being different. The 8 pen. stamp is not from the same die as the adhesive; Mr. Pemberton proves this from the fact that it has eight stars on the shield, instead of seven.

Venezuela.—*Escuelas.*—Our doubts respecting the value of the design of which we gave an illustration last month, have been to a considerable extent confirmed. We cannot find that any province, town, river, or other geographical feature of Venezuela bears the name of "Escuelas." The person who sent us the specimen from which we described still believes in it, and forwards in proof of its genuine character the letter from his correspondent at Caraccas wherein the stamp was enclosed; but our friend's correspondent testifies conclusively against it, for he says he "encloses a stamp issued by a new establishment in this capital;"* and the *Philatelical Journal* states that it is in fact a school or college stamp, like those issued by some of the North American mercantile academies, and this is probably the truth. We have, consequently, to warn our readers against purchasing copies.

Norway.—We were able last month to give a brief notice of a newly-issued 3 sk. stamp for this country, which we now supplement by an illustration of the design. If not actually the work of the engraver of the new Danish stamps, it is very evidently copied from them. We regret the change from the grotesque lion rampant to the prosaic numeral, whilst we are bound to admit that the new device has the merit of clearness. It is very probably the forerunner of a new series, to be issued as the stock of the old becomes exhausted. There is some talk of an issue of stamped envelopes.



Austria.—*The Philatelical Journal* notices a new post card for the "Italian" provinces of the Austrian empire, though where they are situate we confess we do not know, and our contemporary must, we think, acknowledge to a slip of the pen. The inscriptions are, it is true, repeated in Italian, and the facial value we presume to be expressed on the stamp in soldi, in which case it would appear that the card is intended to be used between the Austrian branch offices in Turkey, Servia, &c., and the empire; if so, its issue marks a by no means unimportant extension of the system of cheap communication. How long shall we have to wait for three-halfpenny cards between this country and America, or our American colonies?

* "de las nuevamente establécidos en esta capital."

TURKEY.—*T. B. Morton & Co.*—We draw our readers' attention to an important communication, published in another part of this number, from the director of Morton & Co.'s postal department,—an old and respected correspondent of ours,—who puts the authenticity of the stamps, and the *bona-fide* character of the postal service, beyond a doubt. It will be noticed that he speaks of a forthcoming stamp, and of a new design, value 10 paras, and destined to prepay newspaper postage.

PERU.—From Guayaquil we have received a new Peruvian stamp of the value of one peseta. It is apparently from the same die as the *una peseta* brown of 1862, but being printed in a bright orange colour, presents a much more attractive appearance. Our obliging correspondent informs us that it is the first specimen that has reached him.

TASMANIA.—*The Philatelist* was the first to chronicle a fresh value,—ninepence, deep blue, watermark TAS placed obliquely. It will be observed that it is of the same colour as the threepence, and therefore liable to be confounded with it.

BRITISH COLUMBIA.—We have official intelligence from Victoria, B. C., to the effect that the only postage stamps now in use in that colony are the Canadian. The former series has been destroyed.

HUNGARY.—The engraved 25 kr. is now printed in dull lilac, and is exceedingly effective in appearance.

THE T. B. MORTON STAMPS AND THEIR HISTORY.

THE "T. B. Morton & Co." stamps, and especially those forming the second series, have enjoyed an unenviable reputation. Even after admitting to a qualified extent the genuineness of the first issue, the second was at once condemned by its suspicious likeness to the "Clara Rothe" fabrication. And yet this time the doubters, ourselves amongst the number, are not in the right. The unquestionably genuine character of both series is proved by the following letter from Mr. Panopoulo, an old correspondent of ours, and director of Messrs. T. B. Morton & Co.'s postal department.

DANUBE AND BLACK SEA STEAM CO.
T. B. MORTON AND CO.

Constantinople,
December 27, 1871.

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

DEAR SIR,—In compliance with your request, I beg to give you the necessary particulars, in order to efface all doubt regarding the authenticity of T. B. Morton & Co.'s postage stamps.

Messrs. T. B. Morton & Co. are a shipping company, established in this city since the year 1855, plying their steamers between Constantinople and the Black Sea, and up the river Danube; and have always carried a private mail. The franking of the letters for the first thirteen years was made either by writing, or by stamping with a handstamp, the word FRANCO for all letters paid. This provisional method came to an end in 1869, when, owing to the increase of the company's steamers, an improvement in the postal service became necessary.

1*st Emission*, June, 1869.—Round handstamp *without* steamer (but a month later *with* steamer), as per enclosed specimens; red and blue impressions on coloured paper, the former representing the uniform postage —1 piastre—for letters of any weight; the latter —½ piastre—for newspapers of any weight. The paper of four different colours, signifying the different destinations, viz., *white* for Bourgas, Varna, and Kustendjée; *yellow* for Sulina; *red* for Tulcha and Galatz; and *blue* for Ibrail, the terminus port of the line in the Danube.



In October, 1870, at the time of the withdrawal of the French Messageries from the Black Sea, owing to the Franco-Prussian war, the Trebizond line (Asiatic side) remaining vacant, at the request of a considerable number of interested merchants, this company re-established the line, thus replacing the French service. The postal

service of this new line being of a certain importance, we had to contrive for a new series of regular postage stamps.

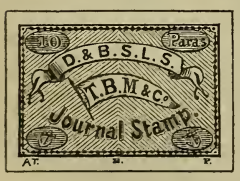
2nd Emission, October, 1870.—At present in use, oblong rectangle, perforated, coloured impression; green ($\frac{1}{2}$ piastre); red (1 piastre); and blue (2 piastres); on white paper; design, &c., as per specimens enclosed; *two* piastres being the postage on this line for single weight of about, say, half an ounce; *one* piastre for books and periodicals; and $\frac{1}{2}$ *piastre* for newspapers.



A recent reduction of postage on periodicals and newspapers, brings forth a *3rd emission*, December, 1871 (in course of impression), to be used on and after 1st January, 1872. Oblong rectangle, slightly longer, but not broader, than those now in use; perforated. Impression in two colours, viz., black and red on blue paper, and of a different design; specimens of which I will not fail to send you, with particulars regarding same, in due course. Value, 10 paras, $= \frac{1}{4}$ piastre.

I remain, dear Sir,
Yours truly,
A. B. PANOPOULO,
Director of the Postal Department of Messrs. T. B. Morton & Co.

We have since received a second letter from Mr. Panopoulo, with proofs of the projected 10 para journal, the emission of which has been delayed through the printer's departure from the instructions he had received as to the distribution of the colours in the impression. We annex an engraving of the type of the three proofs we have received; one is in black on blue paper, and entirely uncoloured; the others are also in black, the first on white, the second on blue paper, but the whole of the stamp, except the scroll and flags, is covered with a brick-red ground, printed over the black in a second operation, and the letters T. B. M. & CO. are also in brick-red. The design is lithographed, and the colouring being as roughly laid on as in the illustrations which adorn children's books, the initials are half off and half on the flag. In the stamp as finally issued, Mr. Panopoulo informs us the diagonal lines forming the ground, the initials, the value, and the anchors will be in bright red, and the remainder of the design in black; the issue will also be gummed and perforated. At intervals just outside the line of the lower margin, are some minute initials, which we take to be those of the postal director.



The Morton stamps were first noticed by Monsieur Moens, whose information respecting them, together with the above engraving of the circular type, was reproduced by us on page 121 of our seventh volume. The details there given, so far as they went, were more exact than we ourselves believed them to be at the time, but our incredulity was very excusable, seeing that at that time (as now) many mysterious emissions suddenly "took their rise" on the Continent.

The circular type with steamer above the word FRANCO has, we believe, never before been chronicled. We have ourselves had specimens by us for more than a twelvemonth, but have always deferred our intended examination of them; and this we do not now regret. The steamer is wedged in between the word FRANCO and the name which forms the inner arch above, and seems to have been modelled after the style of the wood-cuts which frequently adorn the shipping advertisements in commercial papers. There is no difference between the first and the second issue in the arrangement or size of the inscriptions. Both the circular types are printed on very thin paper, and closely resemble in their general appearance and mode of impression the journal stamps of the old local post of Constantinople; the similarity is even noticeable in the division of the stamps from each other by ruled lines, forming rectangles. The obliterating mark is a large transverse oval band, inscribed T. B. MORTON & CO., CONSTANTINOPLE, and struck in blue or red across the stamp.

The lithographed oblongs, which in reality form the third complete series, are not

devoid of merit, though their looks are in some respects more against than for them. Each value has been separately drawn on the stone, and consequently in each the design differs slightly in detail.

The specimens, we possess of the first two issues, are as follows:—

First issue, circular.

Red,	on	yellow	paper.
,,	,,	white	,,
,,	,,	blue	,,
,,	,,	rose	,,
Green	,,	blue	,,
,,	,,	rose	,,
,,	,,	yellow	,,

Second issue, circular, steamship above "Franco."

Red,	on	yellow	paper.
,,	,,	white	,,
,,	,,	rose	,,
,,	,,	blue	,,
Blue	,,	rose	,,
,,	,,	blue	,,
,,	,,	white	,,
Green	,,	white	,,
,,	,,	yellow	,,

The green impressions were probably blue originally. We understand from the above letter that the circular stamps are still in use, the oblongs having been issued solely for the Trebizond service; if we are wrong, Mr. Panopoulo will correct us.

CORRESPONDENCE.

ENGLISH OFFICIAL STAMPS AND INVERTED WATERMARKS.

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

DEAR SIR,—I am glad Mr. Atlee has broached the subject of English official stamps. I have for some time collected them, and as they frank letters on which they are impressed, as much as any adhesives, I can see no reason why they should not be collected. To Mr. Atlee's list I now add the following:—

LONDON POST-OFFICES:

1.—Large circle, in centre PAID in two lines; above, LONDON, W.C., and a letter; below, date.

2.—Very similar to 1; CHARING-CROSS, W.C., substituted for LONDON, W.C., in 1.

3.—Same as "*f*" in Mr. Atlee's first list (Dec. 1871, p. 178), but without three lines in centre.

To the lists of stamps with inverted watermarks, given at pages 103 and 119 of the 1871 volume of *The Stamp-Collector's Magazine*, I can add the following:—

England, 4d. red, present issue, inv. garter.
England, 2d. blue, present issue, inv. crown.
Hong Kong, &c., chrome-yellow, inv. crown and CC.

I have several specimens of the 1d. English, with inverted crown, in my possession.

I am, Sir,
Yours very truly,
Hamsterley. HANOVERIAN.

[The three franks mentioned by our correspondent are not official in Mr. Atlee's acceptation of the term, but are merely the marks impressed upon letters prepaid in coin over the counter.—ED.]

BOLIVIAN ESSAYS.

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

DEAR SIR,—The strip of *Bolivian* stamps described in your November number, I believe, must be shams. New essays they cannot be, as the value is expressed in the old coinage, which ceased to be current about four years ago, and I do not think there is any intention of substituting it for the decimal currency.

Their similarity to the stamp figured in No. 3 of *The Philatelist* is somewhat suspicious, and again the omission of the flags, cannons, &c., in the Bolivian arms (which, from your description, I fancy figure on these labels) is another argument against their being *genuine* essays at all.

I remain, dear Sir,
Yours obediently,
Valparaiso. F. W. M.

[We are glad to have the opportunity of returning to these stamps. M. Moens, in a supercilious tone which does not add to the value of his remarks, criticises our reference to them in our November number, and is astonished that we should venture to argue the possibility of a new series, because one of our correspondents has received proofs of the type. When one of M. Moens' correspondents receives proofs of a type, the case is different; then there can be no doubt that they indicate a new issue. For our part, with the example of Peru, in consequence of a change in government, reverting to the old device in relief, it did seem to us possible that, under a new order of things in Bolivia, the finely-engraved design of the American Bank Note Co. might be replaced by the primitive type to which we alluded in our November number. This type, as it now appears, was the original of the engraving we published in 1867, but in our wood-cut (which in fact was the same as that which appeared in *Le Timbre-Poste*), the sun is represented by a Phrygian bonnet, and the llama is nowhere, therefore the design described in November by our contributor, seemed to be similar to, but not identical with, that of 1867, and we took it to be a new one. M. Moens now vouchsafes to inform us (and we presume he has obtained the information since the wood-cut made its appearance), that the eleven essays, all differing in detail from each other, were submitted to the Bolivian government in 1870, but refused because they were badly executed, and because the government had then no intention of issuing stamps. Hence they would appear to have been spontaneously designed by the person who offered them to the government, and all the value they possess is derived from the fact that they were really examined and rejected by it.—ED.]

ENGLISH OFFICIAL STAMPS.—IRISH ODDITIES.

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

SIR,—In Mr. Dudley Atlee's last essay on official stamps, the following Dublin offices were omitted.

Government Prisons,	.. WM. LAMB.
Census of Ireland,	.. HENRY WILKIE.
Chief Secretary's Office,	.. R. W. MATHESON.
Registrar of Petty Session Clerk's Office,	J. MACKAY.
Fines and Penalties Office,	J. MACKAY.

Besides these, I discovered an official envelope impressed with a handstamp, consisting of a circle, surmounted by a crown, enclosing the word PAID, and date (1856); the stamp is struck in *blue*, and the envelope was one belonging to the office of Receiver of Constabulary. It bears on it two signatures; viz., A. B. Cane, and L. B. Briscoe.

In addition to these, in hunting over some old papers, amongst several members' franks I found some very antique covers, handstamped with the words RANELAGH PENNY POST, BRAY PENNY POST, BOLTON'S PENNY POST. Ranelagh is one of the suburbs of Dublin. Bray is situated about twelve miles from that city; the possessive 's added to Bolton would suggest the idea of an individual, not a town. Should I esteem these worthy of a place in my album?

In a young friend's collection, the other day, I came across a Mexican (Hidalgo) *four reales green on yellow*. This is, no doubt, the production of those Yorkshire and Glasgow firms whose dealings you have so justly and openly exposed. I would advise all collectors who wish to keep their albums free from trash and waste paper, to preserve all the forgeries they come across in a small book; by this means they will be able to compare any suspected stamps that come into their hands, and weed their collections accordingly.

I remain,
Yours truly,
Dublin. M. H. CARR.

[Can any of our readers afford us information on the "penny posts" to which our corresponent refers?—ED.]

ANOTHER ODD POSTMARK.—THE HAITIAN IMPOSTOR.—THE LOMBARDO-VENETIAN REPRINTS, 1861.

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

DEAR SIR,—There is clearly some relationship between the "odd postmark," named at page 13 of your January number, and a handstamp in my possession, which I forwarded to you for inspection in May, 1870, but about which you were unable to give me any information (see vol. viii., p. 80,—"Answers to Correspondents"). My envelope was posted at Constantinople, 23rd February, 1870, and is handstamped with a transverse oval, horizontally divided by a bar, above which is FR., surmounted by a small crown, and below, 2 F. 40 C.; beside it is a large pen-and-ink figure 9, which was the number of pence charged on delivery. One of the postmarks reads, "Marseille à Lyon, Spécial," which appears to indicate that the letter enjoyed some special privileges of transit, for which the sender had, no doubt, paid an extra rate; and as it bears no adhesive stamps, I have always considered the handstamp to indicate the amount of postage paid in Constantinople. It thus becomes almost a *stamp*, rather than a postmark, and most decidedly collectable. As you appear to invite information on the subject, I thought the above might interest you.

I was very glad to see the Haitian imposture hit so hard in your Jan. number. I have one in my collection which I obtained when they first came over, but have always considered spurious, and kept merely as a curiosity. One little circumstance, on which my conviction was chiefly based, in the face of the conflicting opinions expressed with regard to this stamp (?), appears to have escaped notice. The dealer I got it from had a dozen or two nice clean used specimens, *not too heavily postmarked*, which he said were the first importations, and assured me he fully believed in them, and their genuineness was quite settled. They were, however, all innocent of gum, and had been *separated with a pair of scissors*. The originator of these impostors is no doubt *well accustomed to handling stamps*. He appears to be in the practice, common amongst dealers, of separating unused specimens with a pair of scissors; and in preparing his first supply of Haitian 25 c. to put upon the market, the force of habit was too strong, and he forgot that he was going to cancel them, and issue them as used stamps, and that the public never thinks of anything else but *tearing* them apart by means of the perforations provided for the purpose.

If, as seems not improbable (from the fact that many specimens show parts of two or more postmarks), they were delivered to the *party interested*, by his engraver, *ready postmarked in the sheet*, he must have been a still greater "duffer" not to have been sharp enough to tear them apart.

I consider your January number quite settles the question, but the above is additional evidence, if you think it worth inserting.

The Lombardo-Venetian Reprints of 1861.—On examining the specimens of the reprints of the Lombardo-Venetian issues of 1861 (head to right), at my command, I find that some of them are perforated 12, some 10, and others 10 at sides, and 9 at bottom and top. Thus I have specimens of

a. 2, 3, 10, 15 soldi, perf., 12 all round.
b. 5, 15 soldi, perf. 10 all round.
c. 2, 3 soldi, perf. 10 at sides, 9 top and bottom.

My first idea was that this great diversity of perforation tended to favour the supposition that these were the stamps actually prepared for issue, and not destroyed, as has been suggested, but left in an unfinished state, and afterwards perforated in batches to meet the requirements of collectors; but the fact that the 10 and 5 soldi exist in these new varieties, seemed to prove that reprinting had been going on; and on further comparison I find that all the specimens *b.* and *c.* are distinguished by poorness of execution, especially in the embossing of the head, as compared with the *a.* set, and have all brown gum, while the *a.* set hitherto known has white. It seems, therefore, beyond a doubt that either two or three reprints have taken place, instead of one, as hitherto supposed.

A letter lately received from Trieste, viâ Germany and Belgium, has the following cancellation disposed in two lines across the stamps.

K. K. FAHRENDES
POSTAMT, NO. 8.

This would appear to refer to a "*mail coach*" or horse conveyance, with a box for the receipt of letters *en route*; as I believe the railway travelling posts obliterate with an "Eisenbahn" stamp. The envelope bore *no other postmark*, either English or foreign, except the letters PD.

Post Cards.—In reference to the curious marks described from my specimens, in your November number, a gentleman of great experience, to whom I submitted them, says,

It has long been known that our authorities put test marks on the stamps, varying from time to time, to guard against forgeries; probably the dots in the P may be such; but I rather think they are all traces of where the engraver left the knob of steel holding his die to the cushion till he had finished his engraving. Their being in the border helps this view.

I conclude he would account for the entire absence of these marks on the bulk of the cards, and the appearance of a smaller number on some specimens, by the gradual wearing down of the stereotype impressions from the original die, these little "knobs" being thus gradually brought to the surface.

Yours truly,
Manchester. J. C.

[With reference to the odd postmark, we may remark that the figure 9 on ours is not written, but handstamped, apparently at the same time as the rest of the mark.—ED.]

POSTAGE STAMPS AT AUCTION.

Our chronicle of events this month would be singularly incomplete, if we omitted to present to our readers an account of the first sale by public auction of stamps held on this side the Atlantic.

Most collectors are aware that this method of dispersing specimens has been tried on several occasions in New York, where it seems to have been inaugurated by the firm of Messrs. J. W. Scott & Co.; and when, early in the present year, they opened a "store" in the English metropolis, it seemed almost a natural consequence they should import the American novelty into this country, and see if the British (collecting) public appreciated the specimens thus offered as highly as report said their transatlantic cousins had done. We are unable to say whether the experiment has been a success or not, and indeed, so far as it affects private interests, we are not concerned to inquire; but it is our duty as faithful historians to make our friends fully acquainted with this the latest phase of the stamp-dealing business, and they can draw their own conclusions, and point the moral of the tale for themselves.

Through the courtesy of the well-known firm of literary auctioneers, Messrs. Sotheby & Co., of Wellington Street, Strand, by whom the auction was conducted, we received a copy of the catalogue some days ago; unluckily, we were not able to attend the view of the lots preliminary to the sale, but we studied the catalogue, and made the best use of our opportunities on the 18th March, when the sale took place.

Upwards of 270 lots were offered, very many consisting of single stamps, some of sets or groups. The lots were mounted on neat strips of card, and handed round to the company for examination, much in the style that coins are exhibited at Messrs. Sotheby & Co.'s sales.

The catalogue led off with stamps of the United States, then came a long array of locals (close upon 100 lots of these), miscellaneous stamps followed, and the stamps and envelopes of the Confederate States brought up the rear.

The announcement was that the sale comprised *a selection from the celebrated collection* of Mr. J. W. Scott, and, after the papers which had appeared in the *American Journal of Philately*, we looked with some curiosity to the Local Americans and Confederates as being the quarters where we should discover most of interest.

The first noticeable items were lots 12, a Brattleboro' stamp; 15 and 16, sets of the three types of 5 and 10 cents.St. Louis; and 17 and 18, two copies of the redoubtable 20 c. St. Louis themselves.

Of the two last, lot 17 was said to be "*unique;*" lot 18, "*a variety, only one other in existence:*" the latter struck us as the finer copy. Both were knocked down to Mr. Scott, whose name was on the catalogue as himself executing commissions; and we heard it stated in the room that both the 20 c. will go back to America; they realised about £6 10s. apiece. The prices of the 5 and 10 c., about 20/- each, seem to indicate that these are not maintaining the factitious prices put on them by American dealers of late times. We cannot say we regret that any of these stamps should recross the ocean.

Lots 34 and 35, the well-known Bloods, large rectangle, postman striding over houses, we thought fine stamps, though the former was an injured specimen; the latter fetched 50/-, also to Mr. Scott's bid—full value for the copy. Originals are rare, but we dissent from the catalogue addendum, "nearly unique," to them. We believe several specimens are to be found in collections in this country.

By the way, how remarkable it is that those who described these stamps, and enumerated among the tests of the genuine that on the house, to the left, the word LITHOGRAPH is to be read printed, failed to notice that the word is incomplete, wanting the initial L; and also, still more strange, that above it, in equally plain lettering, is SINCLAIR, so that it reads SINCLAIR ITHOGRAPH; the lines of the shading run into the end of the lower word, which probably was meant for *lithographer*.

A Blood's paid despatch, dove in large oval (lot 36), fetched 20/-: this is a scarce stamp, but the copy was indifferently good.

"Lot 49, Jefferson Market post office, pink,

unique," was the next object attracting our attention; it provoked some competition, and was knocked down to Mr. Pemberton at £5—an extravagant price in our judgment. The stamp is a poor design, badly executed in lithography, and we must consider its claims as extremely doubtful. Its appearance is not in its favour, and we are at present without any information of a reliable kind which would induce us to put more trust in it than its looks bespeak.

Several very fair copies of well-known stamps followed, such as Messenkope's, Floyd's, Cornwell's, Kidder's (somewhat rare), Gordon's, and Pomeroy's; speaking roughly, they averaged near upon 10/- to 15/—sometimes 20/-—apiece. We noticed some queer-looking Indian heads (Westervelt's post), in many colours, and one or two little stamps unknown to us, such as Kingman's City Post, Mercantile Library stamps, and others; some of these fetched 20/- to 25/- each.

Lot 109 brought a stamp stated to be unique—the large Boyd's City Express Post. The design is the eagle on globe, like the well-known smaller set, the whole stamp being larger. This copy was stuck over a Pomeroy stamp (female bust), and was a very desirable acquisition; it was knocked down, after very little competition, at 155/-; also, we heard, for America.

Wyman's Engine and Car (lot 113), "*unique*," bought in at 45/-; we do not fancy it deserved to be styled unique.

The general stamps then came on: a rather fine used British Guiana, *patimus*, magenta, brought 28/-; lot 132, a 2 cent. yellow provisional (pearl-border variety, a beautiful copy), realised 12/-, and was not unreasonably dear.

Luçon, or rather Philippines, 5 c. orange-red, 1854 Y '55—a good used specimen of a very rare stamp, postmarked with a series of small square dots, fetched 50/-. Lot 140, the next lot, the only used copy of the 10 c. of the deep red or carmine variety, same issue, we ever saw, brought 28/-; and lot 142, deep blue, 1 real, postmarked (circular mark), 26/-; these were all good lots. There was also a fair used specimen of the ½ tornese blue (arms) Naples, which went at 40/-; and four views of Sydney—unused 1d., two of 2d., and one bad copy 3d.—brought 84/-; well worth the money.

Great running was made for lot 159, the 13 c. Sandwich Islands, figures in fancy bordering. It eventually was secured for £6 10*s.*,—a very full price, as it was of the commoner type known, not the H.I. and U.S. which we lately described.

A Tuscany 2 soldi (passable copy) fetched 19/-, and several ordinary lots of stamps went at low figures. At this, as at all sales we ever attended, some lots went cheap, while others, for no assignable reason, fetched more than far superior or even unused copies could have been procured for of any respectable dealer.

A sale-room is not the place in which to buy the common specimens of anything one collects. Collector's *desiderata* are well known, and if not bid up for by the public till they reach the owner's ideas of value, are usually bought in, or knocked down to a friend, whose protecting aid prevents a sacrifice.

The turn of the Confederates then came, and the biddings got brisker, though some lots fell very cheaply. A Lynchburg, secured for 23/-, coming after a lot for which a *run* had been made by two or three excited bidders, was a bargain. We noticed once or twice, after a keenly-contested lot, the next, whatever it was, fell flat. Mr. Pemberton purchased, at 100/-, lot 219, a real gem in its way, being the 5 c. Nashville, grey on slate, which was the first colour in which this stamp was chronicled by Mount Brown. Of late years its existence in this colour has been doubted, all we have ever seen being falsities; and our verdict dethroned the grey or slate in favour of the pink or carmine. We, therefore, closely examined the copy in this sale, and found it to be from the genuine die. It looked to us like a proof; we could not discover if it had ever been gummed at the back or not, but it was unused and in beautiful condition, and was one of the best things sold. Several fine used pink copies of the same stamp followed, and fetched 40/- and upwards each. This we were glad to see, as these were undoubtedly genuine; but the 3 cent Nashville (lot 218),

pink on white (the abundant recent supplies of which seem to us to indicate reprinting), found little favour, and was knocked down for 20/-.

The Rheatown (lot 223) was the only one we ever saw; it was unused. We did not like its looks, though it may be better than our fears would warrant. The biddings were somewhat slow for this, and its fate was known at 65/-.

Marion again, with its hitherto unknown riches of 2 c., 3 c.! 5 c.!! and 10 c.!!! is to us a mystery; none of the four values were postmarked; they realised about £5 apiece, one, we think, five guineas. We wish the purchasers joy; they have more faith in them than we possess, and we shrewdly suspect that, as the plates are in existence, we have not yet seen the last of these ugly affairs. It would be a serious misfortune if the prices got at this sale should encourage a reprint.

Pleasant Shade again (lot 240, fetching 35/-) is a stamp we believe to be at best reprinted, but more likely a humbug altogether. Who ever saw an undoubtedly genuine postmarked copy? Where is Pleasant Shade? and what happened to it during the war of the rebellion? These questions, if candidly answered, might help far to solve the point.

Athens (lot 235) realised 30/-. We do not believe in this stamp at all; and on inspection at once should say, *Carotte*. The Macons (lots 236-9) seemed to be received by the company with great incredulity, a sentiment in which we fully share; we believe such a stamp really exists, but deem those offered at the auction to be reprinted, and, consequently, mere rubbish.

The Confederate envelopes were a queer-looking lot. One London amateur bit his fingers in paying 60/- for a copy (evidently reprinted) of the so-called Knoxville envelope. Who ever saw a used copy of this? The fresh ink of the impression was clearly visible as the auctioneer's assistant held it up in passing our eyes. The other envelopes seemed chiefly made by impressing the rudest red and black figures on coarse brown shop-paper envelopes;—a very dull-looking, uninteresting series they were. About 20/- each seemed to be the average price, and we thought they were mostly bought in. One Houston, postmarked (lot 256), fetched £3; this looked a genuine postmarked envelope to our rapid glance as it passed.

A few United States envelopes, some being very fine varieties, and about as good as anything in the sale, brought it to a close. These also seemed to us bought in, as did many, if not a majority of the lots all through. Our cursory pencil jottings of the prices showed that the hammer fell to a total of nearly two hundred guineas in the aggregate,—a little more, perhaps, than less, but we are not far from the mark.

The auctioneer, who made his first experience in selling stamps, was evidently somewhat amused at the proceedings; so were one or two casual strangers who dropped in during the sale.

Once, to a lot described as "*believed* to be unique," the auctioneer remarked the announcement was *modest*, which provoked one of the company to say, "We expected that from America just now!" This elicited some laughter, but otherwise we have seen much more fun over a country sale of crockery ware, and much more spirit in the biddings.

Almost all the leading metropolitan amateurs and dealers were present, with representatives of the philatelic press, so that a more favourable company can hardly be expected on any subsequent occasion. But there was an evident atmosphere of distrust as to many of the lots; a pervading idea of reprinting, and dread of bogus stamps, which seemed to weigh against the biddings; an impression not altogether removed by the fact, that most of the rarities in locals were either bought in by Mr. Scott, or supposed to have been purchased for American commissions. Nothing prejudices the spirit or competition of a public sale so much as the idea that the bidders are to be trotted out against the proprietor, or must bid in the dark against unknown competitors.

We shall look with interest to see if, in the result, this sale sets the fashion, and brings others in its train; and if fresh importations of stamps, whose authenticity is equivocal, make their mushroom appearance in the market.

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THE PRINTING OF THE LUXEMBURG STAMPS.

REPRINTED FROM "LE TIMBRE-POSTE."

Looked at from an artistic point of view, the Luxemburg postage stamps are distinguished as well by their design as by their perfect execution. Those of the first emission, with effigy of the King-Grand-Duke, possess, beyond contradiction, great merit. As far as fineness of engraving goes, they may be placed in the same rank with the first Dutch stamps, which are excellent engravings, and even with the Belgian stamp of the first series,—recognised as one of the most beautiful,—surpassed in design or execution only by the magnificent English stamps, and those of some of the English colonies.

The stamps of the other two types are irreproachably executed, and are far above those of the German states, manufactured after the same plan. Above all, the last type, represented by the 1, 2, and 4 cent., is of incontestable fineness; it is remarkable by its well-brought-out details, as also by its charming ornaments, and may compete with the French stamps, fabricated upon a superior system.

The stamps of the first issue were prepared by the government, by which it was considered advisable to follow the method employed in Belgium, a method which had, in fact, been first adopted by England, and consisted in engraving the design in *taille-douce*, on steel plates.

M. Barth, engraver, and M. Michel, mechanic, both Luxemburgers, were sent to Brussels, to visit the workshops of the Belgian government, and to get ready the necessary plant. The first made the matrices, the reproducing cylinders, and the plates, of which there were four, two for each value, each plate containing 200 copies. The second constructed the forms for the fabrication of the watermarked paper, as also the printing-machines, and those for surfacing and pressing the paper.

The enormous expenses which attended the mounting of the first stamp manufactory (from £400 to £500), decided the government to give up the system of engraving on steel for the other stamps. Another cause of the abandonment of this costly process was the outlay occasioned by the preparation of an annual supply of the stamps,—a work executed by M. Barth, under the surveillance and control of a government agent,—an outlay which each time amounted to £24, and which, with the cost of keeping the machines in order, far exceeded the sum necessary for the acquisition of the *matériel* required for the manufacture and the printing of a several years' stock of all the stamps of the other two types.

The first machines were sold by the government as soon as the plates became unserviceable for the printing of the stamps.

Of the first type M. Barth has produced a proof of the 10 c. and of the 1 s. gr., printed in black on whitish drawing paper; and another proof of the 10 c., in black on ordinary paper.

When, in 1859, it was decided to introduce the 25, 30, 37½, and 40 c. stamps of the second type, it was necessary, as above stated, to change the system of printing, on account of its expensiveness. The system of printing by the typographic process, by means of electrotype casts, already in use in most of the German states, was then adopted. Tenders for the printing were at once received from Luxemburg engravers, typographers, and printers; those of a Frankfort type-founder, M. Dressler, to whom the government had addressed itself, were, however, found the most advantageous, and were accepted.

It was this gentleman who made the current 10, 12½, 25, 30, 37½, and 40 c. stamps. For a sum of about forty pounds he furnished 250 cubes of the 10 centimes and 125 cubes of each of the other values. When making his tender, he submitted for inspection by the government a proof of the 10, and one of the 30 centimes, printed in black, on white paper, of perfect execution, and of which there exist but a few rare copies.

At first, the work of printing the stamps was entrusted to Luxemburg printers; Mr. V. Buck then sent in (June, 1859) a proof of the 30 cent., in brownish lilac, on white laid paper, watermarked with a W. The execution was very mediocre; the printer did not succeed in bringing out the fine points

of the design, probably because the instruments employed were not exact enough, or the workmen did not possess the requisite experience for such delicate work.

This failure necessitated a fresh inquiry abroad, and the Frankfort printer, M. Naumann, was applied to—the one who, some time previously, had made the bonds for the Luxemburg loan. By him were presented, in July, 1859, two proofs of the 10 centimes, in reddish lilac, on white, machine-made paper, one without watermark, and the other with a w as a watermark; and the satisfactory way in which they were executed secured him the concession of the contract for printing the stamps. It is this same firm which has not only printed the stamps of the second type since 1857, and the 1, 2, and 4 c. of the third type, but has also furnished the casts for the three latter stamps, much better made than those of the second type, delivered by the type-founder, Dressler.

In April, 1863, Mr. Erasmy, lithographer, of Luxemburg, solicited the favour of being allowed to print the stamps, and submitted to the government two typographic proofs of the 10 c., printed in dull blue, one watermarked with a w, the other unwatermarked. The impression on the watermarked paper succeeded better than the other, but the two proofs not being found satisfactory, the government continued to confide the printing to M. Naumann.

When the change of colour of the 10, 25, and 37½ c. took place, in July, 1865, and again on the occasion of the issue of the 20 c., in 1867, M. Naumann's firm presented as proofs, to be chosen from by the government, all the stamps of the two latter types, printed in various colours, of which the following have found a place in some collections :—

1	centime	blue, rose, green, pale lilac, reddish lilac, brown (imperforate).
2	,,	blue, rose, green (imperforate).
4	,,	blue, rose, green (imperforate).
10	,,	lilac-mauve, light lilac, reddish lilac, dark brown, Prussian blue (imperforate).
12½	,,	green (rouletted in lines of colour).
20	,,	vermilion, iron-grey, ash, brownish grey, olive, sea-green, light blue (rouletted in lines of colour).
20	,,	blue, rose, green (imperforate).
25	,,	reddish lilac, green (imperforate).
37½	,,	light blue (rouletted in lines of colour).
40	,,	light brown (,, ,,).

PAPERS FOR BEGINNERS.—No. XVIII.

BY OVERY TAYLOR.

EUROPE.

THE DANUBIAN PRINCIPALITIES:

Moldavia.

(*Continued from page* 25.)

HERE the string of facts comes to an end, and we are called upon, with their aid, to estimate the value of the numerous types which pretend to genuineness. Whoever is practically acquainted with the extent of the demand for stamps by collectors, will, I am sure, be disposed to agree with my assertion, that the total number of specimens of these early Moldavian printed to meet it is four or five times greater than the number of stamps shown by the official documents to have been struck off for use in Moldavia itself. They have been in constant request, have been sold for the last nine years by every dealer of any standing, have never been dear, and are met with in every album of any pretensions whatever. Under Dr. Magnus' analysis they resolve themselves into fifteen distinct types, five for each value, but the finance office minute distinctly states that four "seals," or handstamps, only were prepared, and that with them the supply of 24,000 labels was to be struck. There could have been no casts taken, the four dies were sufficient for such a very moderate amount of work, and when it was done, they were, with due formality, returned to the finance minister. Hence it results, beyond dispute, that *there can be but one genuine type for each value*, and this is a deducible fact which overrules Dr. Magnus's leaning in favour of the authenticity of two types of each.* The old hypothesis, accounting for the existence of varieties, to the effect that each post-office possessed its own dies, and struck off its own supplies, is equally upset. Although the design and execution of the stamps are barbarous in the extreme, and their presumed hap-hazard arrangement would lead us to argue a totally unregulated

* This was in type before I saw the editorial foot-note in the February number, respecting the learned doctor's present opinion. I have, however, thought it better to leave these observations in type, as it is desirable, once and for all, to establish the truth respecting these stamps.

issue, the facts are, that the stock was worked off at one place and time under the superintendence of a qualified official, the numbers printed, issued, and returned into stock, being known.

Again, returning to our starting-point, it is known that nearly all the Moldavian stamps at present in existence are unused copies. This is a characteristic which alone suffices to condemn them. It is hardly possible that a genuine unused copy can be in existence; if any are to be found they must rank among the primest rarities in a collection. To prove my position, and, at the risk of being reproached with repetition, let me remind my readers that the 24,000 stamps printed were estimated to be sufficient for a year's consumption, and that when the issue was withdrawn, after a currency of only sixteen weeks, about half the total number were found unissued in the cashier's safe. What had become of the other half? The only rational answer is that they had been used. The consumption had been considerably in excess of the estimate, but primitive indeed must have been the habit of correspondence in Moldavia if the whole country could not furnish twelve thousand letters in more than a quarter of a year. Still, it may be urged, what actual proof is there that a certain number of surplus stamps did not remain in the provinces, and thus ultimately find their way into the hands of collectors, —in other words, that the stock found in the cashier's safe comprehended the unemployed supplies issued to the provincial post-offices? This objection it is not difficult to dispose of, for strong inferential proof exists that *all* the unemployed stamps were included in the stock returned to the finance minister. The inventory of the "remainder" was taken on the 26th February, 1859, whilst the circulation ceased on the 1st November, 1858. There was, therefore, an interval of about four months, during which there would be ample time for the country offices to return their unused stock to the head office; and the only one missing link in the chain is the date of the death or final withdrawal from his office of the cashier, as operations seem to have been suspended after his departure. It is, however, fair to suppose that as the head post-office had to render to the finance office a rigorously strict statement of the unemployed stamps, accompanying that statement with the stamps themselves, it exacted an equally strict statement, and the return of the unemployed stamps, from its own subordinate offices. Besides which, the postmaster and the controller, in returning the "remainder" to the finance office, are careful to state that they will be followed by an "account," which could hardly be other than a table, showing the number of stamps used, together with other postal statistics in connection with their issue and the general working of the tariff. From these premisses, and the fact that no mention is made, in document No. 548, of outstanding stock, I conclude that the quantities therein named really comprehended all the unissued and all the issued but unemployed stamps.

This much being granted, the "remainder" of 11,692 stamps is traced into the hands of the finance minister. Have any of these stamps ever been delivered out to stamp collectors? I answer decidedly not, and for this simple reason,—that if the finance office had given away specimens of the three higher values, it would also have given away specimens of the 27 paras. There were 2325 copies of this latter value returned into stock, or nearly double the number of the 81 paras; yet not a single unused copy has ever been seen, nor is ever likely to be. The "remainder" of all the values must therefore have been destroyed, or must be still lying intact among the archives of the finance office, and all the unused specimens of the four values must be forgeries or reprints. That they are reprints I think is not admissible. The dies, being rendered up to the finance office, passed out of the power of the postal *employés*, who have so often been solicited by dealers for specimens; and we have never heard of any official reprint taking place such as that of the Austrian first issues, or the French republic series of 1848. I therefore cannot see the possibility of returning any other verdict than that they are all alike forgeries.

I do not think it is needful to discuss at length the aspect of the question which

would result from the assumption of the correctness of the alternative hypothesis above referred to, with regard to the origin of the unused specimens, to the effect that, notwithstanding the withdrawal of the series, the unemployed stocks were really held over by the post-offices to which they had been issued; for at the very outset there would again arise the fatal objection that no unused copies of the 27 paras have ever been found; and it is not conceivable that the stamps of this value should have been used up to the last one, whilst abundant supplies of the others should have been kept by the provincial offices.

To define the true type for each value would be a difficult and a useless task. It would be difficult because there are so very few used specimens in existence to describe from, and because even the used copies may bear fraudulent obliterations.* It would be useless, for in all probability very few, if any, of my readers will ever be called on to decide on the genuineness of obliterated copies, and the unused condemn themselves. Dr. Magnus has only seen four obliterated copies in all—one of which, a 54 paras, was obtained by Mr. Philbrick from the secretary to the late Lord Palmerston, and another is the only known specimen of the 27 paras. The genuineness of the latter may be taken for granted, and Dr. Magnus observes that this 27 paras and Mr. Philbrick's 54 paras are both obliterated in the same manner, so that the authenticity of this latter is likewise proved. Another 54 paras, agreeing in type and postmark with the one above referred to, and a 108 paras, with a dubious postmark belonging to the stamps of the second series, complete the list of the doctor's four specimens. Three only, out of the four, are genuine, and we less favoured collectors are not likely to see so many, therefore we had better decide on abstaining altogether from the attempt to collect specimens of the first Moldavian series. We must look upon them as philatelic mammoths and dodos,—extinct species, of which but few traces exist; and, above all, we must refrain from investing in the spurious imitations which are all that can now be obtained.

Whence come these imitations, which have been offered in good faith by many dealers of unblemished honesty? From the very spot where, of all others, it might, in the absence of positive information, have been supposed that genuine specimens were obtainable,—from Jassy. Mons. Moens has received his from the Austrian post-office there. Dr. Viner, as long since as 1864, got them in the same town; and other applicants have also drawn their supplies from Jassy, or from the district. This just shows, that as soon as the demand for stamps sprung into existence, and inquiries were addressed to postal officials in Moldavia, they, or others for them, were shrewd enough and dishonest enough to profit by it, by fabricating impressions to imitate the genuine ones. Perhaps, by this time, those who furnish the imitations have got to believe them to be genuine, and so, too, have a good many collectors, who will be loth to admit that they have been deceived; but we now know the truth concerning the emission, and we must submit to its results.

The late discovery of the 27 paras is a remarkable circumstance, to which, in conclusion, it is necessary to refer, to prevent the deduction of erroneous inferences. It might be said, it is strange that the officials who forged or sold forgeries of the three higher values did not likewise forge the lower one. But the true answer to this must be that its existence was overlooked, or forgotten. The very fact that the *true* stamp was not discovered until 1868 proves it. The 27 paras had as real an existence as the others, and was more used than two out of the other three values; yet no one, writing from Roumania, ever referred to it, and had it not in some sort sunk into oblivion, some one or another would, even if unable to procure it, have at least referred to the fact of its having existed. But this value, it must be remembered, was used only for the shorter distances, and less notice may have been

* Mr. Pemberton says (*Philatelist*, vol. ii., p. 53), Who can show us a specimen with a postmark whose genuineness can be proved beyond suspicion? Of course there are plenty of them [?] to be seen postmarked, but what is that postmark?—a rather close imitation of one found on some of the 1861 stamps, and the shape of which is very peculiar.

taken of it than of the stamps which prepaid "large" or registered letters.* Furthermore, in 1862 the entire postal service was re-organised, and very probably, on that occasion, important changes in the *personnel* took place, the head office also being moved from Jassy to Bucharest; and it was not until the year after that inquiries were made at Jassy for the stamps of a series two removes from the one then current. These circumstances answer the conjectures which might be founded on the isolated fact of the immunity from forgery of the 27 paras, but were they insufficient for the purpose, such conjectures could not shake the value of the other and combined facts which demonstrate the impossibility of the unused copies of the remaining values being anything else than forgeries.

THE ENGRAVING AND PRINTING OF POSTAGE STAMPS.

A CRITIQUE, BY AN ENGRAVER.

M. Motteroz has just published a remarkable work—*Essais sur les gravures chimiques en relief*. The same indefatigable explorer of every ramification of printing art has sent a long communication to *L'Imprimerie* concerning the manufacture of bank notes and postage stamps; and on the subject of postage-stamp printing we find him so interesting that we shall quote him entire:—

To be convinced that there are difficulties almost insurmountable in executing really fine printing, it is enough to look at postage stamps, which each government endeavours to have as well executed as it can get them.

On their first appearance, postage stamps were almost everywhere produced by the copper-plate process; in two or three countries lithography was the fashion.

These two printing processes are enormously more costly and less regular than that of letter-press. Plates, like transfers, wear out rapidly; and after having had a few good proofs, one has to do with blurred and worn-out lines.

A large number of countries now follow the letter-press plan; and since every government endeavours to have its letter-press stamps as fine as if in copper, we may judge of the difficulties there are to surmount.

The examination of a collection, almost complete, which M. Baillieu has been so kind as to place at my disposal, together with a large amount of information, enables me to give a few hasty outlines of the present state of postage-stamp printing in the different divisions of the globe.

Lithographed Stamps.—Mexico and most of the Spanish colonies employ lithography, although the results obtained are generally bad.

Bergedorf has some rather good proofs.

Roumania, some very middling.

New Caledonia lithographs a horrible caricature of Napoleon III.

During the siege of Paris the government, which probably failed to send its postage-stamp *clichés* out of town, had some stamps lithographed in the country, which were not nearly so bad as the other lithographed stamps.

Stamps from Copper-plate.—The United States use copper-plate both for their bank notes and their postage stamps, and have obtained splendid results. A postage stamp for 15 cents reproduces a large picture representing Columbus taking possession of America, and each one of the numerous personages is perfectly visible.

Brazil, Chili, and the Argentine Confederation, have now very fine postage stamps, engraved and printed at New York by the American Bank Note Company.

Jamaica, Malta, and Holland, for the higher-priced stamps, have very finely-wrought engravings; too much so for good printing.

Canada, New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, Newfoundland, and some other English Colonies, still use copper-plate.

Letter-press Stamps.—Russia employs thin inks, and has some *chefs-d'œuvre* of typography.

The stamps for the English colony of Hong Kong are almost as fine as those of Russia; and some of them might be mistaken

* This argument is also adduced by a well-known writer in the *Philatelical Journal* for February, in the course of a short but interesting article on these stamps.

for copper-plate engravings. The celebrated house of De La Rue & Co., of London, produces them. This extraordinary house manufactures the stamps of a large number of countries, and engages in everything which relates to paper. At this very moment it has hold of the French market for letter papers, and our stationers do not go out of their way to struggle against this invasion.

The British Indian stamps, as well as those of the Mauritius, are very striking as to their printing.

The latest issue of Portugal is also very fine.

Whilst the English colonies have stamps printed in superior style, Great Britain herself has very ordinary ones. The English stamps are at about the same level as those of Turkey, Greece, Switzerland, France, Prussia, Hanover, Denmark, and Würtemburg. In the last-named country, about the year 1850, a very elegant stamp was brought out, composed exclusively of vignettes and type.

Stamp printing is less than mediocre in Poland, in Norway, in South Australia, and New South Wales; it is really bad in Victoria, and particularly in Spain and the Spanish colonies, where letter-press is used.

Italy is difficult to class. It is the country of experiments in stamps. The Italian are of all styles; and in the present time some are made which are rather good than bad. But in this land of art, nothing excellent has been produced, if we except the very remarkable copper-plate stamp produced in Sicily, towards the end of the reign of Ferdinand.

Of all postage stamps, the worst are those of the Papal States. Engraving and printing alike carry us back to the infancy of those two arts.

Conclusion.—In the very considerable number of stamps made use of in all countries, there is scarcely half a score of which one can say,—these are well printed. If an examination were made of the innumerable papers of value, of private and public banks, all the world over, the same proportion would be disclosed. Whence it may be concluded, that the most insurmountable obstacle to oppose to the forging of bank notes, postage stamps, and other papers of value, is an absolutely perfect impression of finely-engraved surfaces.

At the present time, when the increase in our taxes is causing a great number of new stamps to be printed, I have thought it my duty to point out the surest means of frustrating the designs of those who may intend to defraud the public treasury.—*The Printers' Register.*

NEWLY-ISSUED OR INEDITED STAMPS.

Our budget this month is comparatively unattractive, being almost exclusively composed of notices of minor varieties. The sole prominent exception is the new series for

Prince Edward Island.—This is noticed by our New York contemporary, who describes it as "simply a disgrace to any country." The stamps are, according to him, "the poorest engraved in use in the British dominions;" and we can fully bear out his opinion ourselves, and so, we think, will our readers, after examining the annexed engraving. The list of the values is as follows:—



One	cent	orange
Three	,,	rose
Six	,,	violet
Twelve	,,	green

The design consists of the head of the Queen to left, in various frames, and inscribed PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND, POSTAGE, with value in words. The stamps are printed on soft white paper, unwatermarked and badly perforated. In size they are rather above the average, being as large as the Costa Rica stamps. It is surprising that at a period in the issue of stamps, when all our colonies are seeking to obtain finely-engraved and artistic designs, the Prince Edward Island authorities should, from an apparent enthusiasm for economy, prefer the rough productions of some native artist to the finished works of the American Bank Note Company. As these stamps mark the supercession of the

antiquated currency, in favour of the decimal system, they were certainly worthy of a finer design.

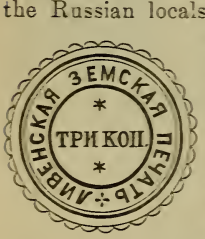
Russian Locals.—We are in receipt of a batch of hitherto unengraved locals, from our St. Petersburg correspondent, which we proceed to describe.

Tamboff.—Annexed are illustrations of the 3 kop. stamp, black on white, described in the list published by us in July last, and of a new 5 kop. stamp, issued in mauve, of a delicate tint, on white, reminding one strongly of the 5 kop. Russian envelope. The design is very fairly engraved in this latter, and our correspondent assigns as a reason for the representation of the bees and hive, which form the armorial bearings of the government or county of Tamboff, situate to the south-east of Moscow, that that government is entirely composed of very fertile land.





Livni.—This is the least interesting of all the Russian locals, and in appearance resembles nothing so nearly as a bobbin label. Description—"bless you (to paraphrase on Canning's knife-grinder), we've none to give," further than that the impression is on a crimson paper, and that the stamp is punched out of the paper on which it is printed, so as to leave a rim of scalloped dents following the outer margin of the border.



Soumma.—The 3 kopecs stamp (brown), known so long since as 1869, and engraved on p. 11 of *The Stamp-Collector's Magazine* for 1870, has been superseded by a stamp of similar design, the value being increased, as in the case of the Tamboff, from three to five kopecs. The new comer is lithographed deep red on white. The device in the centre is a play on the name of the town, which signifies a bag.

Our correspondent, with reference to the Tamboff and Soumma stamps, makes the very just observation that the retrograde movement, evidenced in the increase of the local rates from 3 to 5 kopecs is much to be regretted. It would seem, however, that these low rates do not really pay. Our correspondent was so informed by the local authorities, from whom he obtained the specimens he has sent us, and they gave that as a reason for charging him an extra kopec each for the stamps.

Egorieff.—The diamond-shaped 3 kopecs stamp, of which we gave an illustration in our magazine for November last, exists in at least two varieties of type. There are a black and blue, both lithographs, and a black impression, apparently from an engraved die. The execution of the latter is relatively very fine, the lines of the ground-work being very clearly drawn, and the lettering and corner stars sharp and well-defined. The paper, also, is thicker and stouter.

Turkey.—*T. B. Morton & Co.*—The 10 paras journal stamp, to which we referred last month, is now in use, and differs very much from the original design, of which we lately gave an illustration. The error of the lithographer has led to the entire suppression of the diagonal lines and the oval corner disks, and the flag has been re-drawn. The design now consists of the border, scroll, and the words JOURNAL STAMP, in black, and the value, flag, and anchors, in red. The value occupies the same place as in the proof, and the anchors are in a slanting position in the lower corners. The impression is on white paper, perforated, and altogether its effect is decidedly poor.

The proof represented in our last number was not the first design submitted to the Morton company. The really original design, now before us, has the oval disks at the corners, but they are unshaded, and the diagonal lines are also wanting. Nine thousand impressions of this type were struck off, in anticipation of its acceptance, on blue paper, the disks being printed in mauve, and they have now been turned to account by the company, in consequence of a reduction of its letter-rates from 2 piastres to $1\frac{1}{4}$ piastre. A 50 paras stamp is to be issued to represent this rate; but pending its preparation the blue 10 para journal stamps are employed, in conjunction with the 1 piastre stamp, issued in 1870; and to fit them for

this service the word LETTER has been surcharged in red on the word *Journal*.

DECCAN.—There exist two values of the current series, one of which has been only partially noticed, and the other not at all. The one anna was referred to by Mr. Pemberton, at p. 123, of our last volume, but he had then only a proof to describe from, which was printed in deep lilac. On p. 187, he gives the colour as russet-brown, and in the February number of the *Phil. Journal*, he quotes it as being of a rich black-brown. This designation is objected to by our Brighton contemporary, who insists that "a very dull puce-brown is the hue most approaching the truth." We have the stamp before us, and at first sight should have pronounced the creature black; on more closely examining it, we find that it is really of a brownish hue, but we hardly like to say positively what other tint enters into its composition; we fancy a triple denomination—purple, blackish brown—is required for it, but perhaps purple-sepia might be accepted as a compromise.

The second value, which is quite a new one, is the two annas bright-green, respecting whose tint no controversy can possibly arise.

NORWAY.—The new 3 sk., of which we gave an engraving last month, has been joined by a 4 sk. bright violet, and both stamps bear a post-horn as watermark. There is also a yellow post card with the 3 sk. design impressed in carmine on its right upper corner. The inscription is BREV. KORT.

Again, there is a 3 sk. envelope, bearing the adhesive design in carmine, and the Norwegian lion rampant, on a shaded shield, is struck on the flap. We take these details from *Le Timbre-Poste*, not having yet seen the card ourselves. An envelope and a card, each of the value of 2 skilling, are expected. It has been rumoured that the 3 sk. adhesive is an official; this we can affirm is not the case, as we have received it on ordinary letters.

FRANCE.—The 1, 2, and 4 centime, unperforated, with effigy of the republic, are now rarely to be met with. The *Petit Moniteur Universel* of the 19th March contains the following paragraph:—

> The postal administration will shortly put on sale stamped envelopes. It is an experiment which will last for some weeks. The envelopes and the adhesives will be sold concurrently, so that the postal administration may ascertain the public preference, with a view to the adoption of a definite measure.

We do not know how much importance is to be attached to this intelligence; we fear not much. There have been too many such *canards*.

A French paper of the 22nd March says:—"The idea of issuing postage stamps with a large figure in the centre has been definitively abandoned. Some designs of this kind were printed and submitted to the president of the republic, but they were considered too ungainly. The new type which has been finally decided on consists of a small-sized effigy of the republic, enclosed in a broad border of about a millimetre in diameter. The value being thrice repeated in figures sufficiently large, no error can be possible. The new stamps cannot be put in circulation before another month or six weeks, for this period will be required to engrave the plates and strike off a sufficient number of copies."

Assuming this intelligence to be correct, the time required for preparing a supply seems very much underrated, and we can hardly anticipate the appearance of the new stamps for some months to come.

CEYLON.—The annexed engraving represents one of the envelopes of the new decimal series. The engraving has been supplied to us by the proprietors of the *Philatelical Journal*, and we are unable to do more than insert it in the present number. In the next we hope to give full details respecting the series, which, if the above design may be taken as a sample, would seem to vie in beauty with its predecessor.



CONSTANTINOPLE.—In the last number of *Le Timbre-Poste* appears an engraving of a handstamp, said to be used by the present Constantinople local post, for the prepayment of printed matter sent under band, for distribution in Constantinople and its suburbs. It is circular, with Turkish let-

tering in the upper part, and P.P. below. The Turkish inscription reads, URZETE AHS OLOUNMOUS, and signifies prepaid. The impression is in black, on white and on blue paper. What the local post really is we know not; we remember hearing, some time back, a rumour to the effect that the local post had been re-established, but have never received any confirmatory details that such was the case.

GREAT BRITAIN.—The vaccination certificates all bear an impression from the die of the halfpenny wrapper stamp, but the tint somewhat differs. It is, however, principally remarkable from the fact that the three disks below the circle bear the date—18-12-71.

The post cards are now only sold at the post-offices in batches of twelve, and private cards will be allowed to pass through the post the same as in Germany. Below we give, *verbatim et literatim*, the report of the proceedings in the House of Commons on the subject.*

CHILI.—We learn from *The Philatelist* that envelopes for this republic have been ordered in the United States, and will consist of five values, namely:—

2	centavos	bronze.
5	,,	red.
10	,,	blue.
15	,,	(?)
20	,,	green.

The impression will be on white and yellow and blue tinted paper. A fifteen centavos adhesive is also to be issued, but its colour has not yet been decided on.

HUNGARY.—The first journal stamp has been replaced by another type, which differs, however, only in trifling details from the old one. The opening of the post-horn is turned to the left, and the cross on the crown inclines to the same side. The new stamp is printed in rose on white, and is unperforated.

URUGUAY.—The provisional 15 c. bistre, of 1864, has three varieties, (1) with figures upside down; (2) with three figures 15, the third in the middle of the stamp between the two others; (3) with the figures 20.

WESTERN AUSTRALIA.—The fourpence rose of this colony is now printed of a maroon shade, and consequently presents a more sombre appearance.

CANADA.—Another new value of the small series has been issued—the two cents, of a delicate chrome-green.

* Mr. Greene asked the postmaster-general whether the post-office authorities had decided that in future not less than a dozen postal cards could be bought at any post-office, an extra halfpenny being charged for the same; and, if so, whether he had considered the effect on the poorer classes, of a decision which obliged them to purchase twelve cards, when only requiring one.

Mr. Baxter, in the absence of the postmaster-general, said,—It has been decided that in future not less than a dozen post cards can be bought at any post-office, and that an extra halfpenny shall be charged for the same. Experience has shown that the poorer classes hardly ever use post cards, and it rarely happens that a single card is sold to anyone. It is calculated that the change will increase the revenue by £13,000 per annum. I may add, that papermakers and stationers of the United Kingdom have, from the first, strongly complained that the interests of their trade were being seriously affected by the sale of the post cards for a halfpenny each, without any charge being made for the cards themselves. But this is not the only change proposed. The stationers have also remonstrated against the exclusion of all private cards from a participation in the privileges accorded to the post cards issued by the Government; and, as the departmental reasons which seemed at the first to render such exclusion necessary, no longer exist, it is intended to allow private cards, having written communications upon them, to pass through the post, under certain restrictions, for a postage of a halfpenny. This will give opportunity to the stationers to devise a variety of cards, differing both in quality and design, for general use; and all classes will participate, more or less, in the accommodation.—*The Times.*

STRANGE—IF TRUE.

ALLEGED ISSUE OF STAMPS BY THE COMMUNE.

M. EMILE LAMBRY was employed in the Paris post-office under the empire, and afterwards during the siege. He probably continued to exercise his functions during the Commune. He is now editor of *La Vérité*, and he has written a book, which is divided into two parts. The first contains an account of the "Black Cabinet" and its superintendent, the second is entitled, "The Post Office under the Commune."*

M. Lambry, as a post-office *employé*, must have had peculiar opportunities of informing himself on many matters connected with the history and administration of the service. His account of the manner in which M.

* *Les Mystères du Cabinet Noir sous l'Empire; et La Poste sous la Commune.* Par Emile Lambry. Paris: E. Dentu.

Simonel, the chief of the secret cabinet, manipulated suspected letters, is not the hypothesis of an outsider, but apparently the result of personal knowledge and observation. In like manner, though he nowhere explicitly states that he remained at his post during the reign of the Commune, his narrative of the events which took place at the *Hôtel des Monnaies* is of that graphic character which denotes personal intimacy with the facts he relates. Therefore, anything that he states is, *primâ facie*, of special value, and likely to be true. His history of the *Cabinet Noir* is very interesting, and we intend in an early number to publish an abridgment of it; but in the present article we only purpose to bring before our readers, and comment on, M. Lambry's account of the issue of postage stamps by the Communist postmaster.

After reciting the circumstances which attended on the accession of M. Theisz, the chaser of metals, to the directorial chair, and the difficulties which had to be surmounted in performing the postal service, M. Lambry goes on to say :—

After much searching among the office stores, a supply of postage stamps representing a rather large sum was found, but they were all of ten centimes. These were used for want of better, and whilst preparations were being made for striking off others. But the ordinary engravers to the administration had nearly all taken to flight, and those who remained refused their services. M. Theisz, himself an engraver, found some workmen to whom he entrusted the work. But how many plates had to be destroyed before a tolerably satisfactory result could be obtained! At last, after many hindrances, postage stamps could be got of all values—from one to eighty centimes. No attempt was made to print five-franc stamps; in the first place, because they were more difficult to impress than the others, and, secondly, for the excellent reason that not one would have been sold.

Hardly were these stamps, which had been obtained with such difficulty, put in circulation, than a vexatious rumour was spread about. The regular postal administration had had stamps printed for its use at Versailles, but, to distinguish them from those fabricated at Paris, it abstained from perforating them. You know that for some years past, the French administration, following in this the English example, had had the sheets of stamps perforated, so that each stamp might be easily separated from its neighbour. The absence of perforation in the Versailles issue, therefore, rendered evident the Parisian falsification. It was even asserted that the letters bearing a perforated stamp were considered as unpaid; the Versailles people drew a pen across the stamp, and the receiver had to pay the entire postage. This piece of news spread among the tradesmen, and all the large houses sent their letters to St. Denis by one of their men. In that town they were prepaid by means of a Versailles stamp.

M. Theisz had authorised the establishment of postal agencies, charged with the duty of carrying letters to Versailles, and bringing back those for Paris. These firms were only to carry prepaid letters. In consequence of selling many postage stamps, they procured in Paris stamps on which they were allowed a discount of one per cent, but they sold to their clients the stamps from Versailles on which they had obtained no discount.

It will be easily understood that with such a system, the receipts must necessarily sensibly diminish. Thus, offices which at the *début* of the Commune, sold a hundred francs' worth of stamps per day, in a short time after sold only 40 francs. In most of the offices the sale fell to a ridiculously low figure.

The postal council was called together, consisting of a dozen members, in order to find a mode of preventing fraud; and it was decided that inspectors should be appointed, charged with the duty of visiting the tobacco shops and postal agents. These inspectors went to work the next morning, and presented themselves everywhere. Everywhere perforated stamps were shown them, but hardly were their backs turned, than the sale of the unperforated ones recommenced.

This information is at variance with all we know respecting the history of the French postage stamps during the Commune. Its writer, though engaged in the Parisian post-office, appears to ignore the fact that the unperforated stamps were printed at Bordeaux soon after the Prussian investment of the capital; yet, when that investment ceased, a vast number of letters from the departments, all prepaid with the unperforated stamps, must have passed through the chief office, under his eyes. Furthermore, though we cannot tax our memory so far as to declare positively that perforated stamps were used at Versailles during the insurrection, we are very much inclined to believe that such was the case; and we do know that from about the end of March, the use of the unperforated stamps gradually declined everywhere. In proof of this we may mention that in our May number (1871), the fact of the distribution of a supply of perforated 20 centime stamps to the provincial offices is noticed.

Soon after the re-opening of Paris in February, the employment of the old stamps with effigy of the Emperor, recommenced. In our April number (which went to press just after the outbreak of the 18th March) it is stated that "nearly all the letters which arrived in the departments were franked with the old imperial labels." Now, this and other statements were made on the authority of a constant contributor to these pages,—a resident in France,—who is em-

ployed in a large commercial house which has correspondents in all parts of that country; they may, therefore, be implicitly depended on, and we specially refer to him, because, with respect to this very question of the issue of stamps by the Commune, he is well able to supply valuable negative proof.

Towards the end of April, he heard a rumour to the effect that the Commune had issued stamps which alone would be accepted in payment of the local Parisian rate, and he at once wrote to a gentleman in Paris, with whom, thanks to the help of engine-drivers, his firm was in daily communication, asking him if there was any truth in the statements. The latter replied as follows:—

With respect to postage stamps; up to the present time I have obtained them at the head office, which is occupied by the Commune. I have never received any other than those bearing the Emperor's profile. I went to-day to inquire about the new stamps, and I received for answer, that none would be issued until the old stock was exhausted.

A notice is placarded up, that letters from the departments, brought in no matter how, and flung into the pillar-boxes for delivery, should be prepaid by a ten centime stamp only, or otherwise unpleasant consequences might follow.

The date of this letter was the 29th April, and a little more than three weeks afterwards the insurrection was quelled. It can hardly have been in these last three weeks that new stamps were issued, and indeed, M. Lambry, in another part of his narrative, leaves it to be inferred that they were in use before the 30th April.

To account for the existence of a sufficient stock of imperial stamps at the Communist post-office is not difficult, if, as stated by *The Morning Post*, the new *employés* in Paris, prior to the 11th April, had been sent round to the tobacco shops, to collect all the stamps that could be found in them. Considerable quantities must have been thus discovered, for it is a remarkable fact, that during the first siege, no imperial stamps, so far as we know, were used, every letter we have ever seen from the besieged city being prepaid with the resuscitated Republican labels. When the insurrection broke out, the post-master-general took off to Versailles all the newly-printed supply with the effigy of the republic, and the Commune was glad to fall back on the retailers' supply of imperial stamps, which, in consequence of the Republican *furore*, had been held over during the Prussian investment.

The asserted issue of new stamps becomes, however, less credible than ever. M. Lambry does not simply say that a fresh supply of the old Republic stamps was printed off from existing plates or casts. He speaks of making fresh ones,* of finding engravers, of the imperfection of the first plates, and of the moderate success of the later ones. But if new stamps of the 1848 type had been engraved, certain striking differences—the result of inferior workmanship—would show themselves, and some variations in colour would betray them; no such stamps, however, have been seen, unless they are the so-called forgeries to which vague reference was made last summer by a Parisian paper, in a paragraph which we translated. At any rate, they are quite unknown, and we do not expect them to turn up now.

There is another point which is very convincing against M. Lambry's accuracy. He asserts that stamps of all kinds, from one to eighty centimes were struck, and further on he puts forth the fact of their being perforated, as a reason for the issue of unperforated stamps by the Versaillists. But no one has ever seen perforated 1, 2, 4, 5, or 80 centime stamps of the Republic. These values exist only in the Bordeaux imperforate series. This pretty well settles the matter, and further comment is hardly necessary. Still, we may observe that the absence, rather than the presence of perforation, would have been likely to characterise the issue of stamps by the Commune, seeing that the work of perforation is a very delicate one, requiring such nice adjustment of the machine and the paper as the unskilled Communist workmen could hardly have attained.

How M. Lambry can have been so misled as to state that stamps were printed and issued by the Commune, we cannot understand; that he should do so is one more

* "On se servait de ceux-là (the stamps collected from the retailers) tout en se preparant d'en frapper d'autres."

proof of the slight knowledge which postal *employés* possess of matters which are not within their own immediate department. As a contribution to postal lore, M. Lambry's narrative is valueless, and, perhaps, hardly worth the trouble of dissection; but the prevention of errors on the subject hereafter, will, we hope, result from this examination of the details whilst they are fresh in the memory.

A JAPANESE STATE PAPER.

It is but a few years since the first Japanese ambassadors arrived in Europe. Their country had been for many ages civilized after the oriental fashion, but of all, or nearly all, the ameliorating innovations recently introduced into European life they were ignorant. Their knowledge of the habits of the western nations was derived solely from the information disseminated by our own representatives on their visit to the Japanese empire; but, superficial as it must necessarily have been, it was sufficient to incite in them and in their sovereign a desire to learn more, and to profit by what they might learn. On their arrival in Europe, as they came across new inventions and institutions, they carefully took note of them, and on their return home the Japanese government lost no time in turning their observations to some practical benefit.

Among the institutions of which the excellence most forcibly struck them, that of state post-offices and their machinery must certainly be numbered, and the result is now shown in the establishment of a regular postal service in Japan. We recently had the pleasure of chronicling the emission of a series of postage stamps by the government as a necessary corollary to this measure, and we are now able to place before our readers a translation of the document in which the Japanese council of state informs the public of the postal facilities which it will henceforth enjoy. This document, we may say without undue enthusiasm, is written in a truly noble spirit, showing as it does such a statesmanlike appreciation of the benefits of inter-communication, and such unprejudiced willingness to adopt that system whereby alone those benefits can be secured. The following is the text.*

The emission of postage stamps is not an isolated indication of progress, but one of a series. A railway is being made several hundred miles in length, and the Mikado himself attended the opening of the first section. Tramways are being laid down. First among foreign nations, the Japanese are following the English example in forming a society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals. The government is declaring for free trade, and has resolved, when the treaties are revised next year, to expunge the prohibition on the export of rice. Lastly, as a necessary preparation for entering into competition for the world's trade, the coinage has been revised, and, as stated by a correspondent in our pages a short time since, the unit of currency is the dollar, or rather a coin

* Copied *verbatim* from an English newspaper, published in Japan, and obligingly communicated to us by a correspondent.

NOTIFICATION.

It is of the greatest importance for public and private objects to facilitate as far as possible communication by post. Hitherto this service has been entirely left to private enterprise, so that great delay has frequently occurred in the transmission of letters. Sometimes it has required more than ten days for the letter to arrive at a distance of a hundred miles or so, while in other cases there was the fear that letters never reached their destination at all.

The charge for letters required to be forwarded with expedition has been very high, and the poorer classes in remote parts of the country have been entirely shut out from mutual intercourse. From the difficulty of learning the condition of affairs and the market prices of produce in different parts, it has often happened that groundless rumours have been spread abroad, and the public mind has been misled thereby.

The knowledge of these facts has excited our profoundest commiseration.

It is therefore our intention gradually to inaugurate a general system of posts on all the high roads of the empire, so that there may be intercommunication of thought between the most remote points, and the state of affairs throughout the country be ascertained with ease and quickness, so that all classes may be able to have their letters forwarded with the greatest possible expedition. As an experiment only, posts will be dispatched daily from Yedo to Kioto in 62 hours, and to Osaka in 78 hours, beginning from the first day of the 3rd month (April 20th). The system will admit of letters being forwarded, not only to those places, but to all the towns on the Tokaido, to all villages within ten or twelve miles of them, and to the provinces of Ise and Mino.

For the information of persons desirous of availing themselves of the post, directions are given below.

First Month, 1871.

(Signed), COUNCIL OF STATE.

identical in value therewith, called the *yan*. A supply of yan, half yan, and quarter yan silver pieces has just been struck in the United States, bearing for design, on the obverse, sun and rays; wreath below, three flowers above; on the reverse, the imperial dragon. Besides this, the Continental Bank Note Company, of New York, has just completed the engraving of plates for two denominations of Japanese paper money—one yan and five yans, which latter event, we may in conclusion say, points to probabilities with regard to future postal emissions; and we venture to predict that the next series will be engraved in the United States, in which case we may find the Newfoundland stamps rivalled by their Japanese *confrères*.

CORRESPONDENCE.

THE SURCHARGED INSCRIPTION ON THE CHARKOFF LOCAL.

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

SIR,—I notice that on page 19 of the February number of *The Stamp-Collector's Magazine*, it is said that the black inscription in a linear oblong, placed diagonally on the Charkoff stamp, is a postmark. This you will find is not the case; I have received several specimens that have never gone through the post, marked in this manner. Hoping that this information may be of some use,

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,

Forest Hill. W. J. H.

THE PROVISIONAL 5 c. STAMPS OF CHILI.

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

DEAR SIR,—The provisional 5 c. stamps of Chili (or, in other words, the half of a 10 c. *diagonally divided*), if I mistake not, are mentioned in none of the stamp catalogues or magazines. Surely they are just as worthy of being collected as the surcharged stamps of other countries.

The principal cause of the issue of these provisionals was a scarcity of 5 c. stamps at one time,—in 1854 I think,—and up to the present day they have been used (though sparingly) from time to time. I shall explain why it is still necessary to use these stamps now-a-days.

I cannot say how things are managed in England, but in Chili, in every town large enough to have a regular post-office, there are also a number of agencies, or *estancos*, as they are called (generally tobacconists' shops) where stamps may be bought in quantity. From these the post-office supplies itself; but now and again it happens, through carelessness, that the small stock of stamps is allowed to be exhausted before anyone thinks of renewing it. As soon as this is discovered, somebody is dispatched in hot haste to buy some stamps,* and, after ten minutes or so, generally returns with them. Sometimes, however, it happens that all the *estancos*, say, within the radius of a mile or so, have not a single 5 c. stamp on hand! Under these circumstances, the only way to get out of the difficulty is by cutting a 10 c. stamp into two triangles, and valuing them at 5 c. each. Though the consumption of 5 c. stamps is far greater than that of the other two values, still they are not kept in proportionate quantities (in the post-office of course); the former are exhausted before, perhaps, one-eighth part of the others is sold.

Valparaiso. L. W. M.

* This is of almost daily occurrence in Valparaiso; people have to wait 5, 10, or even 15 minutes, before they can have their letters stamped.

THE INSCRIPTION ON THE DECCAN STAMPS.

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

DEAR SIR,—From time to time the readers of the philatelical magazines have perused the latest intelligence with regard to the stamps of the Deccan; and in *The Stamp-Collector's Magazine*, vol. ix., page 122, under the head of "A Batch of Novelties," Mr. Pemberton describes these stamps, and, as far as possible, makes up for his defective acquaintance with the Sanscrit, Persi-Arabic, and Persian languages by his knowledge of philatelical matters. Perhaps he will not object to my pointing out a few inaccuracies in his paper.

Introduced into the centre of his lists of the Deccan stamps is the following:—"In each value the frame and ground-work differ slightly; the centre inscription (in Persian characters) is on a different ground in each."

For the benefit of such collectors as are interested in the Deccan postage stamps, I am able to put before them the following facts:—Of the inscription on the 8 annas stamp (an engraving of which has been given at vol. 9, p. 122), the words not in English are entirely in Persi-Arabic characters. On the top of the stamp the reading is POST STAMP, in English characters; underneath is POST STAMP, in Persi-Arabic characters.

The centre-piece was so indistinct (being printed black on a dark ground) that it was illegible, although minutely studied through a powerful microscope. A mistake was also made in the right character of the centre-piece, which did not render it more distinct.

The left-hand piece, just below the centre circle, is 8 annas, in English; and on the right hand, in Persi-Arabic, is the word *sonat*, pronounced *sonot*, the literal meaning of which is pure, unalloyed. No word in English could be accurately used in translating it, except "sterling." Below, the inscription is also in Persi-Arabic, and although there was much difficulty in making it out (owing to some mistake in the printing), it is supposed to be *post stamp* or *postage stamp*. The reason for the difference in the character of the upper inscriptions and the lower is, that the upper is printed *in full*, while the lower is in what is termed the *shikāstú* (pronounced shikustar), hand, or the broken hand. This peculiar style of writing does not exactly correspond to our short-hand.

During the Indian mutiny the letters which were written by the native allies to the British officers were nearly always (for the sake of brevity and celerity) written in the *shikāstú* hand; and the officers, not all of them then being acquainted with this peculiar hand, were put to much inconvenience, and obliged to take into their pay natives who understood the writing. In Persi-Arabic there are no vowels, and, therefore, it is very difficult in writing the language to give a good translation, with the proper signs, &c., still retained in the Persi-Arabic dialect.

The Deccan stamps termed "the skeleton issue" are much more roughly executed; altogether so much so, that only a small portion of the stamp could be deciphered, and that not with any degree of accuracy.

Yours obediently,

Saxmundham. F. CAVELL.

OUR CONTEMPORARIES.

The American Journal of Philately.—The last two numbers are better than their immediate predecessors. The one for March is principally remarkable for the notice it contains of a Confederate local, of which the only known specimen was recently discovered by Mr. Scott in Mr. Philbrick's unrivalled collection. It was issued at Madison, Florida, early in January, 1861, and, therefore, considerably before the actual outbreak of hostilities; its issue, however, arose out of circumstances connected with the then tone of feeling between north and south, as the postmaster, by whom the stamp was made—a Mr. E. J. Perry—has lucidly explained in a letter to Mr. Scott. Small change became scarce at that period, and the stock of United States stamps was also exhausted. Mr. Perry, who had Confederate leanings, was loath to apply for a fresh supply of stamps, and preferred to issue the stamp in question "for the purpose of making change." They were "sold in quantities to the business part of the community," and, says the postmaster, "any letter found in the letter-box with my stamp on it had evidence of having been paid for, and was accordingly stamped, 'paid in money,' in accordance with the laws regulating the United States post-offices, and charged as paid in money in the way bills forwarded to the distributing offices." The stamp was truly a postage stamp, but only in a limited sense; it was evidence of prepayment to the receiving postmaster, but not to the distributing office, which was guided only by the handstamp "Paid." In this respect it resembled the stamps on letters from one country to another. The delivering office does not take any account of the stamps on them, which may either overpay or underpay the letter; but if the magic letters, PD., signifying "paid," are on them, they are delivered, even though they bear no stamp at all.

The Madison stamp caused a certain excitement in the northern states when it was noticed on letters from that town, and it formed the subject of an article in the *New York Herald*, in consequence of which the postal department sent an official to Madison to inquire into the cause of its emission. It is exceedingly unpretentious in design, consisting, as it does, only of a tranverse oblong frame composed of fourteen type-set rose ornaments, within which is the value, 3, on the top line, and CENTS on the second. In the single known copy the word cents is misprinted CNETS. The impression is in dark bronze, probably originally yellow-bronze, or gold, on blue wove foolscap writing paper. Mr. Scott justly characterises it as the "first issued, best authenticated, and scarcest Confederate provisional."

In the March number the only other prominent article is that on the New Granadine stamps, which gives great promise. In the article on newly-issued stamps, two errors in illustration occur; the current La Guaira, with J. A. J. and Z. in centre, is given as the design of the Western Australian threepenny, and the cut of the 10 para Egyptian is printed in a rough approximation to the colour of the 5 paras.

The April number contains no original matter of a very interesting nature, unless the illustrated description of two doubtful Confederate local types—Athens, Ga., and type-printed Macon—can be so considered. The "Reviews of Philatelic Publications" are too brief; the sneer at Mr. Pemberton's commendation of his own writings comes with doubtful grace from a journal which has frequently and unblushingly extolled the contributions which have filled its pages; and the objection that none of the stamp journals gave notice in advance of Mr. Scott's auction sale of stamps, is refreshing; we are not aware that any of the publishers of any stamp magazine are in the habit of inserting the advertisements of other dealers gratis.

Le Timbre-Poste for March contains a short but interesting article, copied from a German paper, on the Japanese numerals. From the manner in which the characters are arranged, the editor deduces that the stamps should be mounted with the dragons' heads downwards, the entwined and contorted tails forming the top of the design. The remaining contents are not specially remarkable, and the wit of the narrative entitled "In Search of a Postage Stamp" is hidden. The April number is fully occupied by the "Chronicle," and a further

instalment of Dr. Magnus's monograph on envelope stamps. In the former article we observe that the editor states he expects to be able to prove that "all the authentic details," furnished to us by M. Panopoulo, relative to the Morton stamps, "are but a pure invention on his (M. P.'s) part." The accusation thus made is a serious one, and if not thoroughly supported by facts, the journal which makes it will certainly fall into the utmost discredit. We hope it is not true, and are divided between our confidence in M. Panopoulo, who has been known to our publishers for years, and the painful doubt which so positive a charge, coming from a respectable organ, is naturally calculated to create.

The Philatelist.—The March number contains the first article on telegraph stamps which has appeared in the English philatelic press. It is continued in the April number, and the first instalment of a catalogue of telegraphic emissions is given in the latter. The stamps mentioned are decidedly not of a very interesting character, and we should not care about going out of our way to obtain them, preferring to reserve a cordial reception for the government labels.

In the Spud papers the forgeries of British Guiana, 1860, Turks Islands, Spanish Official, and Chili are treated of. For the first named, the inscription RETIMUSQUE (instead of PETIMUSQUE) indicates a forgery; in the third, the absence of the pomegranate from the front of the shield is condemnatory; the other two are such inferior imitations that, like vice, they "to be hated need but to be seen."

Mr. Atlee commences in the March number an article entitled, "Notes on Postmarks as Aids to the Detection of Forgeries," but we fear that, with all his known ability, he will find it difficult to enliven so dull a subject, and we doubt the possibility of its being treated in a practically useful way for detective purposes. In order that a list of postmarks may be of real assistance, it will be necessary to describe and engrave every postmark, and to be able to affirm that every postmark *is* described, otherwise the notice of some and the emission of others, may prove a stumbling-block to beginners. If this cannot be done—and we do not think it can be—it would be well to give the work a more modest scope, and notice *only* the forged obliterations, pointing out in what particulars they differ from the genuine.

In the "Correspondence" of the two numbers the postal value of the Egyptian officials is commented on. Their exact position is easily fixed by a reference to the practice of the Italian post-office, on whose system that of the Egyptian postal service is based, the head of the Egyptian office being an Italian, and its official documents being in his language. In Italy circular labels have long been in use, and are put on the mail-bags after they are made up, and probably on official documents. For a full description of them, we refer our readers to p. 71 of our fourth volume, in which also will be found an engraving of the type then—but, as we now think, incorrectly—supposed to be the one adopted. We believe the design now in use bears only the words AMMINISTRAZIONE DELLE POSTE ITALIANE, in a plain circle. The Egyptian labels seem, like the Italian, to be something *less* than postage stamps, and *more* than office wafers. Found on a letter or packet, they are the most visible proof of its official origin, like the words, "On Her Majesty's Service," on our own official envelopes; but, like these latter, they are probably accompanied by some stamp or signature, which alone carries with it the franking power.

The Philatelical Journal.—Both the March and April numbers are replete with readable matter, and the latter exceeds by four pages its usual dimensions. In the "Cream of the Magazines" we find nothing particular to report on, except the editor's objection to the continued notice in our columns of inverted watermarks,—which, in duty to ourselves, we must say is due to our respect for our correspondents' opinions and studies,—and his mystification as to the true design of the Chilian post card, owing to the widely differing engravings in our own and the Brighton journal. That he may be in no further doubt, we beg to say that we delayed the publication of our February number, to give our printer time to procure from an Edinburgh type-founder the border-pieces necessary for the setting of the card, and

our representation is, consequently, almost literally a facsimile of the original.

The continuation of Mr. Atlee's article on the Hawaiian stamps is highly instructive, and we shall have occasion, in another part of the number, to refer to his opinion on the copies marked "specimen." Following Mr. Atlee's paper comes a short notice, by Senor M. P. de Figueroa, of a hitherto "unchronicled Spanish stamp"—a label prepared by a certain Senor Castell, author of a work intended to teach, in an accurate manner, the writing of addresses of letters. This pamphlet was approved of by the late queen as a work of public utility, and the postmaster-general ordered it to be sent to all the primary schools in Spain. Subsequently, in consideration of its value, the privilege of free transmission through the post for six months was accorded to Senor Castell, who, to avail himself of it, printed a stamp bearing the title of his work,—CARTILLA POSTAL DE ESPANA in an oval frame, enclosing the representation of an envelope, the whole on a ground of upright lines, and printed in black on rather dark blue paper.

"The Lithographed Series of the French Republic" is the title of a very interesting paper, by "A Parisian Collector," in which three types of the Bordeaux 20 c. blue are specified; the first, a very coarse impression, is distinguishable from the fact, that the top of the circular pearl border is nearly the sixteenth-of-an-inch from the external frame; the second and commonest type is better drawn, and in the frame on the left upper side, there are "four etruscan frets, and the commencement of a fifth;" in the third type the commencement of the fifth is wanting. These are the most prominent characteristics of three different drawings of the same design. The first type, and ultramarine copies of the second and third, are the rarest, and "an unobliterated copy is worth something more than its weight in gold."

"Our Black List" exposes the dealings of Mr. Zechmeyer, of Nürnberg; Messrs. Goldney & Wilts, and Charles & Lewis, of Stroud, and a batch of Glasgow innocents, to whom we hope to have the pleasure of referring in our next.

In the article on "Novelties," the Falkland Islands stamp is given as one of them; but if the editor will turn to *The Stamp-Collector's Magazine*, vol. ix., p. 120, he will find the type described and figured there.

The reviewer of philatelical publications calls attention to the practice of guaranteeing the American local reprints and forgeries as genuine. Our own publishers, whilst they have hitherto relied on the repeated, we might almost say continual, exposure in this journal of the true value of such labels as indicating, that if they offered them for sale at all, it was only to meet the requirements of collectors who are desirous of cheaply filling the spaces allotted in various stamp albums for these locals—have decided on adding an explicit statement at the foot of their future advertisements of such stamps to the effect, that the labels sold under the title of American and Hamburg locals are not *bona-fide* stamps.

The April number of our Birmingham *confrère* contains a good article on the Petersburg (Virginia) stamp, and exposes an attempt recently made to palm off an imitation as being a third type of the rare original. The counterfeit specimens, seven in number, which have been under examination, are attached to the letters on which they were supposed to have passed through the post, but the seven letters, ostensibly from (in all) three different firms, turn out, upon close inspection, to be all in one and the same handwriting! We have not space to go into the details, but the result of the investigation is to render the fraud very apparent, and the writer of the article deserves great credit for the sagacity he has shown in unmasking it.

The remaining contents are, "To be Sold by Auction"—a commentary on the recent sale; the completion of the Rev. R. B. Earée's instructive article on the "Stamps of La Guaira;" "Californian Locals"—a list of new discoveries, consisting of information of an "essential" character which requires a little dilution to make it readable; "Novelties;" "Bogus Novelties;" "The Turkish Stamps"—a very lucid monograph, by "A Parisian Collector;" "The Stamps of Trinidad"—composed principally of a much required reference list to the stamps of this colony; "Our Black List;" "Facetiæ Philatelicæ,"

which does not improve much; "Reviews" and "Correspondence." From the Trinidad article we extract the following reference to the "Too-Late" stamps:—

All the stamps of the present issue are to be found with the words TOO LATE surcharged in black or red ink across the stamp, and sometimes with it twice, so as to form a kind of cross. As we believe few collectors hold the same opinion about these stamps, we will give ours, which, we think, will settle the matter. The theory that the words surcharged are simply a postmark is wrong. We have seen whole sheets of some of the values so surcharged perfectly new, and with gum at the back. The five-shilling stamps are to be purchased in the island surcharged for sixpence, which is the rate charged for too late letters. We therefore suppose that those values are surcharged from time to time of which they have most in stock, and that once so surcharged they are sold at a uniform rate irrespective of their facial value. Thus the too-late stamps really do prepay too-late letters.

Does not the writer mean to say that the sixpence is the *fee* or *fine* charged in addition to the postage on too late letters?

PAPERS FOR BEGINNERS.—No. XIX.

BY OVERY TAYLOR.

EUROPE.

THE DANUBIAN PRINCIPALITIES:

Moldavia.

(*Continued from page* 56.)

FIRST SERIES.

ADDENDUM.—In the preceding paper I refrained from attempting to decide which of Dr. Magnus's five types were the genuine, because the decision would be attended with comparatively slight practical result; but for the benefit of collectors, who may desire to have information on this point, I may mention that the weight of opinion is in favour of the genuineness of the stamps of the *first* types on *laid* paper. Of this type and paper three values are known, viz., the 27, 54, and 108 paras: the 81 paras has still to be discovered. This is the verdict of Mr. Philbrick, of "A Parisian Collector," and other authorities, in which I beg leave to concur.

SECOND SERIES.

We have seen that the first series of stamps was issued in consequence of the adoption of a complicated system of rates, under which the postage was to be ascertained according, not only to weight, but to distance. It was no sooner put in force than it was found to work very unsatisfactorily. It gave the maximum of trouble to the public and the officials, combined with the minimum of benefit. On the 17th September, 1858, a memorial setting forth its disadvantages was addressed to the Administrative Council, by the finance minister, J. A. Cantacuzin—(probably a relative of Prince Demetrius, by whom the first investigation into the postal system was made), Minister Balche, whose name figures below the decrees relating to the first series, having meanwhile retired from office. Mr. J. A. Cantacuzin, in this document, of which the translation is subjoined, recommends the introduction of a rate, independent alike of weight and distance, to be fixed at 40 paras for ordinary, and 80 paras for, as I understand it, registered letters. This would seem an odd arrangement in a more civilised country, where advantage would be taken of a uniform tax on all ordinary letters, irrespective of weight, to send through the post bulky communications of inconvenient size; but the Moldavian finance minister, who would seem to have foreseen the possibility of an objection of this kind to his proposal, says, in the Minute in question, that there is very little difference in the weight of letters, herein evidently relying on the primitive habits of correspondence among the Moldavians.

The approval of the proposition of the finance minister by the Administrative Council, is signified by Minute No. 4288, addressed to the minister by the secretary of state, and the 1st November, 1858, is thereby fixed as the date of emission of the new series. Then follow two finance office Minutes, the first requiring the stamp office superintendent to arrange with the postmaster for the printing of 20,000 stamps of the same design as those to be suppressed; and the second addressed to the postmaster informing him of the change in the rates, and requesting him to take the necessary measures with the stamp superintendent for the printing of the above mentioned quantity. The reproduction of these documents is hardly necessary, but translations are annexed of the letter of 18th October, 1858, from the

stamp superintendent to the finance minister, and the minister's reply of the 19th, which together establish that the 20,000 stamps ordered were to be made up as follows:—

12,000 of the 40 paras.
5,000 „ 80 „
3,000 „ 5 „

and that the transmission of the dies was accompanied with the usual formalities.

The series of documents is completed by the finance Minute, No. 10,283, of 27th October, which advises the postmaster of the forwarding to him of a first stock of 10,816 stamps of the three values, and it concludes with the following sentence, "Notice is at the same time given you that the *employé* charged by the minister with the delivery is Mr. M. Figa, to whom the post-office will please furnish a detailed account of the stamps previously received, and hand over such old stamps as may remain,"—a request which, I may parenthetically remark, strengthens the arguments used in my last paper in reference to the return into stock of all unemployed stamps of the first series.

The documents which treat of the second series have not the same importance as those relating to the first, inasmuch as there are fewer doubtful points connected with the second. There is only one thing to which it is worth while to call attention, and that is the absence of any direct authorization of the issue of the 5 para stamp. In the finance minister's report of the 17th September, he does, it is true, say that as a matter of course the new letter rates will not affect the charge for packets, which latter "will continue to be subjected to the tariff established by the regulations now in force;" but that is all. In his minutes of the 13th October, he only speaks of 40 and 80 para stamps; and it is not until we get to the stamp superintendent's letter of the 18th October, that we find any mention of the 5 para, and from that letter it would appear that the issue of stamps of this value was decided on by the postmaster. We cannot discover what were "the regulations then in force" relative to the postage of journals, but we are left to assume that prior even to the issue of the first series the rate was 5 paras. This question, however, is of importance only from the historical point of view, and pending its solution, it must suffice for us to know that the 5 para was issued together with the 40 and 80 para stamps on the 1st November, 1858.

The series continued in use until the 1st January, 1862, a period of over three years. We possess no documents fixing the total number of stamps issued during that time.

The batch of official papers furnished to *Le Timbre-Poste* closes with the issue of the series, but we cull the following information from the article in which the correspondent of the Belgian paper sums up the history of the early emissions.

> The public, but little accustomed to the use of stamps, did not more freely employ the stamps of the second series than those of the first; therefore, there was never any occasion for the issue of sub-types. The correspondence was for the greater part confided to the Russian and Austrian postal services, established at the respective consulates of these states, and carrying even the internal correspondence of the country. Prepayment was effected either in money or by means of Russian or Austrian stamps.

A careful consideration of all the facts will show that this correspondent's assertion, that no sub-types were made—in other words, that the designs were not re-engraved—has much in its favour. Assuming that the stamps of the second series were not more freely used than those of the first, the number employed would be about 40,000 per annum, or 120,000 in all, which we might roughly subdivide into 60,000 of the 40 paras, 40,000 of the 80 paras, and 20,000 of the 5 paras. This would not be an extravagant number to produce from metallic dies, especially if it be considered that the impression was by hand and not by machine, and, therefore, much less forcible. Still the possibility of the designs having been re-engraved certainly exists, and must be taken into account in the attempt to form an estimate of the value of the known types. These, as defined by Dr. Magnus, are four in number, and as it is by no means unlikely that many of my readers may possess or receive the offer of stamps of this series, it is worth while to discuss the four types more or less in detail. Before doing so, I must take leave to acknowledge my obligations to the accomplished philatelist, known to the public by the modest *nom de plume* of "A Parisian Collector," who, by

the information and specimens he has kindly sent me, has materially aided and guided me in the study of these stamps.

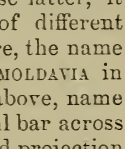
Of the first type the annexed engravings, which originally illustrated Dr. Magnus's paper, are rough representations. The noticeable point in connection with the 5 paras is, that the horns are *nearly upright*. The most distinctive feature of the other two stamps is, that the star on each is *six-pointed*, *large*, and tolerably *regular*, coupled with the fact that the paper on which they are printed is thin *pelure*, white or bluish. This type is unquestionably genuine. There are many known copies, all bearing orthodox obliterations. These latter, it may here be mentioned, are of different shapes—round, with date in centre, the name of the town in upper half, and MOLDAVIA in the lower; round, with FRANCO above, name of town below, and an ornamental bar across the middle; oblong, with a pointed projection at ends, FRANCO in upper, and name of town in lower half; and oval, with the same disposition of the lettering, and "No....." in the middle. There is one peculiarity noticeable in all, that is, that the name of the town *always* appears, whilst the obliterations on the doubtful types of this and the first series, bear the word FRANCO only.







The second type of the 5 paras is peculiar to that value. Like the first it has a six-pointed star, but it will be noticed that the horns, instead of being nearly upright, are strongly curved. This is the feature to be borne in mind for purposes of comparison. The genuineness of this type is exceedingly doubtful, and I shall not be far out in pronouncing it to be a forgery. It is, however, one of the small class of dangerous imitations, and in this it differs from the 40 and 80 paras, hereafter to be noticed. Except that there is a somewhat suspicious clearness in the printing as contrasted with the genuine, there is very little indeed in its appearance to raise a doubt in the mind of an inexperienced collector. Our engravings, in which prominence is given to the salient point, the shape of the horns, should render detection easy.



The second type of the 40 and 80 paras is shared by the two values. Representations of the arms are annexed. The most noticeable characteristic is the *five*-pointed star. Obliterated copies of this type are not known, and this is a most suspicious circumstance, tending strongly to show that the unused specimens, like the spurious copies of the first series, were made for sale to collectors only; for it is not unreasonable to suppose that if genuine, used copies of at least one of the values would be forthcoming. This type is consequently regarded as of *very* questionable value.





The third type is peculiar to the 80 paras. The star is six-pointed, but small, and its points of difference from the first type will be easily recognised on comparison with the engraving of the same above given. The figures resemble those of the first type. Mr. Philbrick possesses an obliterated copy of this type, which is perhaps the only one known. He believes in its genuineness, and the general feeling is in favour of the authenticity of this type, notwithstanding the lack of used copies.



Of the stamps of the fourth type, Dr. Magnus says: "If they are not proved false, there is at least a strong presumption against their authenticity;" and this dictum on the part of the learned doctor has never been contested. The star on this fourth type is six-pointed; but, whereas in the first type the word SCRISOREI commences and terminates at an *equal* distance from the border (3 mill.), in this fourth type it commences at 1½ mill., and terminates at 3 mill; moreover, the paper of this latter "is not the same as for the other types, but opaque, thicker, and showing some traces of being laid." Placed beside the genuine stamps,

the forged are immediately condemned. They do not resemble the genuine in colour, paper, nor even in size; but bear on their faces that suspicious look which is so noticeable in most spurious productions.

Thus, then, the opinion of competent judges may be summed up as follows:—1st type, genuine; 2nd type, probably false; 3rd type, probably genuine; 4th type, false. Adopting Dr. Magnus's classification, the colours and papers of the first three types are as follows:—

First type.—

A. Bluish *pelure* paper.
40 paras blue.
80 „ wine-red.

B. Transparent *pelure* paper.
5 paras black (paper a little bluish).
40 „ blue.
80 „ vermilion-red.

C. Dull white or yellowish *pelure* paper.
5 paras black.
40 „ dark blue.
80 „ bright red.

Third type.—White *pelure* paper.
80 paras vermilion-red.
80 „ dark red.

Second type.—White *pelure* paper.
5 paras black.
40 „ pale blue, bright blue.
80 „ bright red.

The rarest among these are the 40 and 80 paras of the first type, on bluish paper. Dr. Magnus asserts that the same paper was used for the second type of the three values, and for the third type of the 80. This tells very much for or against the genuineness of both types, accordingly as the inference be drawn, from the third to the second, or from the second to the third.

ADDENDUM.

Moldavian Finance Ministry.—No. 8823.
Jassy, 17 Sept., 1858.

To the Honourable Administrative Council.

As the honourable Council is aware, the interior letter postage, according to the new tariff, has been fixed at the rate of 27 paras for a single-weight letter for a distance of one to eight posts: for letters with receipt [registered?] the rate is double; and the said rates are collected by means of stamps of the required value, applied according to the weight of the letters.

Seeing that the application of this system, based on the distance and the weight, causes very great complications, not only for the public, which, from neglecting to ascertain the weight of the letters, is exposed to surcharges which are sometimes enormous; but also for the officials, who are obliged to weigh and keep an account of all the letters.

The minister, taking the foregoing into consideration, and also the fact, that in foreign countries the postage is not based on the distance, judges it necessary to establish in this country a rate independent of distance and of weight (which, for letters, shows but slight differences); and to fix at 40 paras the rate for each ordinary letter, and at 80 paras the rate for those with voucher. As a matter of course, the said rate to be applicable to letters, and not to packets, which latter will continue to be subjected to the tariff established by the regulations at present in force.

In consequence, the honourable Council is requested to be good enough to take into consideration the present proposition, and to sanction it if it be thought proper, so that stamps may be made and employed to carry it into effect.

(Signed) The Finance Minister,
J. A. CANTACUZIN.

Stamp Office Superintendent.—No. 88.
Jassy, 18 Oct., 1858.

To the Hon. the Finance Minister.

The Post Office, by a Minute, No. 2629, informs me that conformably to an order, No. 9741, which it has received from the hon. minister, it has been decided to print 20,000 postage-stamps for the letter and journal service, viz.:—

12,000 of 40 paras.
5,000 „ 80 „
3,000 „ 5 „

I have, therefore, the honour respectfully to request the hon. minister to give me the necessary order for the fabrication of the above stamps, and to hand me the dies, informing me at the same time if I am to deliver the stamps to the above mentioned office, or to the hon. minister.

(Signed) A. DUCA.

Moldavian Finance Ministry.—No. 10046.
Jassy, 19 Oct., 1858.

To the Stamp Office Superintendent.

In reply to your Minute, No. 88, the Finance Department informs you that the employment of the 40, 80, and 5 para stamps having to commence on the 1st November next, you will have to print 20,000 of the said stamps, as you were advised by its order, No. 9740, viz:—

12,000 of 40 paras.
5,000 „ 80 „
3,000 „ 5 „

As soon as they are ready you will deliver them to the Finance Department, which will hand them over to the Post-office.

You will receive herewith the dies you have asked for, which you will please return with the result produced.

(Signed) The Finance Minister,
J. A. CANTACUZIN.

NEWLY-ISSUED OR INEDITED STAMPS.

SPAIN.—We have to thank our esteemed correspondent, Senor M. P. de Figueroa, for the following extract from *La Politica*, one of the leading Madrid journals:

The falsification of postage stamps is now conducted on so large a scale, and is causing such a considerable loss to the treasury, that the finance minister has appointed a committee, composed of Messrs. Don Luis Marchioni, royal engraver-general; Don Juan Estrach, principal engraver to the hydrographical dépôt; Don Vicente Palmaroli and Don Eugenio Julio, engravers to the national stamp-printing office; and Don Eduardo Fernandez Pescador, member of the Royal Academy of St. Ferdinand, Madrid—charged with the duty of proposing a system of stamp printing which shall offer the greatest difficulties to forgers, taking into consideration the great advances made in the preparation of chemical reactors, and in photography, and shall at same time be a cheap system.

According to our Belgian contemporary, which has also had intelligence of the appointment of this commission, its labours have resulted in a decision that the stamps shall be printed in three colours. This is the resource of printers who are conscious of their own deficiencies. Either the instruments necessary to the production of really fine engravings, or the workmen capable of manipulating such instruments, must be lacking.

The first consequence of this decision appears to have been the withdrawal of the finely cut type of which we reproduced the engraving last month. However, as the announcement in *Le Timbre-Poste* is not very clear on this point, we prefer to give it *verbatim*.

A type, with effigy of the king, submitted by Messrs. Alegre and Alabern had been adopted and paid for, but the latter engraver has certainly received instructions to prepare another type, with the effigy of the king, but in profile. The values will be 1, 2, 5, 6, 10, 12, 25, 40, 50 cent de peseta, and 1, 4, 10, and 19 pesetas.

Thus the present series, whose design leaves so much to be desired, would appear to have received a fresh lease of life. Meanwhile, however, the recently engraved design, of which we gave an illustration in our February number, is being utilised for Cuba, and but for certain changes in the Madrid stamp-printing office, the series would be now in use. There is also "in the press" a new design for the Philippine Islands, consisting of a florid portrait of the king—three-quarter face—in an upright rectangle, with CORREOS above and FILIPINAS below; blank labels being left at the sides for the value. The execution, it is said, leaves much to be desired; as for the portrait, it has little in common with that on its Cuban *confrère*, and if the reign of King Amadeus be prolonged, we shall probably witness the appearance of as many different "likenesses" of him as there are of his predecessor, Queen Isabella. The design, as far as we can judge from a woodcut, though plain, is far from being devoid of merit. The values are said to be four in number:—62½, 125, 250, and 500 cent—esimos (?).

M. Moens has been favoured with a sight of an envelope from Cuba, marked *Cuba*, 20 *Février*, 1872, prepaid by means of a Paris-printed perforated 40 c. French republic and two imperial French laureated 80 c. stamps. The obliteration consists of a series of dots, disposed in the form of a lozenge, with an anchor in the centre. Our Belgian friend is mystified by the appearance of these stamps on a Cuban letter, and, we confess, with some reason. It is true the obliteration is known to be that of a French post-office, *in partibus infidelibus*. It has been noted in this magazine as having been used for letters passing through the French office in Japan; but the question arises,—is there any French office in Cuba? To this we cannot reply; but it is very strange that a Paris-printed French stamp should come from Cuba twenty days after the reopening of Paris, in which city alone were they used during the siege.

We are indebted to Senor P. de Figueroa for communication of another member of the numerous band of Spanish official frank stamps. It has been only recently issued, is printed a bright blue, and for a handstamp is unusually clear. It is circular, with the revised and corrected arms in the centre, the Savoy cross replacing the Bourbon lilies on the escutcheon, and round the border is the inscription CUARTO MILITAR DE S.M.—GEFE, that is to say,—Military Household of His Majesty—Chief (Qy., head quarters). It is curious to note that in a production of this kind an orthographical error should

occur; but it appears that the correct spelling of the word chief is *Jefe*, and the blunder made in commencing it with a G seems very ridiculous to a Castilian eye.

We must not omit to notice a report, originating with *El Averiguador*, a good authority, to the effect that the Spanish post-office is about to issue a stamp, value one centimo de peseta, subdivisible, in the same manner as the Mecklenburg and Brunswick quartett, into four quarter centimos. The reason for this emission is another curious illustration of the style of managing things at present in vogue in Spain. The denominations which up to the present time have been expressed in "cuartos," "centimos d'escudos," and "millesimas d'escudos," is henceforth to be in "centimos de peseta." The law or decree by virtue of which the new series is to be emitted, makes no provision for the issue of any stamps below the value of one centimo, and that is too high for printed matter weighing less than 5 grammes. The Spanish postmaster, to reconcile the law with the postal tariff, has decided on issuing four quarter centimo stamps in one single frame.

We have just time, before going to press, to chronicle the issue of the 25 mil. of the current series, in a very rich bright mauve, on semi-transparent paper.

PORTUGUESE INDIES.—The subjoined engraving is that of a stamp introduced to notice by M. Moens, who, whilst he states that he received the original from a source far from suspicious, is careful not to guarantee its authenticity. We, for our part, must avow we look upon it as of very questionable value. It is said to be issued for the use of the three small Portuguese settlements, Goa, Diu, and Damaune, and is exceedingly coarse and ugly; but though, if it be admitted that the design is of colonial origin, its faults may be, to a certain extent, accounted for, if not excused, yet that affords no explanation of the grotesqueness of the inscriptions. We do not pretend to affirm that SERVICO POSTAL is not Portuguese; but we may, at any rate, point out that the word CORREIO has hitherto been the only term used on the Portuguese home or colonial stamps to designate the post-office or its service. Nor are the words INDIA PORT calculated to increase our confidence in the stamp. The thing we strongly suspect to be a humbug of the first water, though, should our suspicions prove groundless, we shall be happy to make the *amende honorable*. That our readers may the more readily detect it, we may state that it is printed in black, is perforated—an odd characteristic for so rough a stamp,—and the copy from which M. Moens describes is obliterated with an oval, formed of a set of horizontal lines, with the figure 16 in the centre; though where sixteen post-offices could be found in the settlements above referred to is a mystery.



GREAT BRITAIN.—The really handsome design, of which the annexed engraving is a fair copy, has made its appearance, as the French say, without drum or trumpet. The execution is on a par with Messrs. De La Rue's habitual finish and style, and the colour, a delicate light brown, completes the charm. The design is superior to that of any of the other English stamps, and we almost think it must have been originally intended for one of our colonies, or for some foreign customer. We only hope that the other values may soon be represented by equally attractive types; and the only thing we have to regret is the insertion of the minute figures and corner letters. On this new sixpenny the numerals 11 will be found at the bases of the lower triangles, and they are so finely drawn and unobtrusive that they appear to merge in the general design; but this, no doubt, is partly owing to their shape; more intricate figures, such as 4, 8, 3, 6, or 9, would show up more prominently. In this connection it is worth noting that the usual system of commencing a fresh set of numbers with a fresh design has been departed from. The last plate of the old sixpenny bears the number 10; the new type starts with number 11. The plan of putting check letters in the corners seems to us to be a superfluous precaution. No



English stamp was ever forged before the adoption of this plan, and it is the only feature in the English mode of stamp fabrication that has found absolutely no supporters in foreign countries or the colonies. Were it to be abandoned, scope would be given for a much freer and more graceful ornamentation of the angles.

The portrait is the stereotyped profile which may certainly be said to adorn so many stamps; it is "a thing of beauty," and therefore may remain "a joy for ever" to the engravers; but we should prefer something more realistic and less fanciful. The Canadian bill, and Newfoundland postage stamps, with portrait of the Queen, in widow's weeds, are infinitely more pleasing, and excite the admiration even of outside philistines.

Fresh specimens of English dated envelopes, with threads, continue to crop up. Our Birmingham contemporary notices a penny envelope, dated 6-6-62. Some authoritative explanation of the reissue of the threaded envelopes is much to be desired.

The Philatelist notices that Messrs. Parkins & Gotto now use penny envelopes, of which the impressed stamp is surrounded with a ring bearing their names, &c., in white cameo letters, on a ground of dull plum or bright green, which latter hue, our correspondent observes, contrasting with the pink, has a pleasing effect.

The change in the regulations connected with the sale of post cards seems to have been made principally for the benefit of stationers, who are to be "at liberty to devise a variety of cards, differing in quality and design," for general use; but from a reply made by the Postmaster-general in the House of Commons, on the 13th ult., to a question addressed to him, it appears that only cards bearing impressed stamps will be accepted at the post-office. We should have thought that within certain defined limits of size any card, prepaid by an adhesive stamp, would have been acceptable. However, the question now arises to us, as philatelists,—Will the cards which may be presented for stamping, by stationers, bear the present post-card stamp, without the accompanying border and inscription, or the present half-penny wrapper stamp, or will they be distinguished by some special design?

In our March number one of our correspondents mentioned the existence of hand-stamped inscriptions on old letters, consisting of the words PENNY POST, with the name of a town or person prefixed. Another correspondent sends us some of these old marks for our inspection. We have Daventry, St. Albans, and Watford penny post—the name of the town in Roman capitals, the other words in small letters—and Potton penny post, in italics; in all cases the town being on the first, and the words "penny post" on the second line. Our correspondent does not give us the dates of the letters from which these postmarks were cut out; we are, therefore, left uncertain whether they had any reference to a local penny rate for letters posted and delivered within the same town *before* the introduction of the present general system, or whether it is merely a memento of the first days of that system. At any rate they are certainly far from being devoid of interest, and authentic intelligence respecting them is much to be desired.

NORWAY.—*Drontheim.*—A new local for this town has just been handed to us by a well-known Liverpool firm. We append an illustration of it. It is printed in carmine-rose, and perforated. The name —BRÆKSTAD & CO.—on the garter is that of the owners of the post. Mr. Brækstad was formerly in business in Liverpool; he has now been established at Drontheim—or Throndhjems, to adopt the Norwegian spelling—for upwards of five years, as a large bookseller and stationer. Having purchased the local post from the last proprietors, he has remodelled it, and issued the above stamp, together with two other values, ½ sk. and 2 sk., of the colours of which we are as yet without information. The old brown Throndhjems stamp is now obsolete. The execution of the new design is respectable, and from the foregoing details it will be seen that it may be considered as worthy of acceptance.



FRANCE.—The announcement we copied

last month from a French newspaper, that a new series of adhesives is shortly to be emitted, gains in consistency. From a diagram published in a Parisian daily, it would appear that the value in words will be repeated on three sides of the frame, and it is affirmed that the issue will commence on this 1st of May. Of the proposed design with large figures in centre, rejected on account of their ugliness, Baron Arthur Rothschild possesses three proofs in black on *carton*.

Ceylon.—We annex engravings of two more of the values of the new series, and





take the opportunity to mention, on the united authority of our Brighton and Birmingham contemporaries, the interesting fact that the new Cingalese dollar, composed of 100 cents, is worth only about 2/1 or 2/2; and, therefore, the cent just equals our farthing. The new series thus contains the equivalents of the old ½d., 1d., 2d., 4d., 6d., 9d., 1/-, and 2/- stamps. Most probably the threepence will also be represented in it before long.

United States.—The seven-cent stamps, if Mr. Scott be an authority, are having a diversified life. They were first issued in consequence of a seven-cent rate having been negociated with Germany, then withdrawn upon the reduction of that rate to six cents, and now reissued in consequence of the seven-cent rate being established for letters to Denmark. Does the United States issue stamps to suit the rates, or does it make rates to suit the stamps? *The Philatelical Journal*, relying on information supplied to it by an Indiana postmaster, doubts the statements of the New York paper, but we are, nevertheless, inclined to trust the latter. At any rate it is satisfactory to know that the 7 c. is still current, as it will be procurable at a reasonable price instead of being elevated into a rarity.

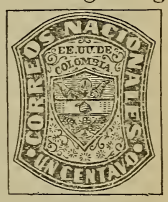
Prince Edward Island.—We annex a representation of the new one cent, which is found in two very distinct shades—a dull yellow-orange and a deep orange-red. It will be observed that the figure is repeated in all four corners, without any addition to the beauty of the design as a result.



Russia.—We have information, from two of our Russian correspondents, of the intention of the imperial post-office to issue post cards bearing impressed stamps. One of our informants states that they were to appear on or about the 1st April, old style; the values are to be 3 and 5 kop., respectively, but we have no knowledge of the designs adopted. The unstamped cards will continue in circulation.

We draw attention to Mr. Pleske's interesting letter in our correspondence columns, explaining the signification of the arms depicted on several of the Russian local stamps.

New Granada.—A new one-centavo stamp from this country reached us at the beginning of last month, of which we have pleasure in subjoining an illustration. The arms are maintained in their place of honour; the nine stars are represented by nine little asterisks below the shield, and at a first glance appear to have been inserted as an insignificant groundwork. The colour is a dull, or "sap," green. Perforation is still a deferred improvement.



New South Wales.—On the occasion of the issue of the new sixpenny stamp for this colony we reproduce the engraving copied from the proof which figures on p. 105 of our eighth volume. We learn, from the *Philatelical Journal*, that the cost of the die, &c., was so great that the New South Wales government had a copy made in the colony, the execution of which is really excellent. This reminds us of the procedure of the



Belgian post-office, which also found Messrs. De La Rue's productions to be of the nature of expensive luxuries.

FIJI ISLANDS.—It is suggested that the letters C. R. stand for CAKOMBAU REX. The surcharged set of stamps now arrives perforated. The sheets are said, by the *American Journal of Philately*, to be watermarked FIJI POSTAGE, each stamp in the centre row getting one letter.

CAPE OF GOOD HOPE.—The latest arrivals of the penny stamp show a white line added to the inner frame, the shading also is lighter than heretofore. The *American Journal of Philately* is entitled to the credit of first noticing these peculiarities.

SOUTH AFRICAN REPUBLIC.—A new envelope has recently made its appearance, bearing, on the right hand upper corner, an impression in azure blue, from the die of the adhesive sixpence of the first type, which bears the ornithological designation of "owl-eagle."

CANADA.—The *Canadian Philatelist* says:—"It is unlikely that the 12½ c. small size will be issued, as the large ones are very little used, and can now be bought at the post-office at 12 cents."

BRITISH HONDURAS.—*The Philatelist* states that it has been decided to issue a threepenny stamp for this colony, of the design of the present set, colour as yet undetermined.

WHAT ARE THEY WORTH?

"*Rien n'est sacré pour un sapeur*," and the reprinter may be put in the same category with the military desecrator. In his hands no rarities are safe. Unobliterated impressions of the first Brunswick emission have been hitherto counted among the choice specialities of a good collection, and original specimens will continue to be so considered, but reprints of two at least out of the three values have appeared, and the market is evidently on the point of being inundated with them. Undiscerning collectors may be attracted by the temptation to possess unused copies of this first issue, but experienced philatelists will shun them as the result of a reprehensible speculation. Even beginners will, we trust, have the sense to prefer honestly obliterated specimens to the "flashy" reprints which can add no more value to the collections which receive them, than would a mere wood-cut engraving of the design. In the batch of Brunswick reprints, which form the subject of the present observations, are comprised the rare 1 sgr. rose, and the 2 sgr. blue, on white paper. The colours and entire appearance are characterised by an unwholesome newness. There is also a 3 sgr. rose, unwatermarked, like the other two, but if it be intended to represent the stamp of that value in the first series, printed in *red*, it is a miserable failure. Its colour is unmistakably rose, and were it watermarked, we should have no hesitation in classing it as the 1862 emission.

Besides these there are found the 1 sgr. of 1853 on orange and buff paper, 2 sgr. dark blue, and 3 sgr. rose, of the same series; ¼ sgr. brown, and ⅓ sgr. white, of 1856, and the 1 sgr. yellow of 1865—all *unwatermarked*, so there can be no great difficulty in distinguishing them from the originals, and this time we shall hear no talk of remainders.

With the Brunswick reprints there have appeared a number of questionable Hawaiian 2, 5 and 13 c. The 2 c. are of the 1862 type, portrait of Kamehameha IV., with branches at sides, and UKU LETA above. They are of a strikingly deep red colour, and in sheets of fifteen, are unused, and have the word CANCELLED printed in black capitals across the base of the disk, and touching the margin on either side. The 5 c. and 13 c. are of the 1853 emission, portrait of Kamehameha III., and are in sheets of twenty stamps, with the word SPECIMEN, in close black capitals, printed across the base of the bust. The colours of these stamps are of the ordinary shades. These "specimen" and "cancelled" impressions come, there is no reason to doubt the fact, from the Honolulu post-office itself, but, in the words of our title,—What are they worth? Mr. Atlee's recent, and still unfinished, article on the Hawaiian stamps furnishes us some answer to this question. Mr. Atlee has seen the "specimen" 5 c. and 13 c., and may, though he does not say so, have also seen the "cancelled" two cents. His impression of the former is, that they "are either portions of waste sheets, or copies

purposely cancelled to destroy their franking powers." We say (he adds) *the bulk* advisedly, for doubtless genuine early impressions so marked *may* exist. We found our opinion upon a letter received from the Honolulu post-office by M. Nunès, of Paris, dated September 9th, 1869. After invoicing the balance of the later "figure" stamps then in the office, the postmaster says: "You have herewith twenty of each old 5 c. and 13 c. head 'specimen.' All now left in P.O. of this kind are so marked; future orders can, therefore, only be filled of that kind, although the full price is charged. In case you should give any further orders, please bear this in consideration, and give us your instructions."

Mr. Atlee, upon this, justly remarked that no government would print off hundreds of sheets with each stamp a specimen, and that, therefore, this mark must have been adopted either to prevent the issue of waste sheets, or to satisfy the postmaster's scruples in selling the stamps to collectors, adding, however, that "when the postmaster offers to fill 'further orders,' one feels inclined to suspect *reprinting*."

Mr. Atlee's suspicions seem to be fully justified by the event, and there is nothing surprising in the postmaster of a semi-civilized state, for the sake of a slight addition to a revenue which can never be great, stooping to a practice which would be beneath the notice of the postal department of a more important power. The idea certainly need *not* surprise us after the hint that has been already thrown out, to the effect that the New Granadine office forges its own stamps for the benefit of collectors. We doubt the probability of waste sheets having been held over during the long period which has elapsed since the Hawaiian stamps in question were withdrawn from circulation, and believe that the phrase in the postmaster's letter, "All now left in the P.O. of this kind are so marked," should read, "All now *made* in the P.O." The regularity of the impression of the surcharged word shows that the inscription was set up with a certain amount of care and precision to provide for the printing off of a considerable stock, and the widely different colour of the two cents is in itself evidence of a reprint. The use of the word "cancelled" for the latter value, which seems to have been reprinted since the other, as it was not referred to in the letter above quoted, shows that, either as the result of his own meditations, or in consequence of a suggestion to that effect, the Honolulu postmaster saw that the word "specimen" was objectionable, and that the word "cancelled" lent itself better to the supposition that the stamps were remainders.

Now, we ask again,—What are they worth? They are most probably reprints, palmed off as remainders; they do not come to us in honest guise, and the semblance of deception in the get-up is fatal to the claims for admission of the stamp which bears it. We strongly advise our readers to abstain from purchasing them, as they can never be regarded as really satisfactory specimens of the type they represent.

REVIEWS OF POSTAL PUBLICATIONS.

The Canadian Philatelist. Quebec: Birt, Williams, & Co.

We hail with pleasure the starting of a stamp-collector's magazine in the Dominion, and wish our young contemporary success. Its present dimensions are modest, but if it receives the support it deserves from the philatelists of British America, an increase in volume will soon be called for. At present it is true the "cause" does not seem to be in a very encouraging condition. "In Canada," says the new journal, "the whole body of collectors are boys; in fact, we do not know of more than half-a-dozen adults who collect postage stamps, and are acquainted with but one *philatelist*." Perhaps it may be right in stating that "one of the causes of this deplorable condition of things is the want of a good stamp journal, or at any rate of a really conscientious dealer." If so, the editors and publishers of the new enterprise have the means of effecting a philatelic resuscitation; the former, by making their paper attractive; the latter, by practising that conscientiousness they commend.

The leading article in the second and third numbers are readable. "What shall we collect?" is written with a freedom from ignorant

prejudice against the acceptance of water-mark and perforation varieties, which, in an article written on the other side of the Atlantic, causes us a pleasant surprise. The paper "The Canadian Post" is creditable to the writer, though we think the leading facts appeared some years back in *The Stamp-Collector's Monthly Gazette.*

If we may give a hint to our *confrère*, it would be to omit the monthly article entitled "The Press," as the space is too confined to admit of a sufficient notice of the contents of other journals, and would be better filled by a well-digested article on some interesting philatelic point. Our "young" friend must remember that it has not room enough to be diffusive, and every line of its contents should contain real information; there is enough and to spare to be had, and it only requires proper working up.

The Stamp-Collector's Journal and Philatelical Opinion. London: Light & Jackson.

Two numbers of this journal are before us. They represent the venture of a newly-started firm, and are characterised by a respectable tone. Without being strikingly original, their contents are readable, and more especially those of the second number. The grammar also, as a whole, is up to the mark, although the expression, "we must content us" would bear correction, and some better word than "skinny" might have been found, to designate a poorly-drawn anchor.

Our first impression, on reading the title "Philatelical Opinion," was, that we were about to peruse a magazine got up in the style of *Public Opinion*, and composed exclusively of selections from the philatelic press. For such a paper we should think there might be fair scope.

In the chronicle we find one or two novel items,—thus, it is stated that the union of the Orange Free State with the South African Republic is likely to take place shortly, with the probable result of a fresh emission of stamps. Again, our contemporary affirms that "the Sydney letter-sheets, which are now being offered pretty freely, are not even reprints"—a statement in support of which he offers no proof whatever.

A list of Queensland stamps follows the chronicle, and appears to have been carefully compiled; indeed, the editor of *The Philatelical Journal* states that its arrangement "has been obtained, in some inexplicable manner, from his own private notes." This, he adds, he can prove, for "the very expressions, the divisions and subdivisions, *and the concluding remarks*, are all his own." This is either a very striking coincidence—or something else. At any rate, it is a personal question, into which we have no reason to enter further. In the introduction to this Queensland article, we find the following sensible observation upon colour-varieties.

> Of all variations, those of intensity or paleness of shade are least important, as they are the result of chance, for the most part. Anyone who has examined any number of stamps in sheets, will have noticed how often the row on the one side of the sheet is dark, while that on the opposite side is pale.

This we can fully confirm; and the explanation lies in the fact that the roller, when passed over the plate or stone, is frequently pressed down with greater force on the side nearest the workman. Condemning, as the writer of the above quotation does, the collection of shades, he is hardly consistent with himself in noticing so many for the Queensland stamps. Thus, the penny of 1863, unwatermarked, on thick paper, machine perf. 13, is given as existing in red-brown, orange-vermilion, pale orange, and deep orange. The red-brown and the orange were presumably the result of separate mixings of colour, but who can say as much of the minor shades of orange?

Under the heading "The Detection of Forged Stamps," a new and dangerous set of Hamburg counterfeits are treated on—the current Dutch Indies. The description is accompanied by a specimen of the forged 5 c., which is so well copied, even to the shade of green, as easily to deceive an unpractised observer.

The remaining contents of the second number do not call for special attention. Altogether, though not brilliant, the new comer is superior to most of the recently issued publications, and may in time prove to be a substantial acquisition to the ranks of the philatelic press.

CORRESPONDENCE.

THE PRUSSIAN SIEGE OF PARIS.

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

SIR,—The interesting article in your last number, on "Postal Matters under the Commune," is not quite accurate in one particular:—"It is a remarkable fact, that during the first siege no imperial stamps, so far as we know, were used." In opposition to this statement, I have in my collection two balloon letters, postmarked PARIS, OCT. 3, and DEC. 7, bearing, respectively, 30 c. and 20 c. stamps of the empire series. The earliest dated letter with the republic stamps (10 c., 20 c., perf.) that I have, is postmarked NOV. 9.

Yours truly,

WARDEN

THE NEW CHILIAN POSTAGE STAMPS, &c.

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

DEAR SIR,—I have the pleasure to inform you, that the post-office authorities here have decided to issue envelopes, as well as post cards, and have ordered the following to be made in the United States:—Post cards, 2 c. black and 5 c. red; envelopes, 2 c. bronze, 5 c. red, 10 c. blue, 15 c., colour not fixed, and 20 c. green. In a letter to the editor of *The Philatelist* the other day, I added an adhesive, value 15 c.; but on a second reading of the postmaster-general's note to the minister for foreign affairs, I have come to the conclusion that we are not to have the benefit of any addition to our adhesive series.

The English card is to serve as model for the Chilian "*Tarjeta*." Ours is to be of the same size and thickness, but we are not told whether it is to be of tinted or white card. The stamp will be the same as the corresponding adhesive, as the original die is to be used. Our envelopes are to be in paper of three colours—white, yellow, and blue. Columbus's bust, I presume, will figure on the impressions, as nothing is said to the contrary. The American Bank-Note Co. will most probably be entrusted with the execution of the above; and, as soon as they appear, I shall take care to send you specimens.

According to a government decree, dated January 27th, local posts have been established here since the 8th inst. The postage charged is 2 c. per letter, whatever be its weight.

I enclose a specimen of the second emission of post cards. To call it a "card" is, however, a misnomer, as you will perceive that it is made of thick blue laid *paper*. The card, I fancy, was found too expensive, *i.e.*, if manufactured here.

There must be a great scarcity of postage stamps in Bolivia, if we may judge by the number of fiscals which are used for postal purposes; if anything, they are used more now than at first.

Begging you will excuse the length of this letter,

I remain, dear Sir,

Yours obediently,

Valparaiso. L. W. M.

RUSSIAN LOCAL STAMP; SHELSINGFORS, &c.

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

SIR,—I am glad to be able to give you some information respecting the design of the Russian local stamps. I will begin by saying that those designs are, without doubt, the arms of the towns, with few exceptions (those of Charkoff, for instance); but their explanation, not easy by itself, becomes still more difficult on account of the bad execution. All that I know about them at present is this:

Soumy.—The name "Soúmy" is the plural number of the word "Soumá," meaning bag; this is the reason of the strange coat of arms of that town. I have a *blue* specimen, value 1 *kop.*, with the 1 changed into 5 by red ink.

Tamboff.—Bee-hive; bee-keeping being very much spread, the bee-hive is the armorial design not only of the town, but also of the government (province) of Tambów. This is why it reappears on the stamps of Shatzk.

In three other stamps I have found explanations of one half of the design, viz.:—

Bogoródsk.—The design of the lower part is to be a weaving-loom or a spinning-wheel, an emblem of the cotton works and silk manufactories of the town. The upper part represents the arms of the government of Moscow.

Belozérsk.—3 kopecs. The fish indicate the situation of the town near the Béloe Ozero (White Lake), fish being the principal trade article. The town is one of the oldest in Russia. Sineus, a brother of Rjurik, who came to Russia with him, in 862 (of Norman origin), took his seat there.

Borovichi is situated on the river Msta, which forms a connecting link in the canal system which unites the Baltic to the Caspian sea. The design in the right half of the stamp (a kind of staircase) is a lock or sluice, an illustration of the cataracts of the Msta, near Borovichi.

Berdjansk is a Black Sea—or rather Azow—seaport, therefore the anchor. This town is a contrast to Novgorod, Pskoff, and Belozersk, since its existence dates from 1827, and the title of town was conferred on it but in 1835.

To the description of the Valdai mountains I have only to add that the highest points are of 840 and 900 feet (and not 1200).

The names of the following towns are erroneously spelt in your list, letters being omitted:—

Atkar	should be	Atkárs*k*.
Egorieff	,,	Egórieff*sk*.
Shatz	,,	Shatz*k*.
Shadrin	,,	Shádrins*k*.

The well-known stamps of Livonia must undoubtedly be classed amongst the local stamps, since they do the same duty.

The stamp for Helsingfors, of which an illustration is given in vol. viii., page 151 of your magazine, is a humbug. I wrote about it to the private company which is authorised to issue those stamps, and was told that the well-known three stamps are the only ones that have been issued.

Russian post cards are to appear in May, with 3 kop. and 5 kop. stamps impressed on them; but those without stamps are not to be withdrawn.

Hoping that this communication may be of some use to you,

I remain, dear Sir,

Yours truly,

Petersburg. E. PLESKE.

THE ALBUM QUESTION.

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

SIR,—I see from the letter of your correspondent, E. S., in the January number of the magazine, that the question of a suitable and permanent stamp album is as far from solution as ever.

I have tried both prepared and blank albums. The first I condemn without reserve, except for beginners. To the second I have the same objection as E. S.; as he says,

"One leaves spaces for stamps which never turn up, and one does not leave spaces for such as do."

I have never seen any of the albums on the "crotchet" plan, but from some allusions I have seen made to them in the magazines, I fancy they are not without their disadvantages.

Thinking these things over a few days ago, it struck me that real permanent albums would never be attainable till they were made on something like the same principle as the photographic albums, of course with considerable difference. I shall proceed to explain as well as I can the manner in which I think they ought to be got up.

In the first place, the leaves would have to be made of three sheets of paper, glued into one, after being properly prepared. The first would form the back of the page; the middle one should have spaces cleanly cut out of it, all uniform, and the exact size of the mounts to which the stamps would have to be hinged; the third would form the face of the page, with spaces cut to correspond with the middle one, but the sixteenth of an inch less at the top and bottom, to overlap the mount and keep it in its place; or the overlapping might be at the corners, if it were found to be better.

There would have to be a space at the top of each page, formed in a similar way, in which to insert the name of each country. It would have to be long enough to admit of the longest name, as well as the shortest.

As the spaces and mounts would all be of one uniform size, the stamps could be arranged to suit each collector's taste, and rearranged at pleasure, if he wished to make any change.

If the stamps were mounted on common paper, instead of card, it would obviate the necessity of guards, as the stamps would lie on the same level as the face of the page.

A collector wishing to examine or rearrange a specimen, could, by inserting the point of a penknife under the edge of the mount, raise it from its place in a moment; a whole page, name and all, could be transferred to any other part of the book in a few seconds. When more space was required, all that would be needed would be a new album, uniform with the other, to which the stamps of one division of the world could be removed without the slightest damage to the first one, which would still be as useful as ever.

There would be no printing required, except the title-page. The names of the countries might be had separately. A plain border round each space, and a tasteful one round each page, would improve the appearance of the book.

I think any enterprising publisher, who thought there was anything in it, might have a small specimen page prepared with spaces, say, for half a dozen stamps and name. Any collector could procure one of these for a trifle, and judge of the method before anything further was done. If approved of, then a permanent album might be brought out, and the long vexed question set at rest.

The form, size, and get-up of the book, if the method were approved, might be decided by the majority of collectors themselves; for my own part, I prefer the oblong form. The binding should be strong and substantial, and not a thing to fall to pieces, or run out of shape, in a few months.

I enclose a small specimen page (hand-made and rough, of course); it will show you at a glance what I have tried to explain in this letter.

I am, Sir, yours respectfully,

Alston, Cumberland. WM. VIPOND.

[We cannot say we approve of our friend's suggestions, for we fear that the expense would be enormous, and excessive care would be required in mounting and handling stamps thus arranged. That the effect would be good we do not doubt, but we do not think it would exceed that produced by stamps well arranged in a blank album well supplied with guards.—ED.]

ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS.

A. G. K., St. Petersburg.—We have been obliged to suppress our yearly catalogue of emissions, as we find it takes up too much space.

H. C. MORTON, Dublin.—We regret we cannot find space for your article on forgeries. The exposure of forgeries only scotches the snake, the exposure of those who sell them kills it outright.

G. C., Sutton.—The deep shade of the 25 kr. Austria has already been noticed.—The issue of the 30 c. Hong-Kong mauve has also been chronicled.—The Portuguese 120 reis stamp, of which you give a sketch, belongs to the current series.

Miss O., Sedbury Park.—We presume the stamps to which you refer are the reissued envelopes of sundry German states. An adhesive stamp is mounted over the original embossed design, and then the "minute grey figures" are impressed over the whole.

W. R. B., Belfast.—We do not think the 6 c. United States dark rose is worthy of special notice.—The system adopted by many private firms of punching out their initials across the postage stamps they use has already been noticed in these pages, and, we may add, it is now coming into very general favour.

L. O., Bedford, wishes to have an explanation of the manner in which the money-order cards and envelopes are used. Do the impressed stamps, he asks, represent the postage and the fee combined? Is the card or envelope sent by the person who obtains the order, and is the amount of the order paid against presentation of the card or envelope, as the case may be? Lastly, can private communications be written on the former or enclosed in the latter? We solicit information from our German correspondents on these points.

J. H. H., Hemel Hempstead.—Many thanks for communication of the "penny post" marks, which we notice elsewhere.—We cannot give you any information respecting the *London Gazette* fourpenny impressed stamp; it probably represents duty and postage.—What you suppose to be one of Mr. Lowe's original match stamps is only a copy of the design cut out of one of Messrs. Bryant & May's recent trade circulars.

Mr. E. PLESKE, St. Petersburg, writes:—"Have you ever seen a 4 c. of Spain, issue 1865, printed in blue (dark) and pink, exactly as the 12 c. of that issue, the oval being pink and the frame blue? The stamp is unperforated and unused. I bought it of your publishers' agent here, from one of their sheets. The price was not high, so that I suppose the *erreur d'impression* had not been observed." This is a well-known proof, and not a stamp.

E. M. S.—This correspondent sends us a specimen of the *four* annas India, 1866, printed *light* blue of the same shade as the ½ anna, 1858. The usual colour of this stamp is green, and we have ourselves very little doubt that it has been chemically changed, for green is a very easy colour to manipulate. Our correspondent has put the stamp in boiling water, without any fresh change resulting; but this proves nothing, as the blue shade would be gained by discharging one of the ingredients of the green, and not by the addition of any fresh component.—E. M. S. has an English embossed penny envelope stamp on threaded paper, dated 1860; and inquires how the employment of threaded paper at that time can be explained. The post-office discontinued using it in 1855; and the only explanation we can suggest is, that a small remnant of this paper was found, and worked off in 1860.

THE GORDIAN KNOT OF STAMP COLLECTING.

BY OVERY TAYLOR.

THE Gordian knot is none other than the collection of envelopes. In the dark ages of philately, collectors cut out the stamps, and nothing but the stamps; subsequently, it became the practice to cut out the corner of the envelope, so that the impressed stamp might be shown in the centre of a square border; and in the full light of these latter days, the collection of the entire envelope is inculcated as the *only* correct and reasonable plan. How far it has ever been adopted by the general collecting public is a question, and that it is not viewed with universal satisfaction is proved by the following spirited letter, which appeared in the May number of the *Stamp-Collector's Journal*:—

"ENTIRE" *v.* "CUT" ENVELOPES.

SIR,—The subject named at the head of my letter may appear perhaps a somewhat antiquated one, but as a collector of many years' standing, I may without offence, I hope, be allowed for a moment to revive it. When first I began to take an interest in stamps, the pages of Lallier and Moens were unknown; magazines were yet unborn, and the best of English collections numbered something short of 500 varieties. At that early date, therefore, I need hardly say that the "entire" envelope school was, if existent, confined to a few choice spirits. Of course your humble servant had a firm belief in scissors—a belief which held its ground till some five years ago. Then came a reaction. The arguments brought forward by the "entire" school seemed unanswerable. To cut and trim was in other words a "gothic" practice! Still, a weakness remained for brightening the pages of one's albums with the cameo-like impressions of this and other envelope-emitting states. I had no choice, therefore, but to keep *stationery* samples in order to be orthodox, and to insert mangled specimens for the sake of beauty. The worst, however, of the matter is, that while many a one is interested in examining the books displaying the adhesives and envelopes in juxtaposition, few care to con the contents of a cabinet filled with covers of every conceivable length, breadth, and substance. In spite, therefore, of a by no means shabby collection of uncut envelopes, I am again falling back into my old way of thinking, and the study of the able papers of late contributed by Dr. Magnus to the *Timbre-Poste*, and by "A Parisian Collector" to *The Philatelist*, combines with the reason above given to lead me to abandon my present duplicate method. After all, what does the "entire" system amount to? We are told that in many cases it is only by having whole copies that we can judge between originals and reprints. Granted. But then this can at best only apply so long as we are purchasing copies. If we obtain them entire, and are duly satisfied that we have gotten the real Simon Pures, why should we be obliged, for the sake of retaining an unwieldy expanse of paper, to banish them to another receptacle far from their foster-brethren, the adhesives? And then, again, if the reprints are so exactly reproductions of the originals, why, in the name of common sense, are they less valuable? It is all very well that record of every peculiarity should be registered in the magazines; but for every practical purpose surely it is enough that the brand, which sets apart the envelope from common purposes, and dedicates it to postal uses, be preserved.

Philately is a science, and stationery may one day, perchance, become a science also; but if they are not distinct subjects, then chalk and cheese are not unlike. Let every variety be, by all means, collected which is a variety of the stamp proper, or which tends to alter its appearance. An impression on laid, whether adhesive or envelope, is quite distinct from one on wove paper. The same holds good also of those struck on white or coloured; but why, when I have an envelope, say 6in. by 3½in., I ought also to have another, which differs merely in size, and is, say, 7in. by 4in., beats me "entirely." Is it not, sir, sheer humbug to burthen one's collection, for instance, with all the varieties of Victoria? Why the seals are as unmeaning as the vagaries of a simpleton. Or take our own newspaper bands: the day that introduced those most useful articles did so in a score of sizes and shapes. Had each variation then its special philatelical lesson? Bosh!

I would not for the world appear ungrateful for the learned labours of such men as Dr. Magnus, "A Parisian Collector," or Mr. Pemberton. Without such giants the atlas-burthen of the intricacies of the science of stamps would long ago have crushed its unlearned disciples out of life; but this I do protest against—that names worthily held in honour should, under the cloak of philately, be prostituted to the advancement of a system which is nothing less than an incubus that collectors cannot, unless they be in the trunk-lining business, endure.

I am, Sir,
Yours faithfully,
Limerick, April 3, 1872. WALTER VASS.

In this letter there is much that I cannot agree with, but I cannot refuse to admit that there is a certain substratum of truth in the arguments it contains. I am by no means disposed to *condemn* the practice of collecting entire envelopes; indeed, I was at one time pretty well convinced of its necessity. I gave in my own adhesion to it, my involuntary scepticism being for the time overpowered by the force and cogency of its advocates' reasoning; and logically, it may be, they still have the best of the argument. But as time has passed, and the doctrines of the entire-envelope school have been gradually developed, I have not been able to disguise from myself the fact, that the absolute veto placed by our most valued writers on the collection of cut envelopes is doing more harm than good. At the risk, therefore, of being charged with inconsistency and retrograde tendencies, I have decided on raising my humble voice to urge the re-admission of cut envelopes into favour.

I start with the proposition, that it is unwise to advocate a system of collecting which is likely to have for effect unduly to limit the number of philatelists; and I consider as philatelists all those who collect stamps other than for the mere purpose of making a show of them. He who collects stamps because of their historical value, and as the visible signs of an important step forward in the march of civilization, is as much a philatelist as is he who studies the different kinds of perforation, paper, &c. Equally worthy of the title are those who see their way to the collection of specimens, marking the really noteworthy phases in the history of a type, but whose natural tendency is against following out philately in its minor ramifications. I am persuaded that collectors of this second class form the majority of the philatelic body. They read the leading journals, they take an intelligent interest in all that is going on, and regard should be had to their opinions by those whose studies qualify them for the post of instructors. It is this numerous class which I believe objects to being forced into collecting uncut envelopes, and it is on their behalf that some compromise should be come to. I should be sorry to see stamp collecting become the pursuit of a select few, or hedged in with restrictions which would tend to render it a penance instead of a pleasure. Philately should be for collectors, and not collectors for philately. True it is, persons who desire to become collectors have not to join any particular society, nor sign a set of rules binding them to the acceptance of any one special mode of collecting, but all who are in earnest in collecting take in the principal periodicals, and if the articles which appear in them are not intended to influence the readers, then there is no use in writing them. The first desire of the ordinary philatelist is to collect envelopes, as well as adhesives, on the most approved method; he looks to the acknowledged authorities for guidance; their dicta have weight with him, and he finds that they nearly all insist that the envelope issues can only be properly represented by uncut specimens. Furthermore, he finds in the English and foreign magazines that not only must the envelopes be collected entire, but also that every variety of shape ought also to be taken. If he attempts to follow this dictum, he finds himself confronted by insuperable difficulties. Uncut envelopes are difficult to get, especially those of the obsolete issues; they are costly, and last, but not least, they are excessively cumbersome. No published album provides space for entire specimens, and the different plans for mounting them, in special books, though highly ingenious, require a great expenditure of time, if not of money. What then can he do? If he does not abjure collecting in disgust, he either continues under the thraldom of a teaching against which he inwardly rebels, procuring uncut envelopes when and how he can, and hoping that some day a simple and feasible plan may be proposed for mounting them, or he shuts his eyes to what he logically *ought* to do, and "goes in" for cut envelopes. Thence arises a discord between the teaching of the standard authorities and the practice of the ordinary collector. This discord I should like to see terminated, and doctrine made to square with practice.

I honour the labours of the few erudite philatelists who, with special opportunities for the complete study of envelopes, take a pleasure in the collection and chronicling of entire specimens. We less scientific philatelists profit by their labours; but I think the pleasure they have derived from the discovery of secondary and unimportant varieties, has led them to attach far too much importance to uncut specimens, and that they have strained authority too far in branding the collection of cut copies as absurd and reprehensible. The interminable varieties, consisting in size, shape, design of flap-stamp, and extent of gummed surface, can never be collected by any but a limited number of connoisseurs, and can never be made to interest ordinary collectors; nor will all the reasoning in the world suffice to overcome the repugnance of these latter to the collection of what the writer of the above letter calls "stationery." In entire envelopes there is a broad expanse of blank paper, and the really interesting portion forms but one corner of the whole. It may, indeed, be said that the flap is also interesting, but it can be so only to very few persons, for most

collectors will concentrate all their attention on the design, and they will not be convinced against their will that they ought to study every portion of the envelope. It is of no use insisting on the acceptance of uncut envelopes alone as the *only* proper thing to do, whilst the sense of collectors is against their acceptance; and in asserting that the great body of collectors prefer cut specimens, I challenge contradiction. The teaching of our leaders is decidedly in advance of the age, and, with all respect to them, I venture to urge that the collection of cut envelopes should be recognised by them to be *permissible and sensible.* Let them look facts in the face, and, taking a practical view of the difficulties which surround the collection of uncut specimens, coupled with the animus against them, withdraw their veto; otherwise they may be assured that, by pushing their arguments to what I admit may be their *logical* consequences, the collection of envelopes, the cut with the uncut, will die out. Extreme opinions in this and other matters are gaining too much ground, and though no one would question the right of their owners to entertain and act on them, some protest is needed against the aggressive and uncompromising way in which they are preached. Limitations in the mode of collecting may lead to limitations in the number of collectors, but it would be better that philately should not be considered to be a science, than that there should be no philatelists. Everyone who collects likes to feel that he has a collection, and by insisting that only by accepting uncut envelopes are the canons of the science conformed to, you greatly diminish the pleasure he takes in his cut copies.

I have no desire to play the alarmist, but I cannot repress the fear that the gradual extinction of stamp collecting may result from the attempt to inculcate too absolutely the collection of uncut envelopes and secondary varieties of adhesives. Let us, then, frankly admit that the admission of such envelopes and such varieties does and should form *the exception, and not the rule;* the pleasure of the few, and not the duty of the many; then, I believe, the future prospects of philately will be clearer and brighter.

PAPERS FOR BEGINNERS.—No. XX.

BY OVERY TAYLOR.

EUROPE.

THE DANUBIAN PRINCIPALITIES:

Roumania.

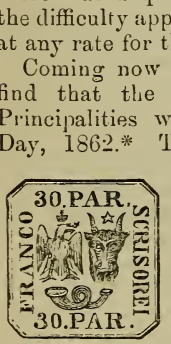
(*Continued from page* 71.)

THE interest felt in the two Moldavian series arises principally from the circumstances surrounding their origin, and the doubtful points connected with their own history; whilst the interest felt in the emissions of the United Principalities appears to me to spring, in no small degree, from the fact that they prominently illustrate the course of events in those countries, and form an excellent example of the value of stamps as teachers. Before recapitulating the various issues, which in themselves offer comparatively little difficulty, it will be as well to refer as briefly as possible to recent Roumanian history.

At the close of the Russian war, the provinces of Moldavia and Wallachia were governed by their respective hospodars. A commission was then sent out with the ostensible object of ascertaining the inclinations of the two peoples; and, as a consequence of its report, the great powers settled—by the supplementary Convention of Paris, signed in 1858—that the two provinces should remain disunited as before. The ardent desire of the inhabitants was, however, for union; and their wishes were remarkably advanced by the death of both the reigning hospodars a few months afterwards. No new candidate could openly "stand" for the two provinces, but if each province chose spontaneously and separately to elect as their ruler one and the same man, the provisions of the Paris treaty might be evaded. This was just what they did in respect of Prince Couza; and on the 24th of January, 1859, the two countries were united under his rule, and styled The United Principalities. In 1861 the great powers recognised the union, and appointed that the provinces should thereafter be styled *Roumania*, the name they have since borne. Until the recognition of the union, however, each province continued to be separately administered, and there were, consequently, two sets of

ministers and authorities. In 1862, however, the two administrations were fused in one, and the government offices were transferred from Jassy to Bucharest. In 1866 a revolution took place; Prince Couza was dethroned and fled the country, which then began to look out for a new ruler. Prince Charles of Hohenzollern, an "unattached" subaltern of his house, was deemed to be the man for the place; but for certain state reasons it became necessary to keep his nomination a secret. He left Prussia quietly, travelled through Hungary disguised as a wine merchant's traveller, and, armed with a box of samples, crossed the border, and was then welcomed by his adherents and publicly proclaimed. He still occupies the throne, but he has to do with a set of politicians difficult to manage, and has more than once been on the point of throwing up the reins of government. Only very recently there was a question of his resigning, but the difficulty appears to have been tided over, at any rate for the present.

Coming now to the postal emissions, we find that the first series for the United Principalities was issued on New Year's Day, 1862.* The design is a grotesque one, but not without meaning. It represents the arms of the united countries—Moldavia and Wallachia,—and is the only one (if we except an apocryphal essay) on which the Wallachian eagle appears. The execution is no better than that of the preceding type.



This series remained in use for four years. No variations took place in the rough design, but there are not a few colour varieties, and advanced collectors distinguish two emissions—one on thin *pelure*, and the other on thin laid paper. M. Moens gives the date of issue of the latter, which is the rarer of the two, as 1864; but there is some doubt as to this being the correct one. It is a question which can only be decided by a careful comparison of the obliterations on the two sets. The colours, as given by M. Moens, are as follows:—

On *pelure* paper,—	3	paras, citron.
,, ,, ,,	3	,, yellow.
,, ,, ,,	3	,, orange.
,, ,, ,,	6	,, carmine.
,, ,, ,,	6	,, pale vermilion.
,, ,, ,,	6	,, bright ditto.
,, ,, ,,	30	,, light blue.
,, ,, ,,	30	,, Prussian blue.
,, ,, ,,	30	,, dull dark blue.
On laid paper,—	3	,, yellow.
,, ,, ,,	3	,, orange.
,, ,, ,,	6	,, carmine.
,, ,, ,,	6	,, dark red.
,, ,, ,,	30	,, Prussian blue.
,, ,, ,,	30	,, dull dark blue.

As the same colours are found in both series, they may have been issued concurrently. At any rate, this is a point of which a beginner may defer the consideration; as if he gets one or two shades of each value, he will have a sufficient number for his purpose. All the values may be obtained with ease. The series was in use for a long time after philately became an established pursuit, and the principal dealers got over large supplies. Besides this, when the succeeding series (head of Couza) was withdrawn from circulation, these 1862 stamps were again used for a short time; and I believe that during, or after their second currency, the different values were supplied in the sheet by the Roumanian post-office, obliterated with the diamond cancelling mark, first used on the Couza stamps.

It will be observed that the values are lower than those of the preceding series. A fresh revision of the tariff took place prior to the emission of this first Roumanian set. The service, which had previously been irregularly conducted, was reorganised in 1862 by a certain Mr. Manovarda and others, and their efforts to secure a well-worked postal system appear to have gained a certain success. Of the three values, the lowest (3 par.) was for journals, the 6 paras for letters "for the town,"† and the 30 paras for letters from town to town.

* M. Rondot gives the date as being the 25th June, 1862; but M. Moens' correspondent is more likely to be right.

† "For the town" is the expression used by M. Moens' correspondent, but I cannot make out whether he intends to allude specially to Bucharest, or whether he means that 6 paras was the rate for letters posted and delivered in any one town.

A further advance in postal reform led to the suppression of the series of 1862. From 3, 6, and 30 paras, the rates were reduced to 2, 5, and 20 paras. Dr. Magnus suggests that the desire to evidence the union by employing stamps bearing no reminder of the former separation had also something to do with the adoption of the type issued in 1865, and distinguished by its bearing the effigy of Prince Couza. May it not be that the prince was desirous of seeing his portrait on the stamps, and may not also the authorities have been somewhat ashamed of the 1862 design? The latter seems to be the most probable cause of any.

The Couza series is by no means a *chef-d'œuvre* of lithography, but it is a vast improvement on its predecessors. It was home-made, and I might almost say (looking at the condition of art in the country), as a *natural* consequence, the design and legend are not absolutely identical for the three values. The details of the drawing, especially of the neck, are dissimilar, and the letters are not alike in size on all the values. Of the 20 paras two very distinct and generally admitted types exist, which I believe I may claim the honour of having been the first to observe,* and I cannot do better than quote verbatim Dr. Magnus' analysis of them:—



"Type 1.—Forehead receding; a few more curls of hair above.

"Nose elongated, triangular.

"Lower lip covered by the moustache.

"Beard not so thick, and encroaching less upon the chin.

"Neck longer, and bordered near the front with a range of small oblique lines.

"Section of the neck swelling out in front but very little.

"The 0 of the 20 in each angle is thicker and more irregular, whilst, at the same time, it is much smaller than the 2, except in the upper right angle.

"Type 2.—The forehead is arched, and has fewer locks of hair.

"Nose rounded, and more of a pug.

"Lower lip plainly detached from the upper.

"Beard thicker and larger.

"Neck shorter, and swelling out but slightly at the base, with few or none of the oblique lines.

"Section of the neck showing a prominent and swollen point.

"The 0 of 20 is narrower and higher than the 2, save at the lower left angle.

"Lastly, if the two types are compared together, it will be found that the first type is a trifle larger each way than the second type."

The dissimilarities in the stamps of the other two values examined by Dr. Magnus are less striking, and considered by him as insufficient to constitute a second type; but with regard to the 5 paras I have reason to believe that there is a quite distinct variety, though I am perhaps alone in my belief on the subject. The engraving introduced above is the one which was given in *The Stamp-Collector's Magazine*, when the series first made its appearance, and it will be noticed that the corner figures in the lower angles are narrower and taller than those of the common type. Now, I had the opportunity of examining, if not the identical stamp from which the engraver copied, at any rate, others of the same batch, and I well remember that these corner figures in the stamp were similar in shape to those of the engraving,—a little thinner if anything; and this easily recognisable peculiarity was accompanied by other and lesser differences, sufficient, in my opinion, to render the type worthy of being chronicled as a separate one. It has been suggested to me that this second type exists only as a proof, and such may be the case, though my own recollection is against the correctness of this supposition.

All three stamps of this series are found in a number of shades: the 2 paras in yellow ochre, light chrome-yellow, and orange; the 5 paras in sky-blue and dark blue; the 20 paras in pale red, red, vermilion, and carmine-red. The lighter colours are, generally speaking, the earliest-issued, though I find that the orange 2 paras appeared contemporaneously with the other shades. This latter value also exists on laid paper.

This series had only a short circulation, but

* See *The Stamp-Collector's Magazine*, vol. iii., pp. 111, 160.

its stamps have never been in the least degree rare. In 1866 a revolution took place, which resulted in the exit of Prince Couza and the entrance of Prince Charles, in the manner already related. Prince Couza, who during his administration had, it is stated, succeeded in "feathering his nest," when his presence was no longer required in Roumania, philosophically took up his abode in Paris, where he probably still resides. There was to have been, in any case, a fresh series of stamps, and a number of designs were prepared for the inspection of the Roumanian administration, some of of which afterwards figured as specimens of engraving in the Paris exhibition. I refrain, however, from noticing them, for as a whole they are not altogether surrounded by an "odour of sanctity;" on the contrary, there is a certain suspicious air of speculation connected with them all, and hence they are unsavoury things for a beginner to meddle with.

On the 1st August, 1866, appeared the



first emission bearing the portrait of Prince Charles of Hohenzollern. The design is too well known to need much comment; suffice it, then, to say that it was printed in black on coloured paper. It was first issued on thick, strongly-tinted paper, the colours being as follows:—

2	parale	deep yellow.
5	,,	blue.
20	,,	rose, deep rose.

A second edition was afterwards issued on thinner and paler tinted paper, viz.:—

2	parale	light yellow.
5	,,	blue.
20	,,	pale rose.

Both editions should certainly be collected, as it is evident that the change in paper, if not in colour, running through the whole series, was intentional. The framework of each value was separately drawn, though the differences in the 2 and 5 paras are hardly important enough to call for special notice. Those which distinguish the 20 paras are sufficient to permit of the chronicling of two types. The most prominent peculiarities of the second type are (1), that the border on the upper part of the right side runs in the same way as that on the upper part of the left; (2) that the brick groundwork is more open.

In 1868 the decimal currency was adopted, the *lei* representing the franc, and the *bani* the centimes. This led to the issue of a new series, differing slightly in type from its predecessor. The same portrait filled the circle, but a kind of cross superseded the corner figures, and the border pattern is of a more complicated character; the ground also is formed of horizontal lines only. The values and colours are as follows:—

2	bani	orange, yellow.
4	,,	pale blue and indigo.
18	,,	rose, brick red, & deep scarlet.

These variations of shade were the natural accompaniments of rough printing. In 1870 a fourth value appeared—the 3 bani mauve and bright mauve—and all four were in use concurrently with the emission of 1869, and are now with that of 1871.



These latter are alike in general appearance, but differ in one important particular—the portrait. The 1869 stamps bear the same whiskered profile as the earlier issues, but the 1871 set shows the Prince with a full beard. The design of the 1869 series is annexed; its colours and values are as follows:—

5	bani	yellow, deep orange.
10	,,	blue, deep blue, bright blue.
15	,,	red.
25	,,	orange, with oval blue.
50	,,	blue, ,, ,, red.

The 1871 set reads:—

5	bani	vermilion.
5	,,	carmine.
10	,,	deep blue.
10	,,	orange, yellow.
25	,,	deep brown.

Very recently the 1871 type has been issued perforated, four values having appeared, viz.,

5	bani,	yellow.
10	,,	blue.
15	,,	vermilion.
25	,,	brown.

The variation in the colours between the 5 and 10 bani is worthy of notice. In the 1869 set, and also in the new perforated stamps of the 1871 type, the 5 bani is found in yellow and orange, the 10 in blue, whilst in the unperforated 1871 issue the 5 bani takes the colour of the 15 bani, which latter is not represented at all, and the 10 bani comes out in the original hues of the 5 bani, as well as in blue.



The newspaper bands are all that now remain for notice. There have been two, of which the first, issued towards the close of 1870, had but a short circulation. The design, of which a tolerably faithful representation is here given, was lithographed in black, on green, bluish green, and yellowish green paper. The portrait is decidedly the most flattering of all that have appeared, there being an air of intelligence and decision about it, which is lacking in the subsequent profiles. In February, 1871, the current type was issued, with which my readers are, doubtless, familiar. It is printed in blue, on yellow paper. With reference to the change in portrait, it may be observed that, with the exception of the Portuguese, the Roumanian stamps are the only ones on which alterations in appearance, caused by age, are sought to be depicted.



THE PRUSSIAN SIEGE OF PARIS.

We have received, during the last month, communications from several correspondents confirming "Warden's" statement, in our May number, to the effect that the imperial stamps were used during the Prussian siege, and that down to as late a period as January, 1871. When we wrote we had not seen or heard of the arrival of any such stamps, and we had in mind Dr. Magnus's letter to *Le Timbre-Poste*, in which he described the perforated Republic type, of which the 10 and 20 c. were issued on the 13th October, 1870, as having been emitted at that early period of the siege in compliance with the wishes of certain ardent republican papers, and but very few balloons had left prior to that date.

NEWLY-ISSUED OR INEDITED STAMPS.

Sierra Leone.—The new series, first referred to in our February number, has just made its appearance; and but for the circumstance of our engraver having disappointed us, we should now have the pleasure of giving our readers a representation of the highest denomination. The design is the same for all four of the new values, viz.:—

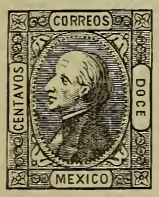
One penny	carmine-red
Threepence	nankin-yellow
Fourpence	blue
One shilling	light green

The old sixpence is maintained in design, but is now issued in deep lilac. The five stamps bear the crown and CC. watermark, but in the specimens before us it is placed transversely, and is by no means easy to distinguish. The portrait is the same as that on the St. Christopher, Straits Settlements, and other recent issues. On our examining the stamps of these colonies, we were struck with a slight but hitherto unnoticed peculiarity in the diadem. Between the points of the diadem the heraldic flowers are represented; there are, at any rate, two thistles and a shamrock to be seen. The crown on the 6 annas 8 pies Indian is of another pattern. The design of the new Sierra Leone stamps is exceedingly simple, we might almost say bald, but the execution and the colours are, as usual, of the highest degree of excellence.

Great Britain.—With reference to the handstamped impressions described last month, and consisting of the names of towns followed by the words PENNY POST, a correspondent (H. C. R.) writes us that he possesses several, and one of them is struck on an envelope bearing the penny adhesive, and the date stamp, May 18, 1842. It would thus seem that the above inscription was a

mere supplementary postmark; but our Brighton contemporary, who also notices them, describes one, composed of the words PENRITH PENNY POST, as being handstamped on a letter received in 1834 by a clergyman at Bourne, in Lincolnshire, from Penrith in Cumberland; and, adds our *confrère*, "it was the sole mark on the letter, except that of the post town." This intelligence complicates the matter, which is becoming enigmatical, and we would fain solicit the assistance of Mr. Pearson Hill to obtain the solution.

MEXICO.—We have to thank Mr. W. P. Brown, of New York, for his courtesy in sending us three specimens of an entirely new series for this country, which we believe we are the first to describe. Our illustration of the design is a flattering one, and obviates the necessity of a detailed description. The execution of the originals is execrable, and the colours are no better. The three values are as follows:—



12	centavos	blue.
25	„	pale red.
50	„	dull yellow.

The 12 centavos is unperforated; the other two values are perforated, but in a rough way, and apparently only with a roulette. The most striking thing about them is their backs, which are covered with a ground of undulating light blue lines, forming, in the entire sheet, a kind of "shot" pattern. The upturned profile we presume to be that of the triumphant president, Juarez. The stamps from which we describe bear the imprint MEXICO in German text on the left, and "1—72" on the right; and from these figures we assume the issue began with the year. Probably a 6 c. and a 100 c. will shortly be forthcoming.

FRANCE.—On the 10th ult. the first specimen of the advanced guard of the new series came into our possession in the shape of a two-centime red-brown. Like the Bordeaux stamp of that value, it is a simple copy of the imperial 2 c., from which latter it differs only in the substitution of the 1848 engraved profile of the Republic for the emperor's effigy, and in the change of inscription from EMPIRE FRANCAIS to REPUB. FRANC. The perforation is the same as before. We do not engrave this type, as a wood-cut could not make manifest the finish and the secondary details which distinguish the new-comer from its lithographed predecessors; but we may say that its general effect is very good, and the old profile appears to have been slightly touched up here and there. In view of recent announcements of a forthcoming series, the issue of this composite design may call forth some surprise, but it should be remembered that the object which is said to be sought after in the design of the projected stamps is the clear enunciation of the value. The existing stamps intended for letter postage are lacking in that essential particular, but the design of the imperial 1, 2, and 4 c. fulfils the condition of legibility, and —the distinction between letter and journal stamps being maintained,—it has consequently been reissued with the necessary alterations to suit the change of government. We look none the less certainly for a change in type in the forthcoming stamps of higher values, whilst we may safely predict that the 1848 profile of the republic will be utilised to form the centre piece in all.

The Belgian journal discusses the claims to credit of a 20 c. adhesive of the Bordeaux type surcharged with the figures 25, presumably on account of a lack of 25 c. stamps in the issuing office. We do not doubt that it is a humbug, although certain French fiscal stamps are found bearing similar surcharges; thus, the old lilac 20 c. "Timbre de dimension" has now the imprint "5 C. EN SUS," in black, running along the top, but then the addition is common to all the stamps now used.

PORTUGAL.—There is some talk, says *Le Timbre-Poste*, of issuing a new series of Portuguese stamps. It has been discovered that some of the post-office clerks have been in the habit of taking off the unused stamps employed to prepay letters passing through their hands, and substituting obliterated stamps in their place—the profit on the transaction going, of course, into the thieves' pockets. If this be the real reason for changing the type, it seems to us to be a

very droll one, for the dishonest clerks are sure to be careful to cash the stolen stamps before these latter are superseded.

CHILI.—We are indebted to the publishers of *The Philatelist* for the loan of the annexed cut, which is stated in our contemporary's last number to be an approximate representation of one of the intended new envelopes. The design is the same as that of the adhesives, except that the word COLON is omitted. The stamp is embossed on white paper in the colour of the corresponding adhesive, and it is understood to be the production of a Chilian artist. We had hoped for better things.



TOLIMA.—To our Brighton contemporary belongs the credit of introducing to philatelic circles two higher denominations for this Colombian state. They are the 50 centavos and 1 peso, both bearing, as will be seen from annexed engravings, the same arms as the 5 and 10 c., already noticed in this journal, but each characterised by a different disposition of the same inscriptions. On the 50 c. the inscriptions above the arms are so oddly arranged, that at first they appear to read as CORREOS DEL ESTADO DE COLOMBIA. The colour of this stamp is a very dark green, that of the peso is an ineffective rosy-tinted red.





PORTUGUESE INDIES.—M. Moens is firm in his belief of the genuineness of the design of which we gave an illustration last month, and has received information from Lisbon to the effect that it is perfectly authentic. It is said to have been made by an ironmonger's workman at Goa, and to have been in circulation since the beginning of the year. It is one of a series composed of the following values and colours :—

10	reis	black
20	„	vermilion-red
40	„	blue
100	„	green
200	„	yellow
300	„	bright violet
600	„	„ „
900	„	„ „

There are many varieties of shade, and at least one distinct type for each value. All the stamps seen by M. Moens are perforated 16, except two 20 reis—one perf. $13\frac{1}{2}$; the other, $12\frac{1}{2}$. These details come with telling force, and the fact that they are derived from Lisbon gives them additional weight; and yet we cannot say they inspire us with all the confidence we doubtless ought to feel. It seems to us rather strange that a colony which has a perforating machine at hand should be obliged to have recourse to an ironmonger for the dies for its stamps! Again, why such high values, as 300, 600, and 900 reis? and why should Goa be allowed to issue stamps when Madeira is denied the privilege of a separate device? No one but M. Moens appears to have seen these stamps, but he has had the opportunity of examining "a limited number." We hope he has not been deceived, and he will pardon us, should we find we have been erring on the side of incredulity.

HOLLAND.—The principle of "reply-paid" post cards has spread to Holland, and we have its first double card before us. It is folded across so as to form two leaves. On the face of each leaf is printed in lilac the same design as that on the single cards, with the stamp in the corner indicating the value; but the foot-note which appears on the single ones is not inserted on the double ones, and consequently an additional line is given for the address. The outer leaf shows under the word BRIEFKAART the inscription ANTWOORD BETAALD, and the inner one has VOORUITBETAALD ANTWOORD. The cards are buff, and the lilac is of a deeper tint than the impression on their single brethren.

From *Le Timbre-Poste* we get information of the issue of post cards by the Dutch General Service Society of Rotterdam, price 10 centimes each. They are to be delivered within the town of Rotterdam by

the society's messengers. We think that the simple mention of this issue is sufficient. It *may* be genuine, but we have no great confidence in it, and if private hand-delivered cards are once accepted, there will be a resurrection of Hamburg local makers, who will be ready to furnish us with Scheerenbeck cards, C. Van Diemen cards, Krantz cards, or other similar rubbish.

Hungary.—Money-order post cards, with inscriptions in two languages, have been issued with impressions from the die of the 5 and 10 kreuzer adhesives, respectively, in the corner; the former in light brown, and the latter in black. We defer recommending their acceptance until we obtain an explanation of the exact service performed by the stamps.* The correspondent from whom we have received notice of their issue also informs us that, after a few weeks' currency, they have been withdrawn to give place to similar cards with inscriptions in German only, and he points to this in proof of the centralising tendencies of the present Austro-Hungarian government, which he thinks are likely to lead to the suppression of the other cards with duplicate inscriptions in two languages.

Roumania. — The current series, with bearded portrait, is now *perforated.* The values which have come over are the 5 bani yellow, 10 b. blue, 15 b. vermilion, and 25 b. brown.

Norway.—*Drontheim.*—The ½ and 2 skilling have now reached us. The former is printed in blue, and the latter in green. The design is in all respects the same as that of the 1 skilling.

THE BLACK CABINET.

In a recent number we reviewed the second part of a work written by a M. Emile Lambry, an ex-employé of the French post-office, entitled *Les Mystères du Cabinet Noir sous l'Empire, et la poste sous la Commune.* Pursuant to the promise then made, we now purpose extracting some of the interesting, and we trust authentic, details given in the first part of the pamphlet respecting the Black Cabinet and its conductor.

The system of opening suspected letters is legally authorised in France to a limited extent only, and under conditions which, if complied with, would secure a proper amount of legal formality in the operations, and would therefore prevent any improper and secret espionage. Under Charles X. and Louis Philippe, letters were occasionally opened, and a "black cabinet," in which the business was carried on, existed; but the practice is believed not to have been carried to any outrageous extent, and under the *régime* of Arago, in 1848, it was suppressed, or, if it continued in existence, its operations were conducted unknown even to him, but under the empire it flourished, and acquired a bad pre-eminence.

The mysterious cabinet itself is described as a spacious, well lighted, but scantily-furnished chamber. Between its two windows is a nest of pigeon-holes, or frames, containing a number of cardboard boxes, which were filled with duplicates of the date stamps of all the French and most of the principal foreign post-offices, together with seals bearing all kinds of combinations of initials, and others with arms, and others again with odd devices. All that an engraver's imagination could invent *apropos* of the desired purpose is found in this cabinet, together with brushes and colours to bring back to its primitive shade the wax after it had been tampered with; and the work was done on a small library-table.

The dishonourable office of chief opener of letters was occupied by a man named Simonel, who, from M. Lambry's account, seems to have been singularly well-fitted for the post he held. At first Simonel only stopped letters in obedience to a list sent to him from the prefecture of police. These letters were put in a bag and forwarded to the prefecture, where they were opened and read. This proceeding was not illegal, as the prefect of police had, and still has, like the Home Secretary with us, a legal right to open any letters he thought fit. But M. Simonel had not been long in office, when he

* [The desired explanation has since reached us, in the shape of a letter, which will be found in our correspondence columns; and it seems to us that a good case has been made out for accepting these interesting impressions. —Ed.]

was allowed to go a step further, and to open and read letters himself, on condition, it would seem, that he concealed the fact of their having been tampered with from those to whom they were addressed. Simonel's way of proceeding was as follows.

When a suspected letter fell into his hands, he inserted the point of a very thin knife, specially made for the purpose, under the seal; then, by dint of steady pressure, and thanks to the skill acquired by long practice, he removed the seal whole and without tearing the envelope. The letter read and, if necessary, copied, Simonel slightly warmed the bottom of the seal, so as to melt the wax sufficiently to attach it again to the paper. By this means he was enabled to defy detection. When letters were fastened with gum or a wafer, it was still easier to open them; a few drops of hot water were all that was necessary.

Foreign mail-bags passing through Paris were not respected, any more than letters to be delivered in France, by the unscrupulous Simonel, who had armed himself with a collection of the seals of every foreign government. He was even provided with different sorts of foreign string, in order to disarm suspicion. It was only in extreme cases, however, that he went so far as to cut the string with which mail-bags from abroad are fastened, as he generally contrived to strain it enough to allow him to open the bag and take out the contents. No letters were safe from his prying eyes, and even M. Rothschild's financial correspondence was read by the indefatigable head of the "Black Cabinet," who also was in the habit of opening all the Empress's letters to her friends, and submitting them to her imperial husband.

In the exercise of his disreputable functions he acquired such skill and used such judgment, that on examining the contents of the letter-bags which were brought to him from the general office, he frequently took on himself to open the correspondence of previously unsuspected persons, and found his examination rewarded by the discovery of news which, if not of a compromising character, was at least found to interest one or other of his numerous patrons. For, in fact, M. Simonel worked for everyone. Often towards the close of the Empire he handed the letters of President Rouher to the Minister Ollivier, and those of the Minister Ollivier to the President Rouher.

Simonel was rarely defeated, and still more rarely discovered; yet there were occasions when he was nearly baffled. A diplomatist, having acquired the certainty that his correspondence was opened, inserted a minute steel point in the seal, producing a small hole in the impression, only visible with the aid of a magnifying glass. He addressed the letter to the minister of his own country, and, by telegraph, he requested the latter to return it to him. When it came back he found that the seal bore the same impression as when forwarded, but the hole made by the steel point was absent. Simonel had *missed the point* in one sense; the diplomatist did so in the other, and armed with this proof of tampering, he called on the postmaster-general; but the latter, though at first taken aback, soon recovered his *sang froid*, and with admirable assurance replied simply, "That has not been done in France." That time Simonel escaped exposure.

During the Mexican expedition, the Emperor—not placing entire reliance on his generals' official communications—caused their private letters to be opened. A brigadier-general, who had reason to suspect that his letters to his wife were read before they reached her, wrote M. Simonel the following little note, which positively took the spy by surprise:—

To the Chief of the Black Cabinet,

SIR,—The first time that you allow yourself to open a letter to or from me, I shall give myself the pleasure of cutting your ears off.

(Signed)

GENERAL X.

Simonel posted off to an influential personage, a patron of his, to whom he showed the note. After glancing over it, the latter, with a shrug of the shoulder, consolingly replied,—"Sapristi, my friend, you had better take care of yourself; I know General X, and he is *quite capable* of cutting your ears off." We may be sure Simonel took the advice.

Once only was the chief of the Black

Cabinet completely—to use a vulgar expression—"sold." A Fribourg paper published certain diatribes on the imperial family, of which an ex-professor at Paris was believed to be the author. Simonel set himself to work to find out the truth, and went personally to the Swiss frontier to investigate the matter. He was present when the letters were sorted in the country post-offices near Fribourg, and at the closing of the bags; he even journeyed in the travelling post-office of the Lyons railway, and inspected every letter that was flung in at the different stations along the line, but all to no purpose. He never suspected that the letters were conveyed from Paris to Lyons by an engine-stoker, and there delivered into the hands of a confidant.

A few years ago M. Vandal, the last Director-general of the post-office under the Empire, was interpellated in the Corps Législatif with regard to the existence of the "Cabinet Noir," on which occasion he indignantly denied that any department for the opening of letters existed at the Hôtel des Postes. Five deputies were named, at M. Vandal's request, to inspect the post-office personally, and certify to the correctness of his statement. Of course, when they came to make their inspection, M. Vandal was careful to show them all departments of the post-office, *except* the "Cabinet Noir." In conclusion, M. Lambry is careful to inform us that the present Republican government abstains from such evil work, and that as soon as M. Rampont came into office Simonel was dismissed. Let us hope so. There is something very French in the method of manipulation above related. We manage such things, for once, better in England.

NOTES ON THE UNITED STATES LOCALS.

BY W. DUDLEY ATLEE.

VII.

BROADWAY POST OFFICE.

From Mr. S. A. Taylor I get the following particulars concerning this post:—It was for many years located at 422½, Broadway, New York City. In 1850 it was owned or managed by James C. Harriot; in the following year the proprietor was J. C. Dunham. It is doubtful how long it remained in the possession of the latter, but in 1858 it had passed into the hands of the Rev. B. Lockwood, who held it till 1860, when it became the property of Charles Miller, the last owner. It has now been closed some few years.

The rates charged were two cents for city delivery, and for letters carried to the general post-office; one cent for home letters, and two cents for foreign letters.

By special contract with Boyd's City Post, that express delivered the city letters of the Broadway post-office, the latter only employing one messenger, whose sole duty it was to go to and from the general post-office and Boyd's office.

The stamp was nicely executed, having for design a locomotive going to left, with BROAD-WAY arched in open letters above, and POST-OFFICE in outlined solid letters below. All within an oblong double linear octagon. Black on white, and also (according to Mr. Scott), gold on black.

There are two forgeries, both very generally circulated. The following are the chief points of difference between the original and the counterfeits:—

Genuine.—The outer frame is thick upon the left side, the bottom, and both lower angles; in other parts it is thin. The inner line is exactly the reverse. AD almost touches the frame. There is not much smoke from the engine, and what there is, is undulating, and below the lettering, until it comes between the first two letters of WAY. Lower inscription is very uneven, and *considerably* nearer to the line under locomotive than to the frame. OFFICE is at some distance from POST, and slants from it into the frame.

Forgeries.—There are two; the best has each line of the frame, respectively, of the same thickness throughout. The smoke is very marked under AD. Lower inscription about midway between the engine and the frame. Words close together. The other imitation is very poor, and can easily be detected by comparing with the test of the genuine.

MESSENKOPES UNION SQUARE POST-OFFICE.

A New York post. Stamp was a transverse oval, with lamp or fountain in centre, MESSENKOPES above, UNION SQUARE at sides of device, POST OFFICE below. Black on green glazed paper.

Genuine.—Name in thin fancy letters; address in thin upright capitals; POST OFFICE in thick letters. No stops anywhere. It is impossible to say, with any certainty, what the central device is, but it seems to be a figure within a basin, holding a staff of some kind, for the said staff can be traced in outline until it almost touches the second perpendicular stroke of N. Single-lined frame.

Forgery.—This may be instantly detected by having a double linear frame, and by the bad shape of the figure within the basin.

PIP'S DAILY MAIL.

This post was in existence about five years since. A very plain stamp was used. Within an oblong twisted frame is the inscription, in six lines, PIPS DAILY MAIL. ONE CENT. GEO. ABRAHAMS, STATIONER, 86, HAMILTON AVENUE, SOUTH BROOKLYN, N. Y.

Black on yellow.
„ pale fawn.
„ blue.

The last is the rarest, although none of the varieties are easily to be obtained.

GORDON'S CITY EXPRESS.

I am ignorant of the locality in which this post carried. The stamp was a double-lined circle, lettered with the name above and below, having a postman in the centre, and at sides the value, 2 CTS.; all within a circle of a single line. Black on green glazed paper.

Genuine.—Man's right hand in his pocket; head thrown somewhat back, causing the brim of hat to slant from the right; shading behind right leg almost upright, and on a level with about midway between the figure 2 and C of CITY; apostrophe after name is above the lettering; 2 flat, and at a little distance from the frame. The lower words at some distance from each other.

Forged.—Man's right hand is visible; head being thrown forward, the brim of hat slants considerably from the *left;* shading behind right leg follows the lettering; figure 2 almost close to the circle.

PRINCE'S LETTER EXPRESS.

This post was until quite recently (if not still) in existence, for carrying mail matter between Portland (Maine) and Boston (Mass.). The proprietor was (or is) I. H. Prince, and the objects of the express are best explained by the following extract from the *American Stamp Mercury*:—

> By the present mail arrangements between Portland and Boston, the afternoon mail closes in Portland at about 3 p.m.; consequently, letters posted after that hour have to wait the following mail, which is not made up until the next morning, and, in consequence, letters posted after 3 p.m. are not delivered in Boston until noon of the following day. To remedy this inconvenience Mr. Prince has a messenger, who, travelling by the steamer which leaves Portland at 6 p.m., takes charge of all letters which are handed to him for transmission to Boston; but which letters must, in the first place, have a United States 3 cent stamp affixed, in addition to which, Mr. Prince makes a charge of 2 cents for his trouble in conveying them to Boston, where, at an early hour (usually before 6 o'clock of the following morning), they are safely deposited in the Boston post-office, and are ready for delivery before 9 a.m., thus making a saving of three to four hours' time in transit, at an extra cost of two cents.

The stamp was engraved by Lowell & Brett, of Boston; design, a steamer, with LETTER EXPRESS above, and a fac-simile of Mr. Prince's signature below. The whole within a transverse oval. Black on white. This stamp does not appear to have been counterfeited.

BRAINARD & CO.

This firm started their express in or about 1845, conveying letters between New York, Albany, Troy, and the intermediate places. Only one stamp was emitted; this is found in black and in blue, always upon white. The design is very simple, consisting of a large ring, lettered BRAINARD & CO., N.Y. 58, WALL ST., and having in the centre 14, EXCHANGE, ALBANY, 20 FOR ONE DOLL., TROY, 230, RIVER ST.

There is a really first-class imitation, only to be detected by careful scrutiny.

Genuine.—B and R of name very close together, D rather narrow; the 8 only slightly larger above than below; lettering of WALL ST. thin, and the T of ST. of less height than the preceding letter; 14, EXCHANGE in small type; very fine period after

ALBANY, and again after TROY, the letters in each of these words small and separate; a slight speck after FOR; period after DOLL. on a line with the period after CO.; 230 RIVER ST. same size type as that of upper address; numeral 0 exactly under central stroke of T; some space between RIVER and ST.; bottom of V flat.

Forgery.—No period after either ALBANY or TROY, and no speck after FOR.; D of name wide. Other details the reverse of what they are in the genuine. In addition to this deceptive counterfeit, there is an imitation from a rather poor wood-block. It varies from its archetype in the same points as the better imposture.

WESTERVELT'S POST.

For a long time, like most European collectors, my faith in the stamps of this post—in fact, I may add, in the post itself—was but little. However, from the evidence of used specimens, and of a communication from the proprietor himself, I am bound to acknowledge the existence, at one time, of the dispatch, and the authenticity of its stamps.

In 1861, C. H. Westervelt established a post between the villages of Chester, Chester Depôt, and East Chester, all in Orange county, state of New York. This concern was carried on until 1868, and during that time three distinct types of adhesives, and one for envelopes, were emitted.

All these were printed upon any paper that came handy, and each variety was of equal value in the eyes of the proprietor; but, let it be distinctly understood, *they were all used for franking letters*, and should, therefore, be collected.

The following is a list of the types and colours:—

1.—WESTERVELT'S POST, CHESTER, N.Y., in three lines, within a fancy chain frame. Obl. rect.

Red on yellow.
Black „ lavender.
„ „ fawn.

2.—Profile to left of Indian chieftess; WESTERVELT'S above; POST below; CHESTER, N.Y, at sides. All within a fancy frame. Rect.

Red on yellow.
„ „ fawn.
„ „ white.
Black „ yellow.
„ „ fawn.
„ „ white.

3.—Full-face portrait of General Grant, within a solid oval, inscribed with name and address, as before. In spandrels the figure 2; below, CENTS with numerals, again repeated on each side. Rect.

Red on yellow.
„ „ drab.
Black „ yellow.
„ „ white.
„ „ pink.
„ „ green.
„ „ deep rose.
„ „ blue letter-paper.

Envelope.—American eagle within an oval band, lettered as on the adhesives; a star at each side; oval, upon various papers.

Black.
Red.

There are some labels purporting to be of the first type, but they are very different in the frame, there being eight large ornaments above and below, instead of twelve small ones, as in the genuine.

POSTAL CHIT-CHAT.

THE Green Bay post-office officials do not like to answer questions. The following, posted over the general delivery, expresses their sentiments: "Price of three-cent stamps, three cents each; licked and stuck, five cents each. The clock will answer the question, "Has the mail closed?"—*New York Herald.*

LOOKING AFTER THE BAWBEES.—In Edinburgh, says the *Courant*, the demand for halfpenny post cards was so great on Saturday, the 30th March last, that many would-be purchasers had to leave the post-office without procuring the quantities they required, the answer being, "Sold out." The cause of this unusual crowd of purchasers was the announcement, that on and after April 1st the charge for these cards would be increased one halfpenny per dozen.

LETTER ADDRESSES IN JAPAN.—A correspondent at Hiogo informs us that for letters going through the Japanese post the address must be written in Japanese, as well as in English. To exemplify the way in which the regulation to this effect is complied with, he sends us the envelope of a letter. On the envelope itself is written, in English, the address of the person to whom it is sent (a resident in another part of Japan), and over this address is a slip of the usual fibrous tissue paper used there, gummed down to the envelope on one side, and bearing the address in Japanese characters; this can be lifted up, so as to disclose the English inscription beneath. The stamps

are fastened over the flap of the envelope. They are two in number, the indigo and the vermilion, and our correspondent states that they are worth, together, three cents, or three halfpence English, so that it would appear we have all of us been out in our calculations respecting the denominations of the Japanese stamps.

POSTAL INNOVATIONS ON THE CONTINENT.—We learn from *Le Petit Moniteur* that the French postal department has established, in connection with every railway train, a dépôt of postage stamps and *stamped envelopes*, at the disposal, and for the convenience of travellers. It appears this novel extension of the system was introduced and has been practised by the German post-office since the 1st ult. The latter also gave public notice, on 27th March last, that subscriptions would be received in all the post-offices in the German empire, "not only to German newspapers, but also to all the principal journals and reviews published in France, England, Poland, Russia, Spain, &c., &c. The officials, at all the post-office windows, will be ready to give every necessary information, and will communicate a list of the prices of the journals to all who may request it. The journals for which subscriptions may be received will be forwarded through the post to the subscribers by the quickest route." This is really an important measure; no doubt the public will appreciate it; and we question whether the booksellers and newspaper agents will not also hold a strong opinion about it; but, probably, the scheme is intended principally for the benefit of the inhabitants of the smaller towns and the country.

CORRESPONDENCE.

THE SUEZ CANAL STAMPS.

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

SIR,—The editor of Gray's Catalogue, 5th edition, takes exception to the Suez Canal stamps. I beg to say I have a postmarked 20 c., whose pedigree is irreproachable. The above catalogue is so deservedly widely circulated, and Mr. Overy Taylor generally so trustworthy a mentor, that it is all the more important to establish the true character of the accused.

Yours truly,

WARDEN.

THE RUSSIAN LOCALS AND FINNISH STAMPS.

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

DEAR SIR,—Your correspondent, Mr. John Siewert, is quite right in his description of the Valdai hills, and allow me to remark further, that the arms depicted on the stamp are that of the district—the peak in allusion to the hills, and the other part, the imperial crown and ground of ermine, of the government of Novgorod. It is well known in history that Novgorod was the oldest grand-duchy of Russia; and the Russians date the establishment of their empire from 862, when Ruric established his government in Novgorod.

There is nothing strange in the Finland post cards being issued before those of Russia. In the first place, the new style is used there, hence a difference of twelve days; and secondly, they are governed by a different constitution, have another language, religion, and monetary value, and nothing in common with the Russians but being subjects of one empire.

I am, dear Sir,

Yours faithfully,

YOUR ST. PETERSBURG CORRESPONDENT.

AN AMERICAN COLLECTOR ON THE RECENT AUCTION SALE.

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

DEAR SIR,—I was very glad to see your article on the recent *auction sale*. I question very seriously the genuineness of various bids in behalf of "*American* orders or parties," since collecting is not pursued here as with you, nor by persons who are accustomed to pay *such* prices, except in a very few cases; while those very persons, most probably, had the same opportunity that I had months ago of buying such stamps of "Scott & Co.," and would hardly leave the prices to the chances of an auction sale "across the water."

I think we have had enough of Confederate local or city stamps brought to light, in mysterious ways, to prevent our accepting such, unless on the most direct and positive proof. I chanced to secure the only two Livingston, Ala., provisional stamps that I ever saw or heard of, one for myself and the other for a fellow-collector, both being on one envelope, duly postmarked, dated, &c.; but had I not received them from a young man well known to me, who discovered them in a file of old letters, I should have doubted their genuineness.

There is a singular mystery about those "St. Louis" stamps, and it is incomprehensible to me how their use, in such a city, could be confined to so very select a few, and those few apparently dealers.

I am, dear Sir,

Yours truly,

Cambridge, Mass. F. F.

GERMAN MONEY-ORDER CARDS AND ENVELOPES.

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

DEAR SIR,—The answers to the queries by L. O., of Bedford, in the "Correspondence" column of last number, are easily to be obtained from the objects themselves.

1.—The stamps impressed on the money-order cards do indeed represent the postage and the fee combined; no other charge is made for the remittance, but the postage is varying according to the amount remitted; for instance, in Austria the scale is as follows:—

Up to	10	florins,				5	kreuzer.
From	10	,,	to	50	florins	10	,,
,,	50	,,	to	100	,,	15	,,
,,	100	,,	to	500	,,	30	,,
,,	500	,,	to	1000	,,	60	,,
,,	1000	,,	to	2000	,,	90	,,
,,	2000	,,	to	3000	,,	1	fl. 20 krs.
,,	3000	,,	to	4000	,,	1	,, 50 ,,
,,	4000	,,	to	5000	,,	1	,, 80 ,,

As there are only cards with 5 kr. stamps impressed on them, higher postage must be made up by supplementary adhesives, for which the right margin under the stamp is destined.

2.—The card or envelope is sent by the person who obtains the money-order, and the amount is paid to the bearer of the card or envelope, provided with his signature, without any legitimation.

3.—Private communications are allowed to be written on the left space (coupon) of the cards and the interior of the envelopes; the coupon may be cut off, and the letter be taken out from the envelope by the receiver before presentation; but in the latter case the public are warned against tearing the flap, the receipt being written on it. I should add, that imperial postage stamps and envelopes having been introduced in Wurtemburg, the

local money-order envelopes are withdrawn from circulation.

Speaking of money-order cards, I may as well mention the "*Post-mandat Karte*" in Germany and Hungary. Against a fee of 5 sgr. or 10 kreuzer, the post-office undertakes to obtain any stated amount from any person indicated on the card, and remits the money to the sender of the card (if it be paid) by money-order, less the ordinary fee for it. The mandate is to be forwarded by the obtainer to the post-office where the debtor lives, in an envelope bearing the inscription POST MANDAT, which in this case is considered as a registered letter, without being liable to the registration fee. Postage is at the charge of the obtainer of the order.

The German post-mandate card is green, and bears no stamp, but only a square destined for it. The Hungarian post-mandate is also green, of very thin cardboard, and has the 10 kr. adhesive printed on it, but in black colour.

I must again apologise for my bad style in using your language; it is more than eight years that I am gone from hospitable England, and I have but rarely opportunities of practising it; but I hope you will accept my good will for the deed.

Yours very truly,

Gablonz, a.d. Neisse, Bohemia. MAX JOSEPH.

[Does the post-office which receives the "post-mandat" apply for payment to the person on whom the sender draws? If the money-orders are paid to bearers of cards or envelopes, without any proof of identity, such a mode of transmitting money seems to offer very insufficient guarantees.—ED.]

STAMP CATALOGUING.

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

DEAR SIR,—In the not improbable event of new editions shortly appearing of more than one stamp catalogue, more especially Dr. Gray's, there may, perhaps, be no harm in drawing attention to a few points, wherein I think most collectors will agree with me in considering the latter might be improved; at least be made more thoroughly what it professes to be—a work for "the great body of collectors," and so far independent of other catalogues. As it stands at present, it is too often necessary for many of these collectors to have recourse elsewhere for information, such as, doubtless, Berger Levrault (in English, when we get it), or Mr. Pemberton's promised catalogue—to the appearance of which we all look forward with pleasure—would supply; but, in truth, Dr. Gray's catalogue, and such as these, appeal mainly to different classes, and should be each complete in itself.

In the first place then, if Mr. Taylor were just a little to relax his rule regarding the exclusion of certain varieties, it seems to me he would more generally meet the views of "the great body." Not by any means that I would favour the admission of any of the eccentricities of perforation, paper, and watermark, to be found chiefly in our own colonies, or of the numerous varieties in shade (so much noticed in recent monographs), which are usually quite unauthorised and accidental, and whose place is elsewhere; but simply because I think that the majority of collectors regard as distinct, for instance, a series of rouletted stamps and a series issued at a different time and perforated in the usual manner—more generally, one where mere incisions are made, and one where portions of the stamp are removed—as denoting two different stages of improvement in the process; a series perforated 9 and another 14; a series with the colours light or the paper thin, and one with dark colours or thick paper: just as much, at any rate, as they look on stamps watermarked with a star as differing from stamps with a crown, or watermarked with a large figure, from others with a small one. In fact, I think Mr. Taylor could not do better than admit into the catalogue such varieties as he usually notices in his "Papers for Beginners," unless, indeed, he should continue to transgress that title, as in the last two or three numbers. At all events, let there be consistency; if a distinction is made in one place, it should be kept up throughout.

Again, for completeness sake, let the United States locals be once more included: now, at last, there seems some possibility of discriminating between the good and the bad, and we shall require to have summarised the results arrived at by the various writers in the magazines. I must here, too, renew my plea for certain newspaper stamps. What is there, I should like to know, peculiar to our lately deceased 1*d. red*, save the simple fact of its being impressed on each paper—as distinguished from dozens usually included in catalogues—to prevent its being collected? or in what respect are the stamps of our own *Times* inferior to those of the Fijian? It is needless to mention many others to which the same remarks apply.

Nothing would be of more value to the young collector than a complete list, with illustrations, of all the spurious stamps that have from time to time been issued. I am not aware of such having ever appeared. Of course I do not allude to forgeries—they must be described by themselves—but to purely fictitious stamps, that have originated in the brain of some speculator on credulity. Perhaps no better check could be put to the indiscriminate sale of forgeries proper than by adopting—to a less extent certainly, and in a modified form, to avoid the confusion arising from many symbols—Bellars and Davie's plan of indicating, throughout the catalogue, the relative rarity of the less common stamps, and so rendering it less easy to deceive by low-priced shams. There could, at any rate, be no harm in increasing the number of the explanatory foot-notes, which are often of great interest and value.

If engravings of all distinct species were given, and not those alone that have previously appeared in *The Stamp-Collector's Magazine;* if different types were used to enliven the page, and distinguish species and secondary varieties; if a *complete* money-table (an article which, strangely enough, has never yet been produced) were added; if the binding were improved, and ready-made interleaved copies sold at an advance, as in Mount Brown's time, there would, I think, be little left to be desired. Last, though not least (to the publishers, at any rate), the price would have to be raised, say, to half-a-crown, which I am sure no philatelist would grudge for a truly reliable and complete catalogue.

These few hints have been put together to further what seems to be the prevalent opinion among a large class of collectors, and by no means to push forward ideas of my own. I trust they may not be altogether out of place.

Yours faithfully,

Nairn. P. I. A.

ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS.

B. C. DE C., Torquay.—We notice your communication, together with those of other friends, in another part of the number, and are obliged for the information it contains.

W. E. B. wishes to know whether the stamps of the Papal States are still in use, and if so, under what conditions. Does a letter from the Vatican cost more for postage than one from the Quirinal?

NOTES FOR COLLECTORS.—I.

BY A PARISIAN COLLECTOR.

INTRODUCTION.

It has been to us a matter of regret that in those excellent papers by Mr. Overy Taylor, he has not descended a little deeper into the mine of philatelic lore; but he is doing essential service in giving general and accurate reviews of the various issues of the stamps in each country, and their several types. He thus clears the ground, and lays a foundation whereon a collector may commence to select and arrange his specimens, without having before his eyes the fear either of spending his time or his money in vain; or of having to pull his work to pieces and begin over again. The various issues and types of several European countries having thus been described in the "Papers for Beginners," it will be our object to follow in the wake of Mr. Overy Taylor, and to take our readers a few steps deeper than he has done into the study of the varieties of these types; and in making this attempt we must ask for their kind consideration. We do not pretend to any mastership in the craft, but we have, in the course of re-arranging our own specimens, been forcibly led to a patient study of them; what, therefore, we have to communicate will partly consist of the results of these investigations, and partly of an examination of the investigations of others; though, as far as possible, we shall avoid ploughing with another man's yoke.

There is ample room for study, for there is much yet to be made clear, and much which at present must necessarily be left to conjecture. The inroad of the postal system in the various countries of the world has been gradual and silent, so that ofttimes we are unable to trace its entry. Sometimes some sudden convulsion—political or other—arrests an issue in its course, and supersedes it by a fresh one, condemning the residue of the former one to destruction. There is but little difficulty in fixing precise dates, &c., in such a case; but how much more frequently does it happen that one issue supersedes a preceding one by a process resembling nothing so much as a dissolving view, where, in the course of the transmutation of the tableaux, the outlines of the receding view are mixed up in strange confusion with those of the advancing one? We have only to turn to the pages of this magazine to see how much the history even of our own stamps has given rise to controversy. For some time general uncertainty prevailed even as to the date of the issue of the original 1d. adhesive stamp. When the substitution of the twopence, with horizontal lines, for the original twopence took place is still a matter of doubt, and philatelists are not agreed within twelve years as to the proper date to be assigned to the issue of the embossed sixpence; whilst we may look in vain for evidence to support the following dates, as given by M. Berger-Levrault and others:—"1850, 1d. red-brown; 2d. blue, fil., small crown, perforated 16. November, 1854, same; fil. large crown, perforated 14," and endeavour to reconcile the one with the first employment of Archer's machine, and the other with that assigned as the retouching of the dies by Humphreys. If these dates are right, we ought to be able to find a one-penny stamp, fil. large crown, perforated 14, taken from the die before retouch; a variety yet to be discovered. But if difficulties are to be found so near home, what can we expect when we have to travel farther, and examine the stamps of distant countries? For the most part we find as yet but few official documents to aid us; we are puzzled by all kinds of conflicting statements. If we apply to any officials for information, and an answer is vouchsafed, the information can be relied upon but seldom; how much more frequently no reply is given, and the petitioner is looked upon as asking for information he has no business with; while, if he asks it as an "amateur of postage stamps," the reply, if any, will almost infallibly be addressed to him at Hanwell or at Charenton.

In their researches our readers must, therefore, in a great degree, bring their own intelligence to the work; and our principal object in these notes will be to induce them to enter upon a patient and minute examination of the specimens of the stamps of each country which they possess, with a view to a methodical classification of them, and to

direct them in the choice of interesting varieties, and such as may appear to be useful in elucidating points which are still attended with doubt and mystery.

We might as well imagine that by studying anatomy on paper we could arrive at discoveries in its science, or at facility in the use of the scalpel, as that we can do much in the study of philately without the aid of a good selection of specimens. In the choice of our own specimens we have been guided by one principal rule—never to reject anything which may tend to exhibit the history of a stamp, and the different phases which it has gone through. Now, the three principal elements upon which varieties depend, are, the paper employed in the fabrication of the stamps, the colour of the impression, and the mode in which the separation of the stamps from each other is effected, whether by mechanism or by the hand. Two other points are also worthy of attention, which are,—the kind of gum employed for rendering the stamps adhesive, and the various marks which have been employed during the existence of the stamp for obliterating it, and rendering it unserviceable for a second employ.

Paper.—When we consider the different kinds of paper employed for the manufacture of stamps we may well accord to it the first place among the elements of varieties. At one time the paper is coloured, at another white; at one time it is a hard hand-made paper, at another soft and cottony; at one time thick, at another thin as tissue paper; at one time with some special watermark, and at another with simple parallel lines, or what is called "laid" paper. All these are differences to be observed, and observed closely, as the employment or non-employment of any particular kind may serve to furnish internal evidence of a point in the history of a stamp which cannot be supplied from other sources. Thus the presence or absence of a watermark enables us at once to discern between the first issue for Prussia and a worthless reprint. The difference of paper, whether laid or plain, enables us to classify our first issues of Canadian stamps into the early and the later portion of the issue; and very numerous other examples might be mentioned, which we refrain from giving, as they will be brought individually before our readers in the course of these notes.

Again: the *colour* of the impression is an essential element of variety. A distinction must, however, be drawn between shades of a normal colour and different depths of the same colour. As a general rule we avoid, as far as possible, overloading our collection with these latter when they arise from causes solely dependent on the working off of the impression. Such varieties, and those akin to them, as inverted watermarks, double perforations, &c., we leave to fanciful collectors, who must necessarily feel but little interest in star and such-like watermarks, which can present so little value to them in comparison with stamps such as those of British Guiana, where they may possibly discover a portion of T. H. SAUNDERS upside down. Such varieties only show the unskilfulness of the workman, or an oversight on his part, and are not incidents in the history of the stamp. But where the shade varies in character—where, for instance, it is Prussian blue at one time and ultramarine blue at another—it is worthy of collection. In making, however, a selection of shades it must be borne in mind that the colours used in the printing of stamps are most frequently compound colours. The exact tint of to-day may be varied to-morrow, and the day following the tint may be again that of to-day. As far as possible we shall endeavour to catalogue only such fortuitous shades as are of any interest, though we scarcely hope to arrive at accurate descriptions of those intricate shades which we are constantly meeting with in postage stamps.

The chief difficulty in the description of shades arises from this, that philatelists have no standards of colour to start from, and it would seem impossible to arrive at this, unless by some common action amongst themselves. The colour-box is of no use, for even in a common colour like vermilion we could find two or three tinges of colour, according as it came from England or from France, from Rathbone-place or from Soho-square. We are aware that it is in contemplation to form a code of colours for philatelists, and with the present facilities of printing by the

chromo-lithographic process, this surely is not an impossibility; without something of this kind no general catalogue can ever succeed in chronicling the various shades. Take for example the interesting paper on "The Stamps of Trinidad," in the April number of *The Philatelical Journal*. The normal colours of the sixpence and shilling of the issue of 1865 are given as green and purple. But to find the normal colour we have to hunt about among the heights and depths before we discover it; whereas, if we had a fixed code of colours we could at once find our starting-point. It is true that there are some colours which are peculiar to stamps, as for instance what is called *bistre* in the French catalogues; but which has no more relation to the bistre of the colour makers than vermilion has to carmine, except that in one both are browns, and in the other both are red. But for special colours special names might be given. As artists adopt names of great painters to denote particular shades, such as Vandyck brown, Rubens' madder, &c., why should not philatelists have Magnus's brown, Pemberton's purple, Viner's grey, &c.? which last might be of great service in the task of enumerating the shades of the block-printed Trinidads.

The mode in which the stamps are to be separated from each other is also an important element in the classification of their varieties. The time when no distinction was made between perforated and unperforated stamps has long passed away. Perforations are no longer cut off in order to straighten the edges of the specimens. The numbers of the holes, within a given space, are now all counted, and we classify our specimens accordingly.

The *gumming* of adhesive stamps is also a point worthy of examination. Let all collectors avoid, as much as possible, cleaning off the original gum. Our own experience is that at times it is next to impossible to mount or to preserve specimens without doing so; or even to obtain specimens which have the original gum still upon them; but as far as is practicable, it is well to avoid putting the specimens into water, except for examining the texture of the paper. We cannot at this moment refer to it, but we well recollect seeing, in the pages of this magazine, a letter from a Goth, containing a receipt for cleaning off that "unsightly pink gum" from the Hanoverian stamps, by a process of soda and hot water. After this had been done, what was left to show the difference between the originals and the reprints in the older series, or to show the place in his collection for the later series?

Lastly, for the purpose of study, there is nothing like the aid of some well-chosen obliterated specimens. When gold-fields in the Confederate States are being daily discovered; when reprints are being every day foisted on collectors; when dealers in stamps are becoming almost as clever as dealers in pictures by old masters—it is a comfort to a collector to be able to compare his specimens with a good honestly obliterated stamp. To a certain extent the successive modes of obliteration adopted in a country enable us also to arrive at some approximate idea as to the period when the stamp was current. A common instance of this may occur to everyone in the case of the Maltese-cross obliterating mark on our own early stamps, first in red and then in black. Dr. Magnus, in his classification of the stamps of Victoria, found the obliterating marks a most important guide to him in his labours. It is true that such marks are not to be depended upon exclusively, for we have ourselves found a threepence of the current series bearing one of the oldest obliterations; yet an exception does not destroy the rule, and none can deny that they are great and essential aids.

After this introduction, we will, in our next paper, proceed to make some notes on the first series of the stamps of Austria.

OUR CONTEMPORARIES.

[EMISSIONS NOTICED IN THE PRESENT ARTICLE:—*Mexico—Japan—Hawaii—Morton & Co.*]

The Philatelical Journal.—We have perused with considerable interest an able paper in the May number of this journal, on the surcharging of the Mexican stamps. Papers like this, breaking up fresh ground, and in which fresh subjects are ventilated, give additional interest to philately, and induce col-

lectors not only to examine their own specimens, but also to think for themselves. The paper in question is evidently the work of the editor. It is well that such a subject as the Mexican stamps should have been taken up by so experienced a philatelist, and we trust it is not the last paper which we shall see on these difficult stamps from the same source. There are still the provisional Guadalajara stamps, and the types of the 1868 series, to be dealt with.

Perhaps not one collector in twenty ever gave himself the trouble to think what the surcharging on the Mexican stamps meant. The great mass had, doubtless, some floating idea that the figures had something to do with the date of issue, but that was about all. The investigations, however, of the author of the paper in *The Philatelical Journal* point out their true object, which no doubt was the establishment of an administrative control over the quantities employed.

A correspondent has forwarded to us some notes which he has made on this paper, and we are sure that it will be gratifying to the author of the latter to find that it has had the effect of drawing the attention of other philatelists to the subject, and producing communications from them.

Some three or four years ago, I collected together a considerable number of Mexican stamps, and am able to make a few additions to the lists given in *The Philatelical Journal*. For instance, in the Hidalgo series, the following may be added to the names of towns, in Roman capitals at the side:—HUEJUTLA, in black on colour, and colour on white; TLALPUJAHUA; TIXTLAN, GUERRERO; and TULA—colour on white; and VICTORIA DE TAMPAS—a contraction for Tamaulipas—black on colour; the names being in large Roman capitals.

With regard to the stamps surcharged MEXICO, I have never found any copies of the first series, colour on white, surcharged in block capitals or Egyptian type; but the series black on colour and colour on colour are found surcharged with this type, in two sizes.

In the eagle series it seems probable that the figures were not printed upon those first issued, for many copies are found without figures, especially amongst the older shades. I take exception to the mode of spelling CUERNAVACA; it is not spelt "Quernavaga," either on the stamps or on the French map of Mexico. I could add several names also to the list of 39, given by *The Philatelical Journal;* but some of them—like Pubanco—are to be found on the stamp but not on the map. It is probable that during the French occupation many small offices, which neither before nor after it issued stamps, received their supplies from head-quarters; for it appears to be perfectly clear that the figures were printed at the head issuing office, and that those preceding the date were the numbers corresponding in the books with the particular dispatch of stamps. For example, if the office at Vera Cruz wanted a supply of 1, 2, and 4 reales stamps, these sheets would all be stamped at the head office with the same number, and in the books, under this number, would be entered so many sheets of 1, 2, and 4 reales, despatched at such a time to Vera Cruz. That the surcharging of the stamps with the figures is done at a head issuing office seems to be evident from the fact mentioned by the author of the paper, that during the early part of 1864 the surcharged figures were in heavy block type, and later on the figures are ordinary Roman; and he mentions finding that this change took place between the numbers 177 and 183. I find that 178 was a dispatch to Tula, 179 to Puebla. both in the heavy type, and that 180 was a dispatch to Vera Cruz, in the Roman type, which was then employed for all future dispatches; for though I have not a copy of 181, yet I have 182, and many subsequent numbers, all in ordinary Roman type. That the number was not peculiar to one value, is evident from the circumstance of different values being found stamped with the same name and with the same figures.

Before the stamps were issued to the public, they were stamped with the name of the issuing office; but it is evident that not unfrequently this was omitted. Some offices seem also to have been unprovided with the necessary stamp, as I have found the name, in more than one case, written upon the stamp. I do not see that much notice need be taken as to whether the name was stamped on the side, the bottom, or the top. It is ordinarily at the side; but there are many variations from the list, as given in *The Philatelical Journal.*

The question, then, as to the meaning of the figures surcharged on these stamps is, I think, pretty clearly solved, but the *raison d'être* of the names does not appear to me to be so easy of solution. At one time the author of the paper calls them the "names of towns or districts;" at another, the "name of state." If, by the latter expression he means the provinces which make up the Mexican republic, I think he is wrong, as there are many names in the lists which are not the names of provinces, nor even of departments. According to the statistical tables of M. Garcia y Cubas, published in Mexico in 1870, the country is divided into 27 states. In every one of these states the name of one town at least is represented on the stamps, and in some, two, three, or more. Does not this point rather to a species of postal district, some particular town in which is the seat of the office deriving its supplies from head-quarters, and with which the head office keeps its account, and which in its turn supplies the wants of the particular district?

When the Maximilian series was issued—although this took place in the middle of the year 1866—yet a fresh series of numbers was printed upon them, no longer on the side, but at the top of the stamp. The lithographed series was probably issued in July, for though I have a copy of the 12 cents. numbered 3, yet the earliest number which I have with a dated postmark is numbered issued as 12, and postmarked August 2. The engraved series was a continuation of, and issued in conjunction with, the lithographed series. The earliest specimen of the engraved series which I have is numbered 112—66; the latest in that year, 139; and I have a lithographed copy of the 7 cent. also bearing this latter date.

My notes are already growing too long, and I will therefore only make a few remarks upon the list of the 1868 series. I have found neither 15 nor 32. My copy of the 27 is also illegible. Number 29 is Tula de Tampas—so called, I suppose, to distinguish it from the other Tula in the province of Mexico—and 34 is Maravatio. Why

Guadalajara should have had two numbers is an enigma. I find copies dated '69, numbered 41, but no successor to its earlier number 3. Jalapa is also numbered 44, instead of 14; I take this to be an error of the printer, in using a 4 for a 1; nevertheless, it is an unmistakable 4.

The new issue seems to bring in a new series of check figures, though Mexico is still No. 1; yet I see, from *The Philatelist*, that Vera Cruz is No. 70. We shall soon have enough and to spare of Mexican stamps. The 41 numbers do not exhaust the varieties of the 1868 series. If anyone thinks so, let him study the figures of 2, for instance, on the 12 centavos, and he will see that in Mexico they know at least half-a-dozen different ways of making that figure.

It will be seen that our correspondent agrees with the author of the paper in *The Philatelical Journal*, when he says that the system of varying the numbers on the eagle series "evidently pointed to some plan for checking the quantities issued." With that, we think, all the interest of the figures ends, except so far as they may tend to fix the date of any changes in the colours of the impressions. As for the additional disfigurement caused by stamping the name of the town upon the stamp, the only interest we can see in the difference between a stamp purchased at the office in Vera Cruz, and one purchased in Puebla, is pretty much the same interest as between a penny stamp purchased in Bath, and another purchased in Bristol.

Of the remaining contents of the May number, the only article calling for special remark is that of the Rev. R. B. Earée, on "Japanese Stamps and Numerals," which is exceedingly interesting. It exposes the inaccuracies of the paper published in the March number of *Le Timbre-Poste* on the same subject. According to the latter, the Japanese stamps should be mounted with the dragon's head downwards. This struck us at the time as a very droll inversion, but we bowed to the authority of the foreign journal, and contented ourselves with chronicling its statement. Mr. Earée now says that the numerals which illustrated the article in *Le Timbre-Poste* were all *upside down*, and the argument derived from their position is conclusively refuted. He then gives a series of engravings of the numerals as they should be written, and accompanies it with a very lucid explanation. The arithmetical system of the Japanese is exceedingly cumbrous, as will be seen from the fact, that to express the number 259, they must employ five of their figures, disposed one under the other, in the following order.

$$\left.\begin{matrix}2\\100\\5\\10\\9\end{matrix}\right\} \textit{i.e.}, 100 \times 2 + 10 \times 5 + 9 = 259$$

"Fancy," says the author of the paper, "a compound long-division sum in Japanese!"

The article on "Novelties" is replete with information; and in the continuation of his article on the Hawaiian emissions, Mr. Atlee demonstrates that the figure stamps form a provisional series issued for local postage, and are *not*, as had been supposed, unpaid-letter, or additional postage stamps. The "Cream of the Magazines" and the "Reviews" are both very readable, but why the discussion of the contents of contemporary papers should be inserted under two different headings, we cannot understand. As a general rule, reviews are supposed to extend to new publications only.

The Philatelist for May is principally remarkable for a paper, by "Warden," on "The Stamps of Saint Domingo," which forms the first attempt at the establishment of a discriminative catalogue of the perplexing emissions of that republic. We doubt not but that our readers will thank us for having transferred this article bodily to the columns of our present number. Both the May and June numbers contain instalments of "A Parisian Collector's" monograph on "The Envelopes of Germany," and Mr. Atlee's "Spud Papers." In the latter, the forgeries of Brunswick and Uruguay are carefully treated, the descriptions being accompanied, as usual, by specimens of the counterfeits themselves. The editor continues to discourse on telegraph stamps, and is gradually forming a descriptive list, which will prove of great value to all who intend forming a collection of these semi-postal labels. We hope the learned author will publish the list as a separate work when complete; nothing would give such a fillip to the collection of telegraph stamps as the possession of a catalogue.

Le Timbre-Poste.—The May and June numbers present very few noticeable features.

The former contains an article on the Morton stamps ; but the documentary evidence which was to establish their lack of value is not forthcoming. The editor confines himself to the endeavour to prove that they are simply the fruits of a speculation on the part of Mr. Panopoulo. He establishes, at best, but a suspicion against the stamps. Mr. Panopoulo evidently desires to push the sale of them, but such desire is not incompatible with the hypothesis of their genuineness as a postal emission. The fact is that very few locals are entirely free from the taint of speculation. When we find that the officials of various state post-offices—those of Hawaii, Buenos Ayres, &c.—engage in the sale of obsolete stamps,—when we find also that the stock of old German stamps was disposed of "at a sacrifice"—we need not be surprised if the director of a private office seeks to augment his or its revenue by vending its emissions *en masse* to collectors. We should certainly think more of the Morton stamps if they were not put up for sale in this way, but we see no reason to question their being really in use, and in this connection we cannot overlook the fact that nearly two years ago we received a letter from a correspondent at Constantinople announcing the emission and enclosing specimens. Further independent testimony would certainly strengthen the case in their favour, but M. Moens' strictures are but slightly justified by his arguments. He states that specimens of the first round type, that without steamer, are made by sticking a bit of paper over the steamer, above the word FRANCO ; and that specimens of the second round type, that with steamer, are made by that part of the stamp being left uncovered ; for, he says, many of the specimens of the first type show traces of parts of the steamer which have been imperfectly covered. This we know, from another source, to be the fact, and it is not a very reputable one ; but we must, in justice, say we have seen, and still possess, specimens of the first type, innocent of any traces of the apposition of a piece of paper. M. Moens objects also that no trace of gum is found on the backs of these circular stamps, but the same objection would tell with equal force against any recognized genuine stamp which was not gummed. Let it be understood, we do not impugn M. Moens' motive in questioning the character of these stamps, nor do we set ourselves up as their defenders. We are as desirous as he can be of ascertaining exactly what they are worth; but before relaxing our belief in their authenticity, we must have some stronger evidence than he brings forward. Perhaps the truth is, that prepayment in Morton stamps, of letters sent over the Morton line, is merely optional.

In the June number, Senor M. P. de Figueroa seeks to explain the presence of French stamps and a French postmark on a letter from Cuba. He argues that the French consuls in Cuba probably act as packet agents, and forward letters prepaid with French stamps. The editor, in a footnote, states that he has been informed that letters brought from Cuba by the French packet are *not* prepaid at the consulate, as Senor de Figueroa supposes, but on board the boat itself, to which the public have to carry their letters.

NEWLY-ISSUED OR INEDITED STAMPS.

MEXICO.—It turns out, as we had suspected, that the new series numbers among its values a 6 centavos and a 100 centavos. The 6 c. is distinguished from the other four values by the word of value reading from the top downwards, instead of from the bottom upwards, as on the other stamps. This value is printed a pale yellowish green. The 100 centavos is in lilac ; the 12 c. (which has the denomination on the *right* side, instead of on the left, as in the other values) is found in blue and dark blue, and the 25 c. in pale red and vermilion. We felt some doubt last month as to the effigy being that of Juarez; and our scepticism has been shared by our *confrerès*, one of whom hints that it may really be that of Hidalgo. On the whole, however, whilst admitting that the portrait has something monk-like about it, we are inclined to believe it to be that of Juarez. It will not do to attach too much importance to a fancied clerical air, and there is no special reason for supposing that the change of emission would lead to a change

in the effigy; moreover, the portrait of Juarez on the preceding series is hardly less ecclesiastical in appearance than that on the new comers.

The editor of *Le Timbre-Poste* has received some unused 50 centavos yellow, of the 1868 type, surcharged with the word ANOTADO, in round hand, in black. He suggests that it may be a mark placed by the administration upon the genuine stamps to distinguish them from forgeries concocted in Mexico: this we venture to doubt, bearing in mind that the Colombian stamp, with letter A (signifiying *anotado*) in centre, is used, according to some, as an unpaid letter, and, according to others, as a registration stamp.

RUSSIA.—The stamped post cards, of which we announced the emission, made their appearance punctually at the promised date—the 1st May, and we now present an illustration of the impressed design which they bear on the right upper corner. The cards are of the same size as the unstamped one, but they appear at first sight to be larger. The available space is augmented to the extent of quite a centimetre each way, by carrying the border nearly to the edge of the card; thus room has been found to increase the number of lines destined to receive the address from five to six. The design is an entirely new one, with the exception only of the imperial arms, in the left upper corner, which appear to be a transfer from the unstamped card. The border is of a much lighter pattern, and a graceful inner frame has been added. The Russian inscription, signifying CORRESPONDENCE CARD, is in very bold type, more than double the size of the same inscription on the unstamped emission. On the 3 kop., below this inscription, are the words—*for the town;* and on the 5 kop., in the same place—*for the country.* The former also bears a notice, to the effect that it is intended for the town only, and may be thrown into the letter-boxes for delivery by any of the town offices; whilst the latter has a similarly worded notice, to the effect that the card may be forwarded through any post-office in the empire. The printer's address, in a slightly abbreviated form, is inserted in the border itself, instead of being below, as in the unstamped cards. The colour of the cards sent us by our St. Petersburg correspondent is a pale grey, though M. Moens quotes the emission as being on white. The 3 kop. is printed of a reddish-brown; the 5 kop., of a deep chrome-green. The inscriptions on the back are precisely the same as on the first-issued card.



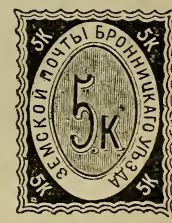
The Belgian paper notes the arrival of the 1, 3, 5, 10, and 20 kop. adhesives on vertically and horizontally laid paper, with undulations in watermark. It also states that the 10 kop. envelope now has the stamp struck on the right, instead of the left.

RUSSIAN LOCALS.—The June number of *Le Timbre-Poste* contains notices of two entirely new locals, engravings of two older ones described in our list, and a valuable analysis of the Bogorodsk type. We will take the two novelties first, and then proceed with the notice of the others.



Cherson (Cherson).—This new stamp may be described as the second seen from a distance. It is simply a reduced copy of its predecessor. It is perforated $12\frac{1}{2}$, and printed red.

Bronnitzi (Moscow).—This, like the Charkoff, noticed and engraved in our February number, seems to be modelled on the design of the first type of the Bogorodsk, which is not surprising when we consider that it comes from the same government as the latter—that of Moscow. In the size, the corner numerals, the serrated outer border, and the shape of the inscribed oval, there is a great resemblance to the Bogorodsk; but in place of an armorial design we get a plain figure of value in the centre. The inscription signifies RURAL POST OF THE BRONNITZI DISTRICT. The impression is in bright vermilion. The *Stamp-Collector's Journal* describes this design as emanating from Borovitchi, which must be a mistake.



Kolomna (Moscow).—This stamp is roughly perforated 7½ to 8. The design, a crowned pillar between two stars, deserves the elucidation which it will doubtless receive at the hands of one or other of our obliging correspondents. The colour is vermilion. The fact of its being perforated is duly noticed in our list, vol. ix., p. 97.



Borovitchi (Novgorod).—Lozenge-shaped stamps seem to be popular with the Russian local authorities. To the Egorieff and the Pskoff must now be added the annexed design, replacing the quaint red-brown type which formed the first emission. The value is 5 kopecs; the impression is in black, with the exception of the frame, which is in vermilion; white paper.



Bogorodsk (Moscow).—The following is M. Moens' analysis of *three* types issued for this district, of which the third is a new discovery, and probably a new emission.

Type 1. Type 2.





Type 1.—5 kop. blue; 5 kop. bright vermilion, on slightly yellowish tinted white paper.

This design, in both colours, has been found by M. Moens' correspondent to exist also on newspaper bands, measuring 49 centimetres (20 inches!) of which 6½ cent. in length are gummed. As the stamps are not perforated, and the design impressed on the band falls on that portion which is gummed at the back, there would seem to be no means of distinguishing the label from the newspaper stamp, when the latter is cut out of the band on which it is printed. A 1 and a 10 kop. were chronicled by our correspondent last year (p. 97), but have not yet found their way across.

Type 2.—*Adhesives.*—5 kop. blue. 10 kop. yellowish red. On paper slightly blued.

Envelopes (design impressed on the flap)—
5 kop. blue on white laid envelope—14 by 11 centimetres.
10 kop. blue and very pale blue, on white wove envelope; 19 by 13½ centimetres.

Type 3.- A roughly executed lithograph of the second type; St. George much larger, and looking as if mounted on a wooden horse.

Adhesives.—1 kop. violet-red, pale and bright.
5 kop. pale rose and brownish rose.

Sierra Leone.—We have now the pleasure to give the engraving of the new shilling stamp, which reached us too late for insertion in our last number.



Portuguese Indies.—The three English philatelic journals are severally rebuked in the June number of *Le Timbre-Poste*, for their sins of omission or commission, in connection with their notice of the stamps for these colonies. Our own transgression consisted in reading M. Moens' statement that the stamps were perforated 16 as being that they were postmarked 16, and we willingly make due acknowledgment of our error, as it told considerably against the stamps, which we should be sorry to condemn without due reason. Their introducer now states that all the specimens he has seen are postmarked No. 1, and that the c in SERVICO should be written with a cedilla. Our Birmingham contemporary seems inclined to place faith in these stamps.

Ceylon.—We find, in the current number of *The American Journal of Philately*, a coloured illustration of a Cingalese post card which has just made its appearance, and evidences the intention of the island postal authorities not to do things by halves. The design of the new 2 cents adhesive (a value which, it must be remembered, equals only an English halfpenny) is impressed in the right upper corner. The inscriptions running across the card are disposed in the

same manner as those on the English ones; first POST CARD, then the royal arms, and then —THE ADDRESS ONLY TO BE WRITTEN ON THIS SIDE. A broad marginal frame is nearly filled with inscriptions in Cingalese and Tamil; the spaces on either side of these inscriptions being occupied with graceful foliate ornaments. The directions are repeated in the same languages at the back, and on the reverse left hand side are the words, LETTER TO BE WRITTEN ON THIS SIDE. The impression is in lilac, on a buff card of about the same shade.

WURTEMBURG.—We have omitted to mention that this country on the 1st January last issued a stamped wrapper for printed matter, bearing an impression from the die of the 1 kr. adhesive, and surrounded by a dotted line, coloured green in places, and formed, apparently, by the perforating "rule," which here and there nearly pierces the paper. A broad band of green runs longitudinally on either side of the wrapper.

PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND.—The list of values of the new series, which we gave in





April, partly from ocular inspection, and partly relying on the information given by a magazine whose pretentions to accuracy are generally known—*The American Journal of Philately*—requires correction, and some additions have also to be made to it. The corrected list now reads as follows, but it may require further amendment:

One	cent	orange-red, yellow-orange.
Two	,,	blue.
Three	,,	rose.
Four	,,	yellowish green.
Six	,,	black.
Ten	,,	rosy lilac. (?)
Twelve	,,	,,

We annex engravings of the 4, 6, and 10 cents. The designs, in our opinion, show some slight improvement on those of the one and three cents; they are not so repulsively coarse. The two cents also, which we have received too late to permit of our engraving it in time for the present number, is more successful. Its design consists of the Queen's head, on a solid elongated upright oval disk, enclosed in a narrow dotted frame, above which, in a well-drawn arch, following the line of the oval, and descending about mid-way down the stamp, is the inscription, in white letters—PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND POSTAGE. The upper angles have good sized square disks, bearing the numeral of value, and the value and numerals occupy the lower margin, as in the other types. The colour is ultramarine blue. The portrait of the Queen is evidently a rough but pretentious copy of one of the De la Rue profiles. The twelve cents, first noticed by *The Philatelical Journal*, has the portrait of the Queen in an ornamental circle, the inscription in an arch above, numerals in upper angles, and the value in lower margin. The colour of the specimen from which our contemporary describes—rosy lilac—is also that quoted for the 10 c. in *Le Timbre-poste.* but as it is hardly likely that the same colour would be given to both stamps, there is some mistake —probably the result of a slip of the pen, on the part of the Belgian magazine.



Mr. S. A. Taylor, of Boston (U.S.), volunteers the information that the designs are not the work of a Prince Edward Islander, but of a Londoner, named Whiting;*

DENMARK.—The postal authorities, says M. Moens, have it in contemplation to print

[*It is well known that all the stamps of Prince Edward Island, including the present as well as past issues, are produced in the *ateliers* of Mr. Charles Whiting, the well known printer of Beaufort House, London; and bearing in mind the beauty of the numerous essays of Great Britain which emanated from the same establishment years ago, we are induced to conjecture that the limitations of colonial expenditure may have something to do with the undoubted inferiority in design of these stamps. That fine engraving is expensive we know; that it can be produced by Mr. Whiting's house we also know: hence our surmises.—ED.]

their stamps in aniline colours, like those of Russia, to prevent the erasure of the obliterations, and the employment a second time of stamps which have passed through the post. Stamped wrappers, value 2 sk., bearing the same design as the adhesive 2 sk., but printed entirely of a light blue, have just been issued. They are about 14 in. long by $3\frac{1}{2}$ in. wide, and have a blue border running lengthwise.

United States.—A registration stamp of an entirely novel character has just been issued; in form it is an upright rectangle, measuring about 3 inches by $1\frac{1}{2}$ broad; printed on plain unwatermarked paper; of a pale green colour; perforated 12, as the rest of the United States stamps.

The legend is UNITED STATES OF AMERICA; POST OFFICE DEPARTMENT, REGISTERED, with a circular space, rather larger than a half-crown in the middle, inscribed, STAMP HERE, DATE AND PLACE OF MAILING. The groundwork is formed of plain engine-turning, in lines, producing no particular effect. The value is not stated on its face. *The American Journal of Philately* first noticed this stamp.

South African Republic.—We have official authority for stating, that in consequence of the fraudulent employment of the dies of the present issue by the printer, in conjunction with the person named Enterlein, recently referred to in these pages, a fresh series will probably be prepared after the new president, Mr. T. F. Burgers, is sworn in—a ceremony which takes place this 1st instant. The designs are not definitively decided on, but of the two values which it is proposed to issue first—viz., the penny and sixpence—one will probably bear the likeness of the new president, and the other will show two ostriches—a reference to ostrich feathers, which are largely exported from the republic. It is intended to employ the American Bank Note Company to execute the designs; and the colours and values of the four stamps, which will form the complete series, will be the same as those of the emission now in use.

St. Thomas and Prince.—The 20 reis comes over of a dark bistre, and the 25 reis is at present issued in vermilion.

Spain.—The 2 milesimas is now printed on thick paper of a deep buff colour, and the 1 mil. has likewise changed its paper, and is issued on rose-pink.

German Empire.—The $\frac{1}{2}$ gr. adhesive has now made its appearance printed of a dull yellowish orange.

Holland.—New postage stamps are, it is said, on the point of being issued for this kingdom.

Roumania.—The 5 bani perf. now comes over printed a light red and dull carmine.

THE STAMPS OF ST. DOMINGO.

BY WARDEN.

(Reprinted from *The Philatelist*).

"Jam pudet: et timeo . . . .
Offensos videar ne meruisse deos."—*Cydippe Acontio.*

The island of St. Domingo (or Haiti) is divided into two republics: the eastern two-thirds of the island, St. Domingo; the western one-third, Haiti. The former only has issued stamps,—*pace* S. A. Taylor and *his* 25 c. Haiti, so deftly set afloat,—and with these, after much hesitation, we propose to deal. At present, we are unable to give the exact dates of the different issues or varieties; but in a mail or two we hope to hear that the search instituted by an energetic correspondent for official decrees has proved successful. In the following list, all that is attempted is to give a description of such stamps as are known to us, and to arrange them, as far as our data allow, in chronological order. If only we can provoke discussion of the subject, something will be gained; and then, perhaps, facts may be brought to light, which will enable some competent writer to construct a cosmos out of the chaos which we are powerless to reduce to order. Much as we should like to be able to adopt the excellent arrangement of types, species, and varieties, applied so successfully to the stamps of Western Australia by Mr. Pemberton, to do so is out of the question in the present case, owing to our ignorance. So long as the normal colours of the upright rectangular series are unknown, —if indeed there is anything *normal* about it, —that is impossible; and much as we regret it, we can do no better than as follows:—

Type I. 1862-4. Shield bearing arms of the republic; CORREOS placed vertically to right, reading downwards; value in *italics*, to left, reading upwards; all within a single-line frame. Black impression on coloured paper; unperforated; square.



On *thin hard wove* paper:

Medio real	pink.
Un real	green.

On *thick soft wove*:

Medio real	pink.



Type II. 1865. Shield as in I., CORREOS to right; value in Roman letters to left, both reading downwards; all within a wave-line frame. Black impression on coloured paper; unperforated; square.

On *laid* paper:

Medio real	pale green.
Un real	straw.
Un real	pale brown (? discoloration).

Type III. 1866, and still current. Shield charged as in I., but smaller, between branches tied below; ribbon above, inscribed *Dios Patria Libertad*; ribbon below, without motto; CORREOS in straight label at top; value in words in similar label at bottom; all within double-line frame, upright rectangular; unperforated.



(A) Black impression on coloured paper.

½ REAL.

On *laid* paper:

1866	Medio real	straw.

On *wove* paper:

1866	Medio real	deep pink.
1867	,, ,,	pink.
1869	,, ,,	flesh.

On *pelure* paper:

1867	Medio real	pale pink.
(?)	,, ,,	pale salmon.
(?)	,, ,,	pale grey.
1868	,, ,,	lavender.
1869	,, ,,	pale green.
(?)	,, ,,	olive.
(?)	,, ,,	drab.
(?)	,, ,,	yellow.
(?)	,, ,,	very bright yellow.

On *pelure* paper, *extra thin*:

1868	Medio real	blue-lilac.
1869	,, ,,	greyish drab.

1 REAL.

On paper *watermarked with diaper of fleurs-de-lis*:

1866	Un real	green.

On *wove* paper:

1866	Un real	blue.
,,	Un real	blue (*Unreal* as though one word).
,,	No inscription or value	blue.
1869	Un real	water-green.

On *laid* paper:

1866	Un real	green.

On *pelure* paper:

(?) 1863	Un real	pale green.
1867	,,	pale lavender.
,,	,,	light blue.

On *wove* paper:

(?) 1869	UN real	green.
,,	,,	deep blue.
,,	,,	salmon.

On *laid* paper:

(?) 1869	UN real	pale green.

On *pelure* paper:

(?)	UN real	pale drab.
1868	,,	pale pink.
	,,	pink.
	,,	salmon.

½ REAL.

(B) Colour on colour.

On *wove* paper:

1871	Medio real	blue on pink.

This last-named stamp is found both light and dark blue, and on both light and deep pink paper, and has CORREOS and value in black letters. M. Moens announces also one on magenta, but from copies received a few days since, we incline to call them deep pink. The contrast between the blue and pink tends to give the latter an apparently magenta hue.

It is highly probable that some of the foregoing shades are the result of exposure; but since such shades undoubtedly exist, it has been thought best, in a tentative paper, to enumerate them. The only stamps issued with gum, we believe to be the Medio real (blue-lilac), the Un real (pale lavender), and the UN real green, on wove. Of the wove paper UN real deep blue and salmon, we, autoptically, know nothing, but include them on the authority of M. Moens. The rarest stamps apparently are the Medio real (*pelure*), very bright yellow, and the Un real

(on watermarked paper) green. This last may, however, prove fairly common, as doubtless, owing to the indistinctness of the watermark, the peculiarity has escaped notice. At present, we only know of two copies,—one in the Ph. collection, and the other in that of the editor of this magazine.

Since the above was in type, we have received from H. B. M., Consul at Santo Domingo a letter, dated March 10, 1872, in which he says:—"* * * Since my establishment in this country, I have never known any other postage stamps in circulation than those which are at present in use. I have inquired of the comptroller, as well as of the postmaster, and neither has been able to afford me information of previous issues. The frequent changes of government, as well as of postmasters, render it well-nigh impossible to get at the facts; but, according to information I have had from old inhabitants, there have never been other stamps than those now in use." The above is only another instance of those on the spot being badly posted up in matters which foreigners have long been acquainted with. As examples of the stamps in use at the date of his letter, he encloses the Medio real blue on pink, and the UN real green; this latter gummed.

We append an illustration of a DOS REALES carmine, introduced by Mr. Chute, of Boston, in 1867. For a time it passed among collectors as a veritable issue, but at length proved worthy of its sponsor. As far as we are aware, that gentleman has not hitherto responded to Mr. Pemberton's challenge in *The Stamp-Collector's Magazine* of May, 1869, to give an account of his relative's good fortune in meeting with the stamp. The letter of Mr. Charles Drummond, in this journal for June, 1867 (written in support of the then recently-announced novelty), confesses to "a friend in the West-Indian commission business." What splendid fellows these new-world philatelists are! Who on this side of the water would have hit on this delicate euphemism for "a purveyor of Boston humbugs!"



OCCASIONAL NOTES.

THE MONETARY SYSTEM OF THE DECCAN.—"In the Deccan they have a money system, which 'no fellow can understand;' I can't, though I have specimens of the *coinage* (?), —beginning with a cowrie (a little shell), and a cubic lump of copper, up to some very beautiful gold coins—and a most elaborate *table* for calculating exchange. However, the rupee in use there is the *sicca* rupee, worth less than our rupee; consequently, the anna and the half anna are worth less than our anna and half anna."—F. H., *Madras*.

WE have received a communication from that philatelic Ishmael, Mr. S. A. Taylor, in which he contests our argument that the Hawaiian stamps surcharged SPECIMEN and CANCELLED, respectively, are reprinted. He states that he has made certain inquiries on the subject, and, upon the authority of an old resident in Honolulu, he informs us that there are but three printing-offices in the Hawaiian Islands, none of which possess *copper-plate* presses; "consequently, the 5 c. or 13 c. have not been reprinted." He adds, "The 2 c. is a lithograph, and there is no lithographic press in Honolulu, or elsewhere in the islands. If reprinted, then these plates must have been conveyed to the United States; and the most probable place in which to have the reprinting done, would be in this city [Boston], where the stamps themselves were originally executed. *The plates have not been here.* Is it impossible that there should be any 'remainders' in Hawaii?" The writer assures us that his statements are positively true and correct in every particular, and we are inclined to accept them as such.

SOMETHING rich in the way of albums is announced by the *Deutsche Briefmarken-Zeitung*. A Leipsic collector—Mr. R. F. Albrecht—is preparing one, of which only twenty copies will be printed, price £22 10*s.* each! The German magazine gives a long list of its promised excellencies. Space is to be found in it for everything. It will necessarily be bulky, and two large volumes will not be too many for its intended

contents. The text is to be in three languages —English, French, and German. Paper and all accessories are to be of unexceptional excellence. The list of the subscribers' names is to be inscribed on the fly-leaf. If these advantages are not sufficient to induce moneyed collectors to lay out 150 thalers on a work they will not be able to see until it is finished, then we would recommend them to get an album prepared specially for their collections, which would probably, after all, be the more preferable alternative. Although it is not intended to print more than twenty copies, the projector does not say whether, in the event of getting thirty applications, he would decline the last ten.

When *The Philatelist* informed its readers that the design on the stamps of the Orange Free State was intended to represent the "Tree of Liberty," we felt some doubt as to the correctness of its statement. Our incredulity has, however, vanished before the proofs which have been furnished us of the true signification of the design. On the engravings of the arms of the state, which adorns its *Official Gazette* and *Friend* newspaper, the tree is surcharged with a label bearing the word VRYHEID, or "Liberty." The fruit with which the tree on the stamps is covered, was a very confusing addition made by the engraver of his own accord, and he is therefore responsible for the general supposition that it is an orange-tree. There is no ground for arguing that the fruit is intended to represent cannon-balls. The three pendants are "powder-horns, as *made and used* by the African boers, and *not* peaceful post-horns. The country derives its name from the Orange river, and not from the orange-tree (which does not thrive there at all), as the engraver must have supposed." Thus says our obliging informant, the Postmaster-general of the South African Republic.

The right of printing and forwarding through the post private post cards, is subject to the restrictions enumerated in the following notice.

Private Post Cards.—The postmaster-general has issued the following notices:—"That on and after the 17th June, private cards may be taken to the office of Inland Revenue, to be impressed with a halfpenny stamp, under conditions which may be learnt on application at that office; and, when thus impressed, but not otherwise (for adhesive stamps will not be accepted in payment of the postage), they may be transmitted through the post between places in the United Kingdom, under the following regulations:—1. The words "Post Card" and "The address only to be written on this side" must be printed on the front of the cards, as in the case of the official post card—the Royal arms being omitted; but there must be nothing else (the address excepted) printed, written, or otherwise impressed upon the face of the cards. 2. Nothing whatever may be attached to the cards. 3. The cards must not be folded, nor may they be cut, or in any way altered, after they have been impressed with the halfpenny stamp at the Office of Inland Revenue. 4. On the back of the cards any communication, whether of the nature of a letter or otherwise, may be written or printed; but such communication must not extend to the front side. Private cards will not be supplied to postmasters for sale to the public. It must be distinctly understood that no cards, except those which are impressed with a halfpenny stamp at the Office of Inland Revenue, can pass through the post for a postage of a halfpenny, if they have anything of the nature of a letter written upon them. There seems to be much misapprehension upon this point."

Why a plain card of the regulation size, and prepaid with a halfpenny adhesive, is not to be allowed to pass through the post, is more than we can understand.

Two interesting, unofficial gatherings of the members of the philatelic society took place during the past month at Dr. Viner's residence, the object being the comparison of the members' collections of the stamps of certain specified countries. On the 1st of June, Spain was the country selected; several good collections were shown, but the interest centered in two remarkably fine ones—those of Sir Daniel Cooper and another; for interesting varieties and completeness they could hardly be surpassed. On the 13th June, France and Belgium were made the subjects, and again Sir Daniel Cooper's collection took the lead, in company with that of Dr. Viner. At this second meeting, Mr. Ysasi produced a very fine specimen of the 1 real dark violet Luzon of the first 1863 series, *obliterated*, and consequently of great rarity; also the following Luzon stamps, surcharged HABILITADO POR LA NACION, 5 cuartos CORREOS INTERIOR, red; 1 real green; and 25 c. light orange. The first-named is noticed by M. Moens in the current number of his journal, but the specimen to which he refers has been for some time in this country.

Sir Daniel Cooper showed a rare—and, we may say, unique—Spanish official stamp, issued in 1854, of which the design consists of the Queen's head embossed on green, something after the fashion of the 1853 Italian, the inscription, CORREO OFICIAL, 1 LIBRA, 1854, running round the circle. We hope these interesting reunions will be continued.

REVIEWS OF POSTAL PUBLICATIONS.

The Amateur Printer's Journal and Foreign Stamp Gazette. Leeds: Wightman.

As an amateur printer's journal this is a creditable performance, though even an amateur need not have allowed "How I *climed* a Tree" to go to press. As a foreign stamp gazette it is nowhere. An article on Stamp Collecting, by J. E. Gray, "reprinted from one of his books," and a catalogue of stamps constitute its sole attraction. We are surprised to find such sounding pretentions so poorly supported.

The Odontometer. Bath: Alfred Smith & Co.

THE idea of an odontometer is due to Dr. Magnus—the very word, signifying literally a tooth-measurer, was laid down by him; and in *Le Timbre-Poste*, five years ago, the first odontometer was published by him in illustration of an article on perforations. The able writer who signs himself "A Parisian Collector" has copied and improved on this original, and has had his copy lithographed on cardboard for the use of philatelists. It is very neatly got up, and the scale comprises all the principal perforations, from 7 to 16. These are indicated by dots running at proportioned intervals across lines of two centimetres in length, and to measure perforations the stamps have only to be fitted in just below the line, when it will at once be seen whether the dots on the line occupy the spaces between the teeth of the perforations; if not, then another line must be tried, until the right one be found. The engraver's proof of the odontometer was, we are told, returned to him several times, because it was found to be inaccurate, the dots somehow did not fall exactly in their proper places; at length the cause of the variation was discovered; the proofs were taken on damp card, and when it dried the surface slightly contracted. When this was remedied the printing off was proceeded with. The perforation-gauge is surrounded by a neat border, and inscription indicating the price—one shilling—and the publisher's address. The entire card measures about $4\frac{1}{2}$ by $2\frac{3}{4}$ in.; but the purchaser can, if he like, cut away all the superfluous card, and leave only the gauge itself, which can then be slipped into the smallest card-case, and being thus portable, can be called into service at any moment. We strongly recommend the odontometer to all who study perforations.

The Permanent Postage-Stamp Album. By H. Stafford Smith. Second edition. London: E. Marlborough & Co.; Brighton: Stafford Smith & Co.

THE second edition of this really valuable work has been out for some time, and is no doubt making fair progress towards exhaustion. The prediction of popularity with which we accompanied our review of the first edition has been fully verified, and it appears that our own approval of the plan on which it is arranged has been confirmed by "hosts" of private collectors. Encouraged by its success, the editor and publishers have bestowed increased pains on the compilation, and in the important accessories of printing, paper, and binding, nothing is wanting. The binding is specially noteworthy, as it is the first feature to which the eye is drawn; and the style in which the title is printed across the front cover in black and gold, is really admirable. Having opened the serviceable spring lock, which preserves the contents of the book from the forays of incautious fingers, we get to the interior, and proceed to journey through. The first prominent innovation which strikes us is the allotment of space for post cards. This will be welcomed by every purchaser; for post cards are as much in favour, and as easily collectable, as adhesives. Then we notice that in most cases oblong spaces are provided for oblong stamps—an improvement which we suggested when reviewing the first edition.

All the new issues are duly represented, and blank pages are plentifully scattered throughout the work. Spaces are allotted for most of the Russian locals. No less than three ruled pages follow those which are numbered for the emissions of Spain, and two spare pages accompany those which are given to Germany. The Hungarian stamps and post cards are provided for, and two spare pages follow that which is destined to receive the stamps of this resuscitated kingdom. Under New Granada, the stamps of Antioquia, Bolivia, Cundinamarca, and Tolima find a place, and the emissions of the Fiji Islands, the Deccan, &c., will find comfortable compartments at their disposal. At the end of the volume is a little fly-leaf, containing the following address :—

To the Purchaser of this Album.

STAFFORD SMITH & CO. will feel grateful for your opinion respecting the accompanying Album (whether that opinion be favourable or otherwise); also for suggestions as to any improvements you think desirable to be made in a future edition. S. S. & Co. will also be obliged by your informing them whether you consider a sufficient provision has been made for the stamp issues of future years. Kindly write your remarks on the other side.

In obedience to this request,—which is an exceedingly creditable one to the publishers, as showing their intention to be governed in the compilation of future editions by the experience and the wishes of the purchasers of the present one,—we venture to make some observations, though we cannot write them "on the other side." We may remark, then, that the only point in which, regard being had to its object, the album is capable of improvement, is in the distribution of the space allotted to some of the European countries. The author does not chronicle perforated and unperforated varieties, but he might, in most instances, so arrange the squares as to leave room for the insertion of both sets. In the pages allotted to France, we also notice that the lithographed and engraved stamps of 1870-71 are chronicled together as only one series; thus but one 20 centimes is given, one 10 c., one 40 c., &c.; whilst all the world knows there are two stamps of all of these values—one lithographed and unperforated, the other engraved and perforated. We must, however, in justice, accompany this slight correction with the acknowledgment that no substantial harm is done by the imperfection of the list, as two spare pages, following immediately after those numbered for France, form a corrective, containing, as they do, sixty-four blank squares. Indeed, the elasticity and comprehensiveness of this album are its most prominent characteristics; within its covers there is room enough for the largest collection which could be mounted in a ready-prepared book, and no other album can boast of such neatness and elegance in its typographical arrangements.

It is bound in all styles to suit all purses, and well bound in every style. We heartily commend it to our readers' attention, and feel certain that it will meet with a ready sale.

CORRESPONDENCE.

THE SURCHARGED MEXICAN STAMPS.

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

SIR,—In the very able paper on "Surcharged Mexican Stamps," in the May number of *The Philatelical Journal*, the author says that the number and date is invariably on the *right* side in every copy he has seen, of the issue which he *then* called rightly "the present set."

On turning over my stamps, to see how far they agreed with the above remarks, I found a copy of the 25 c. blue on rose-coloured paper, surcharged MONTERREY on the *right* side of the stamp, as it lies on the page before one, and 7—70 on the *left* side; the lettering is in Roman type.

Probably some of your readers may assist in completing the list, by giving the names surcharged on the stamps numbered 15, 27, 29, 32, 34, which are returned as not known, or illegible to the author. It will be seen that Chalco, Guaymas, I del Carmen, Pubanco, and Tepic, are found among the eagles, but not in this series.

Yours obediently,

London. A. J. H.

NEW GRANADA 1859, 1860, & 1861 STAMPS.

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

DEAR SIR,—I am investigating the order of issue of the so-called 1859, 1860, and 1861 sets of the above republic. Will you kindly allow me the use of your columns, to ask collectors to send me, to the address below, particulars of the postmarks which their copies bear? I shall esteem it a great favour if you and they will thus oblige me. For the sake of clearness it may be well briefly to describe the stamps, about which information is desired

(*a.*) "Confed. Granadina," value, above and below circle, in large figures.
(*b.*) "Confed. Granadina," value, above and below circle, in small figures.
(*c.*) "Est. Unidos de Nueva Granada" (large rectangular.)

As the stamps are somewhat rare, I hope those who

have but few specimens will not therefore think their copies incapable of contributing valuable data.

One point especially I should be glad to hear about, viz., the existence, or non-existence, of a postmarked copy of the 5 c. lilac (*large* figure) on *laid* paper.

Yours truly,

Valley End, Bagshot. C. S. WARD.

THE POST CARDS OF THE ROTTERDAM GENERAL SERVICE COMPANY.

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

DEAR SIR,—In the June number of your magazine I perceive that you have some doubts regarding the authenticity of the cards issued by the Rotterdam General Service Company, and first mentioned by M. Moens, in his *Timbre Poste* of last month. As an inhabitant of Rotterdam, I beg to rectify your error, and to assure you that these cards are as genuine as possible, and very generally used. I myself generally keep a few in my pocket, and when I have to send a message, into any part of the town, I write the address on the front, and the message on the back, and then I hail the first messenger of the company I meet, who is then bound to deliver my message free to the address, the fare being already paid by the cost of the card.

The price of each card is 10 cents, not 10 centimes, as you state.

As these cards do not pass the post, I do not attach any philatelical value to them; but I trust I have proved to you that they are not to be ranked amongst "bogus" novelties, but are a real and genuine article.

I may add that M. Moens got the information he published from me.

Enclosing you one of these cards for inspection, and requesting you to insert this letter in your next number,

I remain, dear sir,

Yours respectfully,

Rotterdam. W. MAINGAY.

THE PETERSBURG STAMP.

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

DEAR SIR,—On carefully perusing the article on the above stamp in the April number of *The Philatelical Journal*, I have discovered that the arguments therein set forth are almost entirely erroneous; and, thinking that the subject is one of interest to stamp-collectors, I take pleasure in giving such facts as I have ascertained.

Passing over the description of the various types, we find that the writer of the article in question acknowledges the genuine character of what he designates as type I., but doubts—in fact, almost positively denies—the genuineness of most known specimens of type II, which he says "differs in everything from type I., and is postmarked with a blue circle, and dated variously *February* to December; *i. e.*, before and after the black obliteration used in March on the known genuine type."

In regard to the order of the types, I have ascertained that the Petersburg stamp was not issued until sometime in the *latter half* of the year 1861; and one of the clerks then employed in the post-office of that city says that it was used until the Confederate 5 c. stamp of De la Rue & Co. arrived, say, about May, 1862, the first issue of the Confederacy apparently never having been supplied to the Petersburg post-office. The blue handstamp must, therefore, have been used from September, 1861, to February, 1862, and the black one during March and April, 1862. This also shows that "type I." was in reality used *after* "type II."

But now comes the most important point. Speaking of type II., *The Philatelical Journal* says, "The five addressed envelopes are all to a certain W. C. Upchurch, of Raleigh, North Carolina; those postmarked Feb. 7 and Oct. 20 are similar in writing and envelope; the next, dated Dec. 26, is directed in a bold hand, and the face of the envelope bears a lithographic grey design 'Smyth, Stone, & Banks, Grocers and Commission Merchants, Petersburg, Va.' The other two are dated Oct. 22 and Nov. 23, respectively, and the addresses are a scrawl. Each of the envelopes bears on the face an imprint of 'R. A. Young & Bro., Grocers and General Commission Merchants, 93, Sycamore Street, Petersburg, Va.' So long as we fancied these letters were from three separate persons, or firms, we were disposed to believe in the genuineness of every one of the stamps; but, on a very careful examination (not alone and unaided either), we unhesitatingly pronounce the directions to have been all written by *one* man; and thus we are enabled to expose one of the cleverest, but most abominable, swindles of recent days."

So much for *The Philatelical Journal*. I also happened to come across one of the envelopes dated Oct. 20, bearing Messrs. R. A. Young & Bros.' imprint (and addressed to W. C. Upchurch), and entered into correspondence with them on the subject; and through the great kindness of Mr. John D. Young, who has gone to a great deal of trouble in the matter, I have ascertained that the stamp was printed by a Mr. Campbell; but, owing to his books having been burnt during the war, he was unable to give the full particulars of the issue. I then sent the envelope in question to Mr. Young, and he recognized it as the handwriting of the now senior partner of Messrs. Ralf Bros. Mr. Ralf also identified it as his own handwriting. I then sent him another specimen, of variety 4 of type II., dated Oct. 22, on an ordinary envelope, and a bank official in Petersburg recognized the superscription as that of Mr. J. M. Patterson, formerly a commission merchant of that city. Mr. Young informs me that before and during the entire war, his firm had *frequent* correspondence with Mr W. C. Upchurch, of Raleigh, N. C. I may also add that both the stamps on the above envelopes were submitted to Mr. Campbell, and he is quite positive that they are of his workmanship. They were both cancelled with the *blue* handstamp.

It seems to me that the above, establishing, as it does, the existence of Mr. Upchurch, and the genuine character of the superscriptions, knocks away the only foundations on which the article in question bases its arguments, especially as *The Philatelical Journal* acknowledges that a *genuine* specimen of type II. *does* exist in Mr. Philbrick's collection, but supposes that all the other specimens of the same type are either *reprints* or *forgeries*.

I therefore think that I can safely assure collectors that they need be under no hesitation in admitting types I. and II. (including their minor varieties) into their albums. I know nothing about type III., not having even *seen* it.

The only point in the above article that can be open to any doubt is the exact date of issue. Although I have every reason for believing that the dates given by me are correct, I shall still continue to investigate this point, and should anything further of interest come to light, it shall be duly communicated through the columns of this magazine.

I notice that the "Pleasant Shade" stamp is also condemned. There can be no possible doubt as to its genuine character. But of this more anon.

Yours truly,

New York. CHARLES H. COSTER.

PAPERS FOR BEGINNERS.—No. XXI.

BY OVERY TAYLOR.

EUROPE.

Denmark.

THE history of the Danish stamps offers an agreeable contrast on the score of clearness to that of the Moldo-Wallachian issues. Here all is comparatively plain sailing; and there will not exist the necessity for clearing up obscure points to tempt me to that forgetfulness of the title of these papers, for which I have been not unkindly reproved.

The only difficulty I find is a chronological one, and it is not of great importance. The year 1851 is everywhere quoted as that of the issue of the 2 rigsbank skg. blue, and the 4 "R.B.S." brown; and Levrault assigns the 1st of April as the exact date of issue of the former; but were they not both issued on the same day? The general notion is that the 2 sk. was issued alone, and was therefore the first Danish stamp; but upon what foundation this belief rests, I know not. The 2 skilling, it should be borne in mind, was in all probability intended for use within the capital only; and though it has been suggested by a philatelist, whose opinions are entitled to the greatest weight, that a local stamp might be issued for experimental purposes before the emission of a series for the entire country, I cannot see how the result of such an experiment could serve as a guide in preparing an issue for general purposes, since the circulation in the capital could form no index to the requirements of the provinces. Moreover, if the 2 sk. had been launched into circulation as a trial, it would, we might suppose, have been followed, immediately on its success being demonstrated, by a full series; yet, in fact, its only companion during its two years' circulation was the 4 "R.B.S.," issued, as I think, simultaneously with it; and when the 2 sk. was suppressed, the 4 "R.B.S." went with it.

However, be this as it may, the 2 sk. is necessarily classed apart, because it has a type to itself. The type, like that of most first issues, is not a very brilliant one, but it is fairly engraved, and like the imperfect organizations of primeval animals (if such a simile may be allowed), it contains the rudimentary parts of subsequent species. Thus the crown which appears on this stamp is repeated in every successive series, and the post-horn finds a place in all but one. It is further distinguished by the crown watermark, which runs through all the issues. "Once upon a time" this stamp was tolerably rare; but now a used copy can be procured for a shilling, and an unused one at double that price. It has been forged, like almost every other rarity, but has not been reprinted, and it has no varieties or sub-types.

The 4 rigsbank skg.—or "R.B.S.," as it is generally called, from the abbreviation of the value which figures on the stamp itself—is exceedingly common; and, to judge from the fact that it is found in at least three distinct shades of brown, it must have been extensively used. The attention of beginners may be drawn to the fine undulating diagonal buff lines which cross the paper.

The "rigsbank skilling," which formed the denomination of value of the first Danish stamps, was part of an old-fashioned currency, of which the "marc banco" was the unit. The marc contained 48½ rigsbank skilling, and was worth 1/5½ of our money; hence, the first 2 sk. was worth three farthings, and the 4 sk. three halfpence. The modified adoption of the decimal system led to the suppression of these stamps, and the issue of others whose value was indicated in "skilling," of which a hundred went to form the rix-daler, a coin equalling 2/3 English.

The second series is composed of four stamps, viz., the 2, 4, 8, and 16 sk.; but of these, if we adhere to Levrault's version, only the first two were issued in 1853, the others not appearing until 1857. This is a statement I have no means of verifying, and which I should accept only under reserve.



The design is a faithful copy of that of the 4 "R.B.S."; indeed, it requires careful comparison to demonstrate that the centre is not formed from the old die. The inscriptions alone are changed, or rather abbreviated, and the colours of the first two and four skilling are roughly reproduced on their successors. The crown watermark is

also repeated. The type is divisible into two sub-types: No. 1 with granulated spandrels, No. 2 with undulating horizontal lines in spandrels. The No. 1 type was certainly the first to appear, and it has its representatives in all four values, whilst No. 2 is represented only by the 4 and 8 sk. For the production of sub-type No. 2, the whole design was either re-engraved or touched up. The date of issue of the "undulated ground" stamps is unknown. Probably it took place at a comparatively late period, if we may judge from the fact that the 8 sk. remained in circulation for a considerable time after the other values were superseded. The 16 sk. of the first sub-type, and the 4 and 8 sk. of the second, exist *pierced*, and Levrault catalogues a 2 sk. *piqué* by a private company. This series enjoys the exceptional honour of having been neither reprinted nor forged, though in 1856 a Copenhagen printer, named Thiele, inserted an advertisement in a local directory, consisting of a lithographed representation of an envelope bearing his address, and an imitation of the Danish 2 sk. stamp in the corner, the postmarks and cancellations being also copied; and the conceit is said to have answered.

The next series—that of 1864-5—has but recently passed out of circulation. Its



design — exceedingly plain and unpretending—is well engraved, and is relieved, to some extent, by the delicacy of the colours in which it is printed. The increase in size, as compared with that of its predecessors, and the introduction of accurate and complete perforation, distinguish the issue, as also the addition of a new value—the 3 sk. mauve. Each value, except the 8 sk., possesses at least two colour-varieties, and all the values have the crown watermark.



The description of the present series is almost supererogatory. That it is a handsome series is allowed on all hands, and with reason. Its present members are the following:—

2 sk.	blue	centre	greenish grey frame.
3 „	violet	„	
4 „	carmine	„	
8 „	brown	„	
16 „	green	„	
48 „	mauve	„	bistre frame.

OFFICIAL STAMPS.

The "service" stamps, like their companion cards, are of too recent origin to require lengthened notice.



The design which adorns them is of a somewhat more complex character than that of the adhesives for public use, but the conception is certainly a successful one, and the trio of stamps —the 2, 4, and 16 sk.—forms an enlivening addition to the Danish page, which, commencing with a few commonplace labels, bids fair to become one of the brightest in our albums. I presume these stamps are really employed for statistical purposes, as the readiest means of checking the weight and extent of official correspondence. That they are really *postage* stamps I am not prepared to say, but I hope to discuss this question under a separate heading.

ENVELOPES.

The two envelopes issued in 1865—the 2 sk. blue, and 4 sk. bright red—continue to do duty. Two varieties of each value exist,



those with and those without an s after the figure of value. The envelopes were first issued with the s, then without; and since then have again appeared with the s. Of the 4 skg. without s, three trifling varieties, distinguished by the shape of the numeral, have been discovered, and thus we have broad figure, thick figure, and thin figure; but the utility of collecting all three is questionable.

POST CARDS.

These are of two classes. There are the post cards for general use, and the official

post cards. The values are the same for each—viz., 2 and 4 sk.—and are indicated by means of impressions in one colour, from the dies of the adhesives. The cards for the public are inscribed BREV-KORT, and those for official use TJENESTE-BREVKORT. The unofficial cards show the Danish arms in the left upper corner, encircled with the badge of the order of the elephant.

LOCAL STAMP.

The only known local stamp is that of Holte, a town about six miles from Copenhagen, of which the engraving is here reproduced. It is said to have been issued about the year 1868, by the local authorities of the town of Holte, in order to cover the cost of collection or delivery by the rural letter-carriers of the district. Why Holte, above all other towns, should possess a stamp, is a question which remains to be answered. If "Landpost" stamps are required at all, why does not the government issue a series for the entire country? Or is the Holte label an authorised experiment? If so, it has lasted a long while. It was not known to collectors until the end of 1870, when M. Moens unearthed it, and obtained information direct from Holte as to its employment. It appears it is put on the letters for the district by the rural carriers, who first punch a hole through the stamp, in order to obliterate it; they also put it on the letters which they collect in the district for the town, and then the town officials obliterate it with the ordinary handstamp. The value of the stamp is 2 sk., and the impression is in red-brown on white. Besides the Holte stamp, there are two series of railway stamps, not certainly of more interest than those of our own country, and quite out of place in a postage stamp album.



ESSAYS.

The most noted essays are two very old ones, of which acknowledged counterfeits were on sale ten years ago, and made high prices. Engravings of the forgeries are annexed. The genuine essays are of great rarity, and it is generally admitted that they were really submitted to the government





during the currency of the "R.B.S." stamps. In any case, but very few copies were printed; I have seen it stated, not more than half-a-dozen. The portrait is that of the king, who died in 1864. The genuine copies of the Mercury essay are distinguished by the projection of the top of the hinder wing above the nearer one, along the whole length, whilst the genuine specimens of the king's-head essay have the beard differently shaped. The counterfeits, which were very finely printed, and came, if I mistake not, from the engravers of the originals, had a long run, and may still be met with; and a second edition was published a few years back, with the value omitted. Copies of this latter are priced at 2½d. in a catalogue I have before me.

Prior to the adoption of the current type, no less than seven other designs of the same class were submitted to the administration. They were duly noticed in *The Stamp-Collector's Magazine* for 1870 (p. 138), to which I beg to refer my readers.

OUR CONTEMPORARIES.

The American Journal of Philately is announced as being under the editorship of Mr. Alfred Turner;—a gentleman whose name is totally unknown to us, and whom we are tempted to believe is as intangible a creation as Sairey Gamp's friend, "which her name was Harris," or the founders of the mythical New York philatelic society,—Dr. Morley, Professor Bunger, Baron Munchausen, &c. Be this as it may, no change in the style of our American contemporary evidences the presence of Mr. Alfred Turner in the editorial chair, and we are inclined to award to Mr. J. W. Scott all the credit due for the readable matter in the May number.

The "History of the Confederate States Post-Office" touches, in this number, on the Bâton Rouge and New Orleans. With regard to the former, it appears that its issuer—Mr. McCormick—has himself been duped by the counterfeits, as he sent two to Mr. Scott, in reply to the latter's inquiry for information. Respecting the New Orleans stamps, the following item of intelligence may possess some interest, as a specimen of Yankee "smartness."

The stamps issued by Mr. Riddell were amongst the earliest of the provisionals known to philatelists, and were reprinted for collectors soon after the city was occupied by the federal forces. Soon after the surrender, a New York dealer applied to Mr. Riddell for a quantity of his stamps, but he refused to sell them under their face value, which the party did not feel inclined to give, as he wanted a large quantity. Finding he could not obtain the desired stamps at his own price of Mr. Riddell, he resorted to other means to obtain his object; and it is but doing him justice to say that, being a strong Union man, he did not believe that the stamps really belonged to Mr. Riddell, as it was in his opinion an act of treason to issue them. He dispatched an agent to New Orleans, who found out the printer, and learnt that he had the plates in his possession, and induced him to reprint a supply of the red and blue 2 cents, and brown 5 cents; but by some oversight he neglected to reprint the 5 cents on blue paper. The stock of the 2 cents stamps has been exhausted for some time, and but few of the 5 are left. I have every reason to believe that the plates were afterwards destroyed.

The number closes with the transcript of the prospectus of the New York City Dispatch Post, which was the successor of the United States City Dispatch Post. We leave our esteemed contributor, Mr. W. D. Atlee, to give it such attention as he may deem it worthy of receiving.

The June number is about up to the usual standard of the *A. J. P.* It contains another instalment of Mr. Scott's papers on "United States Local Stamps," descriptions of another brace of recently-discovered Confederates, a short paragraph on "Shanghai," "Newly-issued Stamps," a reprint from the *Post-office Gazette*, and a list of "California Revenue Stamps." The Confederate labels hail from North Carolina, and are both exceedingly plain. The Salem stamp, impressed in black, on the right upper corner of a buff envelope, consists of a circle, with the words POST OFFICE, SALEM, N.C., running round, and O. A. KEEHLN, P.M., crossing it; above the postmaster's name are written "Paid 5." The Statesville is a simple transverse oblong, with PAID in one line, and "5" below; the A in PAID being represented by an inverted V. This valuable design was struck in blue or black on envelopes brought to the post-offices by persons who required them to be franked.

In the short reference to the Shanghai stamps, Mr. Scott does good service in noticing the fact, that to meet the demand for specimens of the first issue, new dies have been made at Shanghai, from which worthless impressions by the thousand are being printed off, and probably not a few of the errors recently noticed occur in these spurious copies. After these observations it is only a matter of common justice to Messrs. Stafford Smith & Co. to say that the Shanghai stamps now offered by them are really what they are advertised to be, namely, "rare old originals, which formed part of the stock on sale at the Shanghai post-office, during the year 1865." The "remainder" of that stock was sent over by the Municipal Council of Shanghai to Messrs. Nissen and Parker, the engravers of the succeeding issues, with instructions to offer them to dealers at face value, and after lying in their office for several years, they have at length been acquired by the well-known Brighton firm. We are averse to anything approaching an advertisement of any dealer's wares; but the announcement of the fabrication of new dies at Shanghai, if allowed to go forth without the above explanation, would be calculated to do Messrs. Stafford Smith & Co. most serious and unjustifiable injury; and we have no doubt Mr. Scott will himself see the propriety of doing justice to a firm of unblemished integrity.

In the review of a forthcoming work, bearing the strange title of the "Common Sense Postage Stamp Album," and forming a new edition of Messrs. Scott's American album —of which, notwithstanding its alleged "cosmopolitan circulation," we have never yet had the good fortune to meet with a copy,—we find some rather strange observations. The album itself is said to be compiled on the plan of "totally ignoring pretended distinctions between different printings of the same stamp," whatever that may mean. Perhaps the Birmingham publishers can explain, and stamp with their approval, this curious expression. Further on we find it

stated that for "the local stamps of Hamburg, Russia, and the United States, pages have been left, with simply a heading, as *but few amateurs collect locals.*" This comes in strange contradiction of a statement made in another part of this same number, where, in reply to a correspondent, the editor says—"*Locals are collected by most amateurs;* in our opinion they are more interesting than government issues." No places are left for post cards, we are told in one line, because they would "occupy more space than the interest taken in them by most collectors would warrant;" and yet, in the next line, it is stated that "many post cards have *interesting* inscriptions;" and, further down, that "collectors will find post cards more *interesting* if kept so that both sides may be examined." It is new to us that interest is not generally felt in post cards, and the contrary would seem to be the opinion of the editor of the *American Journal of Philately*, for, in his article on "New Issues" he finds space for a really admirable coloured illustration of the new Cingalese card. The album, we are informed, is not published to "carry out any of the author's whims;" but the whims to which the author thus impliedly confesses seem to have been amply indulged in in the exclusion of "differences in printing" and post cards. Perhaps the work will prove more worthy of praise than are its author's explanations of its purport, and, if so, we shall be happy to recommend it.

The July number possesses very little matter of general interest. The first five pages are occupied with reduced fac-similes of pages of the most popular ruled albums, intended to serve as a guide to intending purchasers. These five pages should have been issued in the form of an advertising supplement. Following the diagrams comes an introductory article on "United States Newspaper Stamps," which it appears have hitherto been neglected. A description of the government emission, consisting of the three very large stamps—5 c. head of Washington, 10 c. head of Franklin, and 25 c. red—is given, accompanied with a well-executed engraving of the five cents; and here we think the reference to newspaper stamps should stop. We have had enough of them in this country. The conveyance of a parcel of newspapers by rail is only a postal operation when it is performed by a post-office, and hardly so then; but when it is undertaken by a private railway or express company it becomes a simple transport transaction, of the same character as the conveyance of a box of books. Perhaps the best proof that the carriage of packages of newspapers is not fairly within the scope of post-office business, is the fact related by our contemporary, that the American post-office department could not compete for the traffic with the private companies previously in existence. "The cause of the government's failure to obtain the carriage of newspapers in large quantities was, that all papers carried by the department had to be delivered from the post-office, whereas the express companies delivered the papers they carried direct from the train immediately on its arrival, so newsdealers were served by them at least half-an-hour earlier than they could obtain them from the post-office."

A feeling of modesty prevents our reviewing the "Clippings" with which the *American Journal of Philately* concludes its July number, for they are exclusively composed of our own "Occasional Notes" bodily extracted. Our name is appended to the *last* paragraph of the reprint in such a manner as to make it appear that *only* the last paragraph is borrowed from *The Stamp-Collector's Magazine;* and this our contemporary must allow us to say, once for all, we do not consider to be a really straightforward mode of acknowledgment. We do not expect *The American Journal of Philately* to be composed solely of original matter, nor do we object to our columns furnishing employment for our contemporary's editorial scissors; but its world-wide reputation would not suffer by the frank admission of its occasional indebtedness to a *confrère.*

The Philatelical Journal.—The June number of this magazine opens with an instructive article on the editor's projected catalogue, which promises to be of a very valuable character. It will contain both milk for the philatelic babe, and meat for the mature collector. The arrangement is about the

best which could have been hit on for the successive development of types, species, and varieties. The catalogue will be of immediate use, both to disciples of the advanced and intermediate schools, but we doubt whether, *malgré* the excellence of its plan, it will be at once accepted by the advocates of the pure and simple style of collecting. Its learned appearance will frighten them; but the editor of a work like this proposed catalogue—which will form a very encyclopædia of philatelic information—can well be content to wait for general popularity, until the value of accuracy in observation and collection becomes more widely appreciated. Such a work will probably make its way comparatively slowly at first, but will gradually come to be regarded as an indispensable portion of every philatelist's library. That its compilation has been, and is, a work demanding much time and patience, no one, after examining the specimen-countries quoted, can doubt; but it has also been a labour of love to its author, to whose name it will give an enduring and honourable notoriety.

"Bogus Novelties" contains a notice of the recently-floated forgeries of the Brazilian envelopes, which are most easily distinguishable from the fact that they are on *horizontally* laid paper, whilst the lines of the *vergeure* of the genuine run obliquely. The illustrations to the article on newly-issued stamps are numerous and well-executed, but why engravings of all four values of the new Sierra Leone should be given we cannot understand, seeing that the design is precisely the same for all. "The California Penny Post Company" is an analytical article of the authenticated and unauthenticated issues of the company in question, of which we refrain from giving any account at present, as the writer will, we presume, treat the subject fully in one of the forthcoming instalments of the monograph he is writing for these pages, under the title of "Notes on Californian Locals." "A Parisian Collector" continues his very interesting paper on "The Turkish Stamps," which is full of pleasantly rendered facts. "Surcharged Mexican Stamps" is the second portion of an article already commented on. This is followed by an obituary notice of an old and energetic amateur, and member of the Philatelic Society,—the late J. Wilkinson Chapman, Esq.. of The Green, Stratford, Essex,—and the number closes with the usual "Correspondence" and "Answers to Correspondents."

The July number has reached us too late to permit of our giving a detailed notice of its contents, and we beg to remind our *confrère* that if he thus delays publication, he will lose the advantage of precedence in the announcement of current novelties.

Le Timbre-Poste.—The *Chronique* occupies six-and-a-half pages out of the eight of which the number is composed. It contains much interesting matter, on which we have largely drawn in our own article on novelties, and we reprint M. Moens' list of the Goa stamps for reference. Our contemporary announces a fresh reprint of the old Finnish stamps, from the dies which served for the 1862 reprints, and he distinguishes the following differences between the two impressions:—

Reprints of	1862.	1872.
1845, 10 kop.	pale rose	bright carmine.
„ 20 „	greenish grey-black	intense black.
1850, 5 „	pale blue	ultramarine.
10 „	pale rose	bright carmine.
20 „	grey-black	intense black.

A correspondent, writing on the envelopes of the Emperor William's Association for invalid Germans, says they are of two kinds; one issued by the Central Committee, inscribed, ANGELEGENHEIT DER KAISER WILHELMS-STIFTUNG FUR DEUTSCHEN INVALIDEN; the other, issued by the Berlin Committee, bearing the legend, ANGELEGENHEIT DES *BERLINER VEREINS* DER KAISER-WILHELMS-STIFTUNG FUR DEUTSCHES INVALIDEN. The official correspondence of both committees *within the capital* is carried at the reduced rate of $\frac{1}{3}$ gr., consequently each of the above envelopes bears on its right upper corner an impressed $\frac{1}{3}$ gr. stamp, similar in design to the imperial adhesive of the same value.

The number concludes with the disclosure of a remarkable discovery—to which allusion will be made in our next number—and an article on the $1\frac{1}{4}$ schg. envelope of Hamburg, which, issued in 1867, and suppressed in 1868, is now by no means common. It has been reprinted at Hamburg, and the reprint

is distinguishable by the comparative coarseness of the impression, by the shape of the envelope, of which the side flaps are curved round from the top, and by certain differences in the small inscriptions; thus, the words *post couvert* are united in the reprint by a dot, instead of by a line; furthermore, the paper is of a bluish tint, whilst the official envelope is of a yellowish paper.

The Stamp-Collector's Journal appears to be making fair progress. The April and May numbers contain a fair share of readable matter. In the April number occurs the sensible suggestion that the 5 c. Tolima, lately described, may be the initial stamp of a third series for that state, whilst the 10 c. and 50 c. and 1 peso belong to a second series, of which the 5 c. has yet to be discovered. "The Stamps of the South African Republic" is the title of a careful analysis of the Transvaal issues. The adhesives are divided into two types: I. The scarecrow eagle (answering to the owl-eagle of *The Philatelist*); ribbon narrow. II. Eagle well drawn; ribbon wide. All the values are found in the former type, whilst the latter is represented only by the threepence. The first type is subdivided into German printed and native printed; the second is composed of German printed only. Imperforate and rouletted editions of both types have appeared. The test of German origin, according to this writer, is the paper, which should be *thin* wove, and slightly surfaced; whilst the native impressions are on *thick*, coarse, unsurfaced wove. On this question, however, he is at issue with the editor of *The Philatelist*, who says he has received many sheets of native-printed red stamps, on thin paper. But that he should have received them from the republic is not in itself an answer; we must carry our examination as far as the gum. "It would be strange," says the paper under notice, "if the natives could make and perfectly apply white gum, so long as the thin paper lasted, and at same time *print well* from the wood-blocks; whereas, on the necessity for falling back on native paper occurring, the gum at once became brown and coarsely applied, and the impressions of every conceivable variety of blur. As far as we are aware no copy exists on the *thin* paper badly printed and coarsely gummed." The editor of *The Philatelist* partially traverses this statement by asserting that he has received native-printed specimens —or, in other words, specimens so badly executed as to leave no doubt of their origin—on thin paper well gummed. The argument of *The Stamp-Collector's Journal* falls through. It is evident that the unofficial rumour of the exportation of thin paper to the republic. to which it elsewhere alludes, is well founded, and that the thickness of the paper is not an all-sufficing test. The comparative excellence of the impression is the only sure test, and the texture of paper and quality of gum become mere subordinate characteristics.

With regard to the envelopes, our own belief for a considerable time was that they should be regarded rather as a fanciful exercise of the directorial function of issuing stamps, than as an emission seriously intended for the use, and placed at the service of the Transvaalites. We have, however, received assurances from the most trustworthy quarter, that so far from their having been prepared for collectors, they were got up solely to meet local wants, and that the differences in the shape and colour arise from the simple fact that no envelopes of uniform size and colour could be obtained at the time when they were issued. This sets our doubts at rest as to the nature of the issue; but then it is worth while considering whether all the different varieties are, under the circumstances, worth collecting. The series is issued—or, to use the French word, created—from the office handstamp, and an odd lot of envelopes; such being the case, varieties become the rule, exactly as they do on a sheet of stamps, every one of which is from a separately engraved die. A single envelope may be considered to exemplify the whole emission, and no serious purpose can be served by noticing all the trifling variations, which necessarily occur in such an irregularly constituted series. It is now superseded by a uniform impression from the die of the sixpence adhesive, and at some future date, if the republic escapes annexation, it will not improbably possess a set of envelopes rivalling in fineness those of more highly civilised states.

In the May number of *The Stamp-Collector's Journal* some pretty good Oldenburg forgeries are carefully described, and we may as well repeat their most prominent characteristics.

First issue. The ribbon beyond the full stop, in the right hand corner, is shaded.

Second issue. (Black imp). All the forgeries are from one matrix, and OLDENBURG is much nearer the lower than the upper edge of the ribbon, instead of being equidistant, as in the original.

Third issue. Col. imp.

(*a*). Ground of oval, *white*. These are from the same matrix as the forgeries of the second issue, and the genuine are from the same matrices as the genuine of the second issue; therefore, the same differences exist as are noted above. The forged ⅓ s.gr. is at once detected by its having the ground of the oval coloured; in all the genuine ones the ground is white.

(*b*). Ground of oval coloured. The forged ⅓ gr. has the right hand end of lower ribbon distinctly indented, whilst in the original it is but very slightly so; and the right hand circle, containing numeral of value, is separated alike from oval and from inner line of frame by a thick line of colour. In the original this circle is separated from the oval only, and that by a *very* fine line. In the forged ½ gr. the *inside* of crown is not shown, whilst in the genuine it is seen resting on top of shield, and shaded by fine vertical lines.

The contents of the June number are far from being of equal interest with those of May, and, in fact, do not call for any detailed criticism. The paper on "The Stamps of Greece" is very incomplete. The article on "Forgeries" contains descriptions of some very good counterfeits of the Brazilian envelopes, which we notice elsewhere.

The July number is not to hand. We should regret to find the appearance of progress noticed in reference to the May and June numbers (which part of our review has been in type more than a month) falsified by the premature decease of the paper.

NEWLY-ISSUED OR INEDITED STAMPS.

RUSSIAN LOCALS.—*Elizavetgrad* (Cherson).—The design here represented, and described in July of last year, was first issued printed in mauve; it now comes over green. It shows a quaint mixture of symbols and ornaments, and a key to the meaning of the former is much to be desired. In the middle of the ring, which occupies the centre of the stamp, we find a shield bearing an eagle in its upper, and a star in its lower half; below the ring is a book, and on either side of the archway are a scythe, blade of wheat, and quill pen. Our Belgian contemporary begs its readers not to confound this stamp with a design for a clock-face.



Rjeff (Tver).—The changes which are constantly taking place in the designs and values of the locals contrasts strangely with the apparently unalterable type of the imperial office. Thus the Tver stamp, described at the beginning of the year, is already withdrawn in favour of the above design, which differs from its predecessor principally from the fact that the inscriptions are white on black, instead of being black on white, and the rampant poodle of the Tver district is better drawn. The impression is on white paper; the frame and device are in black, and the ground of the rectangular disc is red.



Tschongonief (Charkoff).—M. Moens announces that stamps exist for this district, of which his correspondent promises to send specimens shortly.

Bogorodsk.—In a recent number *Le Timbre-Poste* queried the existence of the 10 kop. adhesive *red*, announced in our now well-known list. We are glad to be able to inform our contemporary we have just received a specimen from Russia. The design is of the first type, the colour scarlet. The 1 kop. of the first type will, no doubt, also turn up shortly. The 10 kop. envelope, blue, of which we have a copy, measures 7½ by 5 in. (19 by 13 centimetres.)

Kolomna.—We possess a *blue* 5 kop. perforated, and identical in design with the 5 kop red.

Bronnitzi.—We have just received an envelope bearing an impression from the die of the 5 kop. adhesive on the flap, printed a dull deep blue.

FRANCE.—The engraved two centimes stamp, lately announced, has been followed by two more values of the same type, the 4 centimes lavender and 5 centimes bright

green. This latter value has hitherto borne the same device as its higher priced *confrères;* it is now relegated to the ranks of the newspaper stamps, unless, indeed, there should turn out to be but one device for high and low values alike. The introduction of these new comers is effected very gradually, the two-centime is now in pretty general use, but the 4 c., though badly wanted, is as yet but rarely seen.

Holland.—The philatelic event of the past month has been the issue of a high-value stamp for the Netherlands, and the publication of the type of the forthcoming series. We annex engravings of both. The execution we are able to state, on the authority of a practised writer, who never errs on the side of overpraise, is perfect, and our illustration will convince our readers that the laudation is not unmerited. The profile of the king is engraved from the portrait painted by H. F. Okentate, to whom his majesty sat, and it is said to be very like him. The new value is 2 gulden 50 centimes (equal to about four shillings), and it will be noticed that it bears the denomination in the label, above the portrait, whilst all the other new stamps have it on the scroll below. There is also a difference in the foliage: the expensive label is decorated with oak, and the cheaper stamps with laurels. The 2 gl. 50 c. is printed in two colours—the centre in blue, the frame in carmine-rose, and it was issued on the 1st ult. All the new values are printed in one colour. Their emission is authorised by a decree of the 6th June last, and the following are the denominations:—





5	cent.	blue.
10	„	carmine.
15	„	brown.
20	„	green.
25	„	violet.
50	„	chamois.

Thus, with the exception of the 50 c., the colours of the existing series will be repeated in the new type. The values will be issued separately, as fast as those of the present series are exhausted. The advance in design is a noticeable fact. European stamps count so many mediocrities in their number that any addition to the small selection of really artistic impressions is most welcome. As nothing is said about post cards, we presume they will remain *in statu quo*, and Dutch envelopes are still unthought of.

United States.—This large and well-engraved stamp is used, as its inscription purports, for registered letters. It is printed a pale green, on white, possesses no monetary value, and is attached to the letters by the postal officials; our Birmingham contemporary may, therefore, hardly deem it collectable, but we apprehend that most philatelists will find a corner—and it must be a large one—for it. After all, it is only affixed to the letter after the payment of a charge which covers a specially guaranteed mode of transport, and, therefore, it appears to us to fall within the category of postage stamps. It is true that the same purpose would be served by the impression of the word "registered," with a hand-stamp; but so, also, might the ordinary postage be indicated. The end gained in attaching an adhesive label is the presence of a plainly visible sign of the registration of the letter, and perhaps, also, an economy, in



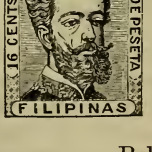
that the stamp replaces sealing-wax. We will not pretend that much time is saved, for such a large sized impression would not "stick with a lick," but would require more extensive moistening. The idea of using a large stamp is probably borrowed from the Colombian vignettes, which serve a similar purpose. There is a long and interesting letter about the United states registration system in *The Philatelical Journal;* but, strange to say, nothing is said about the use of the stamp above represented.

SPAIN.—More than one type has been described and illustrated in this and other journals as the real Simon Pure of the forthcoming series; but, for one reason or another, all have ultimately been rejected, and the annexed design has, it is now stated, been definitely adopted. Time will prove; meanwhile we insert the engraving for what it may turn out to be worth.



M. Moens says that the tricolour impression, for which the recently appointed committee of engravers expressed a preference, will not take place; but, he adds, with a knowledge of the uncertainty which characterises all the acts of the Spanish administration, it is not impossible but that this decision may be reconsidered. The new design has not a very great deal to recommend it, unless it is calumniated by our engraving. The king, who has declared his intention to defend his throne at the sword's point, if necessary, can hardly be the lymphatic youth here represented.

SPANISH COLONIES.—*Philippines.*—Annexed is an engraving of the recently-designed type for the Philippines, which was described in our May number, from an uncompleted proof. Since then the value has been added on the side labels; for it has positively been adopted, and is at the present moment being worked off. The engraver, M. Fernandez, says our Belgian authority, did not live long to rejoice over the acceptance of his work; he died on the 13th May. Two values are already known of this new type—the 16 cents de peseta, ultramarine; and the 62 cents, mauve. It is said that three other values are to make their appearance, viz., 125 c., violet; 250 c., rose; 500 c., grey. Meanwhile, the Philippine authorities, for lack of the long deferred supplies, are said to be engaged in reissuing the old series, with head of Isabella, surcharged HABILITADO POR LA NACION.



Cuba.—This colony, like the preceding, is likely to possess a supply of stamps with a portrait intended to represent Amadeus, before the mother-country has any. Without any preliminary flourish of trumpets, the annexed design has been adopted, and is now, *on dit*, being printed off. The type so modestly ushered in is stated by the above quoted authority to be the best executed of all. One value only is known at present—the 12 cent de peseta, black. Pending the issue, an extra stamp of the 1870 type has been issued—the 12 c. de peseta, carmine-rose; but it is distinguished from the older values by the absence of the date.



PRUSSIA.—*The Philatelist* announces the discovery of "a fac-simile of the Prussian 2 sgr., eagle type, but considerably smaller, and of a much less azure blue. Being closely cut, it is impossible to pronounce it envelope or adhesive, but it looks more like the former, although the back is gummed; but this, probably, from its having been taken from an old album in which it had been affixed. It has passed the post, and is undoubtedly genuine. The postmark is BERLIN PE 27 11/7 /67 3-4 N." *The American Journal of Philately*, following suit, writes as follows:—"We have lately seen a 4 pf. green *envelope* stamp of this country; it is not an entire envelope, but has evidently passed the post:" and our contemporary, in his next number, says: "We are indebted to a collector for the information that the 4 pf. envelope described last month, together with a 2 pf. (both arms in *octagon*), were used during the war with Austria, to carry

medicines to the soldiers." Had our American cousin taken the trouble to refer to the sixth volume of *The Stamp-Collector's Magazine*, p. 26, he would have found that the 4 pf. stamp was issued by the VICTORIA NATIONAL INVALIDEN-STIFFTUNG, a benevolent association, which during the Austrian war enjoyed certain privileges. As to the 2 sgr., eagle type, nothing certain is known, but we incline to think it must have had a somewhat similar origin to that of the 4 pf. Seeing, then, that doctors disagree so widely, we refrain from offering any opinion of our own as to this latter stamp. As to the first-mentioned stamp, this wonderful resuscitation is doubtless that used by the Victoria Invaliden-Stifftung.

SWEDEN.—In our February number we announced that, instead of a new series, only two new values, a 6 öre and one rix daler, were on the point of being issued. This information turns out to be inaccurate. The 6 öre and 1 rix-daler have just made their appearance, but they are accompanied by all the previously existing values, except the 9 öre. The opportunity for indicating an advance in the engraving art (if any such advance has been made) has not been taken advantage of. The new design is extremely plain and unpretending. The stamps merit the appellation of clean-looking, and that is about all. The fatal numeral—fatal except in very gifted hands, to anything like real gracefulness—occupies the centre of a solid circular disk. The ring which encircles the disk bears the inscription FRIMARKE in its upper half, and the value in the lower. The rest of the space is filled with a rather fine network, and beneath the circle, in a straight line, is the word SVERIGE; but as it is not on a label it mingles with the groundwork, and on some of the values is nearly illegible. The ground is enclosed in a lined frame, which forms a kind of etruscan ornament at the corners, and this is again surrounded by a plain rectangle. This description applies to all the values except the highest—the rix-daler—which, instead of the prosaic numeral, bears, as a central device, the hardly less prosaic arms, consisting of the three crowns, on an horizontal lined ground. In all other respects the design is the same, but the rix-daler is printed in two colours, the centre in blue, the rest in buff. In size the new stamps are about equal to the current German series. They are printed on a rather rough, dull white paper, and neatly perforated. The colours are as follows:—





3 öre	light brown.
5 „	pale green.
6 „	lilac.
12 „	blue.
20 „	red.
24 „	orange-yellow.
30 „	dark brown.
50 „	rose.
1 rix-daler	blue and buff.

GERMANY.—We copy from the *General Postamt* (General Post Office), of Berlin, the following notice of a forthcoming sub-type of the existing series of adhesives, which is to differ from the first edition in the shape of the eagle. It says,—"The imperial eagle in the centre of the German postage stamps does not exactly correspond in shape to the eagle of the imperial arms, adopted since their issue. Since the 1st June the royal (*qy.*, imperial) printing-office uses new dies, on which the form of the eagle, definitively settled, differs from that of the preceding type, principally in the enlargement of the central ground, and the addition of scrolls to the crown." Our Birmingham contemporary has already seen one of the new 1 sgr., and says that the shield surcharged on the eagle is four times larger than on the first die; the ground is composed of dots placed vertically, instead of obliquely, as before, and the general effect is to embolden the somewhat dull appearance of the plain centre. We have ourselves received a specimen of the new unstamped post card, of which five are



sold to the public for a quarter groschen, and on comparing it with the former emission, we notice the same striking increase as on the adhesive, in the size of the escutcheon; we also observe that the Prussian eagle, with which the escutcheon is charged, which used to be inscribed across the breast with the initials F.R., now bears a shield, of which the alternate quarters are black and white, respectively. The new card is much smaller and thicker than the old one, and is inscribed POSTKARTE.

WURTEMBURG.—A reduction has been decided on throughout Germany in the price of post cards. Two kreuzers, or half a groschen, is the universal rate, and it came into operation on the 1st ult. As a first-fruit of this measure the Wurtemburg 3 kr. and reply cards have been withdrawn, and one kreuzer cards, with an adhesive 1 kr. stamp added, have been provisionally issued, pending the preparation of a new 2 kr. card. The latter will be inscribed POSTKARTE, and not *Correspondenz-carte*, like its predecessor. For these particulars we are indebted to *Le Timbre-Poste*.

JAPAN.—A perforated set of Japanese stamps is a totally unexpected novelty, yet it appears that it exists. We have before us a specimen, perf. 11, colour deep brown, of the same general design as its imperforated congener, but from a new die, on a crisp, thin, white paper, and with different inscriptions in the centre. The characters are written much smaller, and of the two which represent the value, one is new both to the editor of *The Philatelical Journal* and ourselves. It is also to be noticed that the inscriptions are transposed, the value being now uppermost. The effect of the reduction in the size of the characters is to leave a considerable blank space in the centre. Notice of a perforated *blue* stamp has been sent to the Birmingham magazine, and the correspondent from whom we hold our brown specimen, says he possesses an entire set—presumably composed of the four known colours. It seems probable that a thorough alteration has occurred in the rates, but in a few weeks we shall, no doubt, have positive intelligence on this point.

PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND.—We are now able to present our readers with illustrations of the two and twelve cent values of the new series, and may take occasion to remark that the doubt as to the true colour of the 10 c. has not yet been cleared up by the Belgian journal. We may also observe that *The American Journal of Philately* speaks of the probable issue of two more values, to complete the new series, a thirteen and a twenty-four cents.





MOZAMBIQUE.—The belief in the mythical issue for this colony, originally announced by *Le Timbre-Poste*, is finally exploded by M. Moens himself, who for some time was under the impression that a supply of all the values was on its way to him. M. Moens quotes the following letter, received by him from Lisbon:—

"No stamps are printed here for that colony. If Mozambique has any special stamps, which I doubt, they must be made on the island. I hope shortly to be able to fix you definitely on the subject."

If no stamps should be forthcoming, the album-makers who have left space for them will not thank the editor of the Belgian paper for misleading them.

CASHMERE.—*The Philatelical Journal* chronicles a *green* circular stamp, similar in general appearance to the other values of the circular type. The centre of the specimen which our contemporary described was too blurred to admit of his speaking with any certainty as to the value; it resembles the half anna more than any other, and such *The Philatelical Journal* believes it to be, if it is not an entirely new value.

MADEIRA AND THE AZORES.—Of the new series for these possessions the following values have lately made their appearance:

Madeira.—

50 reis,	bright yellowish-green.
80 ,,	orange.
120 ,,	blue.

Azores.—
80 reis, orange.
100 ,. pale lilac.

Fiji Islands.—The same authority announces the issue of a second edition of the surcharged stamps, amongst which the 12 cents figures in a very rich shade of carmine red, and the 2 c. is found of a darker hue; it also states that there is a possibility of a fresh series being emitted, adorned with the portrait of the respected Cacombau.

Falkland Islands.—The postal value of the handstamped impression, FALKLAND ISLANDS, PAID, varies, according to the weight of the letter it franks, from 6d. to 7s. 6d., and, perhaps, higher. The amount is written at the side of the impression, and as a contemporary remarks, in a philatelical light, one specimen is sufficient, and of equal value, whether the written inscription reads sixpence or seven-and-sixpence.

Cape of Good Hope.—We learn from *Le Timbre-Poste* that the shilling stamp (rect.) of the first sub-type now comes over printed a very deep green, and *The Philatelical Journal* furnishes us with information, that the one penny (new die) is in a rich shade of carmine; the 5s. of a rich chrome yellow and in burnt sienna of the water-colour makers; and that the 4d. blue is again in use.

Mexico.—The stamps of the new type recently received have the surcharged name in ordinary characters, printed in an arch, above the portrait. M. Moens has met with specimens of the 25 c., 50 c., and 100 c., bearing an undecipherable watermark near the edge.

A Letter-Box on Fire.—The contents of the letter-box at the Bordeaux post-office were set fire to by an incendiary, about the 18th of last month. The postmaster issued a notice, in which, after saying that he considers it to be his duty to inform all whom it might concern, of the measures taken for despatching or returning to the senders the *débris* of the letters found in the box, he adds, "From the quantity of carbonised paper found in the box, there is reason to believe that a number of letters have been entirely destroyed. Twenty-six which were found intact were reforwarded; 27 slightly burnt were also despatched after annotation, 57 partly burnt have been sent on under a second envelope, 18 fragments of letters bearing the seals of commercial houses have been returned to the senders, the *débris* of 64 letters entirely carbonised are retained at the post-office, and 88 partly-burnt journals have been handed back to the publishers. Steps are being taken to have the box guarded from the outside at night."

NOTES FOR COLLECTORS.—II.

BY A PARISIAN COLLECTOR.

Austria.

FIRST SERIES.

The first series of stamps for Austria was issued on the 1st of June, 1850. Mr. Overy Taylor, to whose paper we refer for the general description of this and all the remaining series, gives the date as the 10th of June, but we believe it to be an error.

The series continued in use during a period of upwards of eight years; and, as might be anticipated, in the course of so long an existence it went through several phases of variety.*

It is unfortunate that we can gather but little information from the obliterating marks on these stamps. There appears to be a want of uniformity in them; and though, in common with many of the obliterating marks used in Germany, they not unfrequently bear the date of the day and the month, yet very few bear that of the year; and we have been able to find none of a date anterior to 1855.

With respect to the gumming, all the specimens which we have found, from the year 1855 to the close of the series, are furnished with a thick coating of some adhesive matter, which, from its toughness, and from its swelling and turning into a kind of jelly when put into water, we take to be dextrine. Specimens of an earlier date, however, are to be found, with gum of a darker colour and more friable. The impressions on these specimens are invariably in brighter and clearer colours.

M. Berger-Levrault describes this series as being printed on *papier vergé blanc;* by which, as he explains it subsequently, he means hand-made paper, not necessarily marked with lines in the grain. Having had the opportunity of examining a very large number of stamps of this series, we can safely

* Before going farther, I would once for all acknowledge with thanks the liberal manner in which M. Moens, Mr. Young, and other dealers have at all times permitted me to examine their extensive stocks. The assistance thus given is incalculable; I have been enabled by it to examine, even in the first series for Austria, some thousands of specimens.

say that M. Berger-Levrault is in error, for all the later portion of the series is printed on paper similar to that employed for the second series, which is plain stout wove. We have, consequently, two distinct classes in the first series; one on hand-made paper, and the other on wove. From an examination of the obliterating marks, it does not appear probable that the wove paper was employed prior to 1856-7.

The hand-made paper presents considerable varieties of texture and substance. Varieties of colour may also be observed, the older copies being yellow; but this discolouration is probably in a great degree owing to the gum, which, upon such copies, is of a darker colour. We see but little good to be gained by seeking to subdivide this class. It is sufficient to say that the paper is rough and unsurfaced, varying a good deal in thickness; it shows no distinct lines or *vergeures*, except in some few copies of the 3 kreuzer value. This latter paper does not appear to be what is commonly called *laid*, but ought rather to be called ribbed paper.

The stamps were printed in sheets of sixty, disposed in rows of eight. As the sixty stamps only made seven-and-a-half rows, the remaining four blanks were filled up by St. Andrew's crosses of the same colour as the die of the impression, on a white ground; thus making a symmetrical sheet of eight stamps in eight rows. A curious fact is noticed in M. Berger-Levrault's catalogue, viz., the existence of a rouletted copy of the blue cross. In the beautiful collection of a Brussels amateur, a copy also exists of a similar cross, machine perforated 15. As no stamps in this series have been found either rouletted or machine perforated, it is fair to suppose that previously to the issue of the next series, experiments in perforation were made on some printed sheets of the 9 kreuzer of this series, which were never issued to the public.

The colours of the impressions present the following varieties.

1 kreuzer, ochre, to orange-yellow and bright yellow.
2 „ intense black and black.
3 „ bright vermilion, to scarlet and brick-red.
6 „ red-brown, to warm brown and umber-brown.
9 „ Prussian blue, to sky blue and dull light blue.

Classification.

I.—Hand-made paper, varying in thickness, and in colour from yellowish to dead white.

1 kreuzer, ochre (shades).
1 „ orange-yellow (shades). Specimens are not uncommonly found printed on both sides.
1 „ chrome-yellow (shades).
2 „ intense black, black.
3 „ vermilion (shades).
3 „ scarlet (shades). Specimens are to be found on paper showing *vergeures*, but they are exceedingly rare.
6 „ red-brown (shades), warm brown (shades).
9 „ Prussian blue (shades), sky-blue, dull blue (shades).

II.—Wove paper, white and smooth.

1 kreuzer, Naples yellow (shades), light chrome-yellow.
2 „ black.
3 „ scarlet, brick-red to very pale red.
6 „ light umber-brown.
9 „ light Prussian blue.

NOTES ON THE LOCALS OF CALIFORNIA AND THE WESTERN STATES OF AMERICA.

III.

BY EDWARD L. PEMBERTON.

(*Continued from vol.* x., *p.* 37.)

The next group of Expresses includes :—

Sept., 1849, Hawley & Co.
May, 1850, Angle & Co.
Dec., 1851, Freeman & Co.

Now, according to Mr. Todd, the second Express ever started ran under the name of Hawley & Co., and was owned by Messrs. Hawley & Spear; the only printed notices have been supplied to me by Mr. Lomler, and they are the following :—

May 18, 1850, Angle & Co.

ANGLE & CO.'S EXPRESS TO SACRAMENTO.—Letters, gold dust, &c., forwarded. Office at Messrs. Fatts and Tilden's, San Francisco. Justus Spear, proprietor.

March 20, 1850. Hawley & Co.

HAWLEY & CO.'S EXPRESS TO THE ATLANTIC STATES.—Agents at Sacramento, Benicia, Fremont, Marysville, Nicolaus, Eliza City, &c., &c. T. R. Hawley, owner.

From these advertisements it is evident that Mr. Spear, if he actually was a partner in Hawley & Co., in 1849 seceded and joined Angle & Co., which Express in May, 1850, was entirely in his own hands; but I am inclined to think Angle & Co. (T. Spear, owner) and Hawley & Co. (J. R. Hawley, owner) contemporaneous and distinct; for it

appears that on July 1, 1850, Angle & Co. were *bought out* by Hawley & Co., at the same date the latter firm being joined by Mr. J. M. Freeman. Mr. Hawley having purchased Mr. Spear's Express, would, of course, account for the connection of the names in Mr. Todd's memory; our explanation, if correct, as we believe, would give Hawley & Co. starting Sept., 1849, absorbing Angle & Co. in July, 1850, and being themselves changed to the style of Freeman & Co's Express some time during 1851, when the partner of that name bought the whole business. We have seen no franks of either Angle or Hawley.

1851. FREEMAN & Co.—This was one of the largest and most flourishing Expresses of the early days, and continued in operation till June, 1860. The handstamps are not numerous; indeed the only one which I have is oval.

The following advertisement is transcribed from a paper of the year 1851:—

FREEMAN & CO.'S EXPRESS—

DAILY to SACRAMENTO CITY, MARYSVILLE and NEVADA CITY.

F. & CO. have safes in their express rooms on board the fast steamers Senator, New World, and Gov. Dana, for the security of treasure entrusted to them, which is always accompanied by faithful messengers. Orders, bills, packages, &c., forwarded, and all business pertaining to an Express promptly attended to.

F. & CO. is the only firm in the Valley of the Sacramento connecting with Messrs. ADAMS & CO., on whom they are authorized to draw Bills of Exchange for any amount, payable in New Orleans, New York, and all the principal cities of the Atlantic States.

Offices—San Francisco, in Adams & Co.'s new fire proof building.
Sacramento City, at 42, Second street.
Marysville, at Snow & Lunts, on the Plaza.

☞ Bowers & Co. connect with us at Sacramento from Nevada City.
☞ Langton & Co. connect with us at Sacramento from Downieville.

The printed franks and varieties, which are numerous, will be described in due order.

In an old directory we find the following notices:—

FREEMAN & CO.'S ATLANTIC AND EUROPEAN EXPRESS, Office N.E. cor Sac'o and Mont'y. Established in 1849 under the above style as an interior Express, having principal offices in San Francisco and Sacramento, from which branches radiated throughout the State. June, 1852, Mr. Freeman became connected with the celebrated house of Adams & Co., from which he withdrew July 14th, 1853, and after a prolonged absence from California, during which he established expresses in the principal cities and towns on the west coast of South America. After the failure of Adams & Co. the above house re-established in this city May 16, 1855, and have expresses to and from all parts of the Atlantic States and Europe.

FREEMAN JOHN M. of FREEMAN & CO., N.E.. cor Mont'y and Sac'o. Mr. Freeman may very properly lay claim to the position of pioneer of his present business in California.

This appears rather to invalidate the Hawley and Freeman arrangemement above, but we feel sure that Mr. Todd was *the* pioneer expressman of California; for the rest we can only trust to time for a final correction.

Nov., 1849. BERFORD & Co.—This is not quite so unknown as the majority of those we have so far described. In a paper of Dec. 26, 1849, is the following advertisement:—

BERFORD & CO., UNITED STATES AND CALIFORNIA EXPRESS; AND INDEPENDENT MAIL CO. R. G. Berford & Co., San Francisco T. J. Bayless & Co., Sacramento; Charles Plitt & Co., San Jose. Run to Atlantic States, Sacramento, Stockton, San Jose, and Interior.

According to another advertisement of Dec. 21, 1851, the owners were R. G. Berford and J. C. Hackett, but the following ought to be quoted first; (the name now drops "California" Express it will be noticed, which distinction appears on the franks).

BERFORD & CO.'S EXPRESS.

FOR THE ATLANTIC STATES, November 1st, 1851, by the splendid fast running Steamer,

Tennessee,

GEO. M. TOTTEN, Commander.

A Special Messenger will be despatched as usual, who will take charge of our Express, Goods, Gold Dust, etc., and deliver to all parts of the States without delay, and on the most reasonable terms. We will also send

A Special Messenger

by the new route, via Nicaragua, Nov. 1st, by the new and fast running Steamer,

Pacific, JARVIS, Master,

who will take charge of our INDEPENDENT MAIL, and packages of every description.

Letters received till 3 o'clock, and parcels till 2 o'clock on day of sailing.

BERFORD & CO.,
California Exchange,
Corner of Clay and Kearny streets.

We cannot add anything more to these dry details, so, not to waste time and space, will summarily describe the franks. They may be briefly divided into two types.

1st. *Berford & Co.'s California Express, Paid.* This is found stamped in black, blue, and greenish ink; large transverse oval.

2nd. *Berford & Co.'s Express, Paid.* This is stamped in black and blue ink; large transverse double oval; PAID in centre. This company, after a presumably prosperous career, was bought out by Wells, Fargo, & Co., in June, 1854.

END OF 1849. ADAMS & Co. From a paper of Dec. 14, 1849, I find the names of the proprietors of this well-known express. They were Alvin Adams, Boston; Wm. B. Dinsmore, New York; and D. H. Haskell, San Francisco. They had lines to the Atlantic States and Interior, but failed in Feb. 23, 1855; at least so runs my information. The handstamps used were various, and I possess the following:—

1st. *Adams & Co.'s Express, Sacramento.* Star each side; red, transverse oval, on letters of February 14, 1852, and March 29, 1853.

2nd. *Adams & Co.'s Express, Stockton*, blue.

3rd. *Adams & Co.'s Express, Sonora*, blue. Both transverse ovals, and probably in use in 1851, latter half.

4th. *Adams & Co.'s Express, Sacramento.* Blue, large double circle, with date in centre. This is one of the few Express Companies that issued an adhesive stamp; its value was 25 cents, it was used in 1853, and it will be duly described in full. It was noticed in *The Stamp-Collector's Magazine* for 1870.

The following will be described in our next paper:—

Gregory & Co.
Rowe & Co.
Rhodes & Co.
Rhodes & Whitney.
Blake.
Hunter & Co.
Wines & Co.

CORRESPONDENCE.

THE SICILIAN STAMPS, WITH HEAD OF FERDINAND II.

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

DEAR SIR,—It has sometimes been asserted that the *unused* Sicilian stamps of 1859 (which have been offered rather freely, and at a low price to collectors) are reprints, but I have been very slow to believe this; and I am now confirmed in my opinion that they are genuine "remainders," by the fact, that at this present time they have become comparatively scarce. Had they been reprints, there would have been no falling-off in the supplies.

Yours faithfully,

Norfolk. K. T. Y.

THE RECENT POSTAGE-STAMP AUCTION.

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

DEAR SIR,—In a letter published by you in the last number of *The Stamp-Collector's Magazine*, under the title of "An American Collector on the recent Auction Sale," several statements are made that are entirely without foundation, and as our firm is mentioned, we deem it our duty to give the facts of the case to collectors.

First: neither Mr. Francis Foster nor any other collector has ever had the opportunity of purchasing a single specimen that was included in the late auction sale before that event came off; and with regard to leaving the prices to chance, we had four different standing offers of $ 100 each for the 20 c. St. Louis, and were offered £100 for twenty stamps that were included in the sale, and those not all the scarcest ones.

Secondly: Mr. Foster—like all other discoverers of Confederate Locals—"secured all he ever saw or heard of," but so far from one being secured for a "fellow collector" (some special one being implied), it was left on sale with two different Boston dealers (S. A. Taylor and F. Trifet), and was finally sold to Dr. Petrie for $ 20.

Hoping that you will do us the justice to insert this in the next number of the magazine.

We are, yours truly,

London. J. W. SCOTT & CO.

THE PETERSBURG STAMP.

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

DEAR SIR,—As promised in my previous article on this stamp, I have made further inquiries in regard to the exact date of its issue, and have succeeded in obtaining the following important information on that subject. For a long time there seemed to be little or no chance of obtaining any clue to the date of issue, until Mr. Young (to whom I am again indebted) "discovered" a certain Mr. Steinback, who was a clerk in the Petersburg post-office, during the war.

The only way in which Steinback could even approximately fix the date of issue was by the death of Mr. H—— N ———. The way in which Mr. N ——— was concerned was this:—

Mr. N ——— was a profound believer in Franklin's motto, "A penny saved is a penny earned," so when he bought fifty cents worth of the provisional stamps at the Petersburg post-office, he could not quite see the force of paying *fifty-one* cents. It seems that there was a rule that anyone buying so large a quantity as fifty cents worth, should contribute an extra cent, to defray the expenses of printing, &c. Well, to make a long story short, Mr. N ———, who was among the first to buy the stamps, resisted the rule, and made it rather "lively" for the post-office clerks, and Steinback says that his death, shortly afterwards, was looked upon by them in the light of a special Providence, introduced to save them from being talked and worried to an untimely end. Taking these circumstances into consideration, Mr. Steinback fixes the date of issue as March, 1862, and the date after which no more were sold to the public as November, 1862, although, of course, there was nothing to prevent such persons as had previously purchased them from using them after that date. This accounts for a few specimens being found dated as late as February (1863).

In regard to the handstamp, the clerks recognize the blue (round) one, as the one generally used. It is probable that the black oval was used prior to the blue one, but given up in March or April, 1862.

The above, coming as it does from official sources, and added to the proof given in my last, leaves no longer any reason for doubting the genuine character of types I. and II., including their minor varieties, which latter are entirely due to the stamps being type-set.

And now, a few words in defence of the "Pleasant Shade." Most collectors know that this stamp is in every respect identical with Type II. of the Petersburg, and having proved the genuine character of the latter, it may naturally be inferred that "Pleasant Shade" is likewise authentic. But *this* is not the point that has been disputed. Some of our European collectors base their doubts on the ground that "no such place is to be found on the map." Perhaps if they will again be good enough to turn to the state of Virginia in their atlas, and follow the Petersburg and Weldon R. R., they will find in Brunswick Co. a station by the name of Hicksford, and near by the mysterious "Pleasant Shade," whence emanated the label in question. I may state that Campbell, the printer of the Petersburg stamps, distinctly remembers having printed a similar one for Pleasant Shade also.

Yours truly,

New York. CHARLES H. COSTER.

OUR CONTEMPORARIES.

[EMISSIONS NOTICED IN THE PRESENT ARTICLE:—*Honduras—Ecuador—Chili—Alsace and Lorraine—Venezuela.*]

The Philatelist.—The July and August numbers are both well up to the usual standard. The principal articles in the former are the Parisian Collector's notes on "The Envelopes of Germany," "The Philatelic Press," and the "Notes on the Chilian Stamps of the first Emission." In the latter the "Spud Papers" come to the fore, together with a prize essay, from the pen of the Rev. R. B. Earée.

In the "Notes on the Envelopes of Germany" a short sketch of the Tour and Taxis office is given, which the writer believed to be the first information published in an English magazine respecting it; but, in reality, the history he gives was translated by *Le Timbre-Poste* from an article, written by Mr. Mount Brown, which appeared in the first number of *The Stamp-Collector's Magazine*. Thus much in rectification; the repetition of the details given so long ago cannot be otherwise than acceptable to the new generation of stamp-collectors which has since arisen.

The only noteworthy item in "The Philatelic Press" is the explanation, quoted from *Le Timbrophile*, of the impression of the Honduras and Ecuador stamps in two colours. The green 1 real of each country is reserved exclusively for home service, whilst the 1 real pink of Honduras and yellow of Ecuador are, respectively, used for foreign correspondence only.

From the paper on the Chilian stamps we learn, that the law authorising their emission is dated October, 1852; that the metallic plates were engraved in England, and were sent out with the first supply of labels. The 1 c. was issued alone, after the three other values, and not in 1852, but in the following year. In 1854 the 10 c. was for the first time made to do duty for the 5 c., by being diagonally halved.

In a reply to a correspondent the editor states that the whole of the surplus stock of the Alsace and Lorraine stamps has been destroyed; if so, we may expect to see those that are in the hands of dealers rising in price. By the way, is the designation of these stamps as Alsace and Lorraine quite accurate? They were used wherever the Germans effected a lodgment, and at least as far north as Amiens.

The "Spud" paper, in the August number, unearths some very dangerous Venezuelan forgeries. Of the first type the most easily recognisable points in the counterfeits are the white spot above the E in CORREO, and the position of the Z in VENEZUELA, which falls just under the EO of CORREO. The forged mediocentavo of 1861 has the D of LIBERTAD at some distance from the end of the ribbon, whilst in the original it is close to the end; furthermore, the forgery shows a very small dot over the I of MEDIO; the true stamp has the dot full and distinct.

"How shall we Collect" is a well-written paper, arguing in favour of collection after the French style, and we can but regret that it should have been held back so long, as its arguments have lost some of the freshness they would have possessed at the time it was written—two years ago. Yet it would still do our American friends some good to read, mark, learn, and inwardly digest the precepts it contains. They are the most obstinate rejectors of an extended system of collecting; but even they will, sooner or later, come round.

The editor of *The Philatelist*, in a short paragraph treating of the proceedings of the Philatelic Society, complains that we represented the recent meetings at Dr. Viner's house as unofficial. We certainly thought they were so, from the terms in which they were referred to by our correspondent; but, to prevent any misunderstanding in future, the simplest thing would be for the assistant-secretary to send us a copy of his minutes of the proceedings, if he be so minded. We may add, that as the business of the meetings in question was confined to the comparison of collections, and no serious work was done, there was all the more reason for our supposition that they were unofficial.

Le Timbre-Poste.—In discussing the contents of the July number we omitted to refer to the article on the "Perforation of the Spanish Stamps," or rather their *piquage*. Several trials were made in 1858 on some sheets of 4 cuartos stamps of the 1857 type,

and M. Moens has received specimens of these stamps, which, it turns out, are not *piqué*, but perforated after the fashion of some of the St. Thomas and La Guaira stamps. In 1862 the engraver, M. Alabern, obtained a machine from M. Susse, of Paris, and it was tried on some sheets of 4 cuartos, of the 1862 type, printed in brown on white, but was rejected because it was not capable of turning out, within a given time, the required number of stamps. Finally, Messrs. Gonweloos Brothers, of Brussels, after giving proof of their ability to meet the long-felt want, received the order to supply two of their machines in 1864, and they were employed to perforate the 1865 series.

The August number is composed of the Chronicle, an instalment of Dr. Magnus's monograph on envelope stamps, and an article on the German field-post service during the late war, in which is detailed the completeness of the arrangements made to secure the regular exchange of correspondence between the German soldiers and their friends, who "sat at home at ease" (?). The following extract will exemplify the style of the article:—

"It was principally under the sheds and in the barns that the army post-office installed itself. On arriving at the bivouac the postal waggons were drawn up, and a sort of intrenchment formed, behind which the officials set to work. Tables for sorting were improvised, or the clerks grouped themselves on the ground, the quicker to get through the work. This encampment was the signal for everyone to get ready his correspondence. For lack of a desk, the soldiers scribbled away, no matter how or where. It was on such occasions that the utility of the post card was appreciated; to pull one out of the haversack, and trace upon it a few hasty words of remembrance, was the work of a minute. The administration had had twelve millions of these cards printed, and they were distributed among the soldiers on their entry into active service. The simple private, equally with the officer of the highest grade, no matter where he might be,—at the bivouac, the advanced posts, or in the trenches,—received his letters from home as regularly as in the piping times of peace.

The American Journal of Philately.—From the last number we learn that the collection of that well-known amateur, Mr. Lomler, of San Francisco, is to be sold by auction. No doubt it will turn out to be exceptionally rich in scarce Californian franks. The Charleston and Columbia stamps are treated of by Mr. Scott, and then comes a long article on the "United States Newspaper Stamps," which is as uninteresting as the unpostal labels (to coin an expression) of which it treats. The monthly chronicle, reviews, "Correspondence," and the "Answers to Correspondents," complete the number. In the "Answers" we commenced reading with interest the editor's promise to a correspondent,—"We will endeavour to embrace;"—but the completion of the sentence—"the information you require"—was disappointing. Still it gives us a hint; we shall know what to do with information the next time we meet with it.

The Philatelical Journal.—The current number opens with an announcement which we feel sure will give rise to general regret; the editor has been laid up by a severe attack of rheumatic fever, and "at the time of writing he is still unpronounced out of danger." If the good wishes of philatelists everywhere can avail, his recovery will be speedy and complete. The number under review is as readable as its predecessors, but, perhaps because the keen editorial eye has been absent, we notice a few rather prominent typographical slips; thus, habilitado, on p. 138, is written "habitado;" "cronicled" does duty for chronicled, and "Mada," p. 139, for Madka. The "Cream of the Magazines" is briefer than usual, but the quality of the cream leaves nothing to be desired. Complaint is made that American writers do not come forward with their information until English philatelists have treated on subjects respecting which their American brethren are, or profess to be, *au fait;* but we do not think too much should be made of this circumstance. Our United States friends, like many other people, are not aware of the extent of their own knowledge until they meet with statements which they find it to be in their power to correct; but they ought to be grateful to English writers for amicably

stirring them up; whilst the latter should rejoice to find that their painstaking attempts to elucidate doubtful points, attain the desired end of eliciting further information. As to the question of the Petersburg stamp, it is a very pretty quarrel as it stands between Mr. Pemberton and Mr. Coster, and a fair field and no favour is all that the disputants require to bring it to a satisfactory conclusion.

After the list of new issues comes the "Black List," in which figures a specimen of the forged Prince Edward Island 4 cents, alluded to elsewhere in this number; and to that succeeds an article, by Mr. W. Vipond, on "Franks, Post and Cancelling Marks," which, without pretending to the character of a complete list, promises to be both interesting and instructive. Among other curious marks is an illustration of the handstamp struck on franked letters before the introduction of cheap postage. It consists of a plain circle, with a roughly outlined crown at the top, and, within, the word FREE in block capitals, followed by the date in two lines. No one, we believe, has yet noticed the curious postmark lately adopted in the London post-office for printed matter. It consists of what we may term four thick lines, with fan-shaped outer extremities, and in the angles the three letters, N. P. B., signifying, we presume, *Newspaper Branch*. The figure 5 in the upper compartment we cannot explain. This mark completely cancels the stamp to which it is applied.

In the "Reviews of Philatelical Publications" is quoted the programme of a philatelical congress and ball, copied from the *Allgemeiner Briefmarken-Anzeiger;* and as it is such an entire novelty, we in turn borrow it from the pages of our Birmingham contemporary.

PHILATELICAL CONGRESS.
In Lübeck,
On Sunday, the 14th July, 1872.

Order of the Day.

Assembly of visitors in Lübeck: 7 o'clock and after. General entertainment; and breakfast in the local Exchange Hall, by the widow Lüdemann, until

10.30 a.m.

Discussion as to the spreading of philatelical knowledge, &c., &c.

12.30.

End of the discussion, and dinner; some in the Exchange Hall, and others in the private houses of Lübeck amateurs.

1.30.

Meeting on board the steam-boat, "Martha;" during the trip, music by the 76th Fusiliers' band.

2.30.

Landing of the visitors.

3 o'clock.

Concert.

5 o'clock.

Supper.

8.30 p.m.

Commencement of the ball, to be kept up till morning. Among other music will be played the new *Hamburger Briefmarken-Borse Waltz*, and the *Doppler'sche und Hamm'sche Briefmarken-Polka.*

15th July, 7 a.m.

Departure of the visitors to catch the train reaching Hamburg at 9 o'clock.

With the help of the fair sex, says *The Ph. Journal*, the philatelical ball proved by its attractive power that some attraction can be derived from our science. To report the proceedings in appropriate terms, it should be said that they created an impression which will not be easily obliterated from the minds of those present; let us hope that stamps on the toes formed no part of the entertainment.

A long piece of rhyme follows the reviews, dedicated "To our Foster-brother, Gentle James." The writer, certainly not without reason, invokes "Apollo's aid to harmonise his numbers;" but his appeal, to judge by the frequently halting rhyme, seems not to have been favourably heard. The poem, if we may so term it, is a mistake from beginning to end, for it is pretty certain that the readers of the *Phil. Journal* will hardly care for such a piece of personality. If Mr. Foster, the person referred to, is what the poet hints at his being, then he is decidedly unworthy of two columns of print in such a journal as the *Philatelical*, and in any case his character and doings have no public interest whatever. The shower of sarcasms which the rhymes contain might read well in a private letter, but the "poem" as it stands, forming part of the contents of *The Philatelical Journal*, exactly answers to Lord Palmerston's well-known definition of dirt—matter in the wrong place.

BRITISH PACKET AGENCIES.

BY REV. ROBERT B. EARÉE.

REPRINTED FROM "THE PHILATELICAL JOURNAL."

In my search for information concerning La Guaira and its stamps, for my article of last month, I came across a few facts concerning our foreign postal arrangements, which I thought might be interesting to the readers of this journal; and though, as I have said, my facts are few, yet they *are* facts, and have come to me from direct official sources. I am aware that officials, as a rule, though very positive in their statements, are not always very correct in them. For instance, I *have* heard of officials, on being asked for information concerning certain stamps, assuring their correspondents that the said stamps had no existence, save in their correspondents' too fertile imagination, and, at the same time, prepaying their reply with half-a-dozen or so of the very stamps in question! But the information of which I speak is from *intelligent* officials, and may be relied upon. Till quite lately, I had a very vague idea as to the meaning of the words which form the title of this article; and, as some of my philatelic friends may possibly be in a similar predicament, I will endeavour to enlighten them as far as I can.

In the first place, a British packet agency may be said to be an English local post-office in a foreign country, and the agent himself to be the local postmaster. An official of this sort is, of course, not required in countries with which we have a postal convention (such as France, Germany, the United States, &c.); for by these conventions we guarantee that *their* correspondence, &c., shall be taken care of, and delivered free of charge; and the foreign governments, in like manner, make themselves responsible for *our* letters. But in the case of irresponsible governments,—here to-day, and gone to-morrow, where the king (president, ruler, chief, call him what you will), may be crowned one day, and assassinated and buried the next,—a convention would be of no use; and *then* comes the necessity for the British packet agents. These gentlemen are stationed by the English government at all the ports where letters from England are landed, in those countries which have no convention with us; and *they* take charge of the letters, and distribute or forward them as the case may be.* They take charge, in like manner, of the letters which are to be sent *to* England; and if the sender wish to prepay his missives, in order that the addressee here may receive them post-free, the agent will sell him *English* stamps for that purpose.

I suppose I need scarcely acquaint my readers that *no* country, unless it has a convention with our government, can *frank* its letters to England. For instance, if a man who is living in the interior of Brazil send a letter here, the stamps on that letter will frank it to the sea-port from whence it will be despatched, *and no farther.* If he were to amuse himself by covering both front and back of the envelope with stamps, the result would be still the same, and the delighted recipient would be obliged to disburse coin, to the amount of a shilling, or even more, before he could obtain possession of his letter. I believe, though, that letters from these "unconventional" countries (to use the word in a new sense) are not charged double postage if the sender omits to prepay them,—so there is no very great hardship after all. Indeed, it would not be at all fair to charge double for them; for how is my supposititious man in the interior of Brazil to get English stamps, when the nearest agent lives, perhaps, hundreds of miles from him? He must content himself with prepaying his letter as far as the port; and there the Brazilian government washes its hands of all responsibility. The letter then becomes the property of her Majesty's Postmaster-General, and our agent receives and forwards it by the next mail-steamer.

In many places the consul is the packet agent, especially where there is not much correspondence. In Fiji, for instance, this is the case. Our worthy old friend, *The Stamp-Collector's Magazine*, in this month's issue, asks why the English Consul at Fiji super-

* [The writer of this interesting paper has since recognised that he was inaccurate in stating that the agent *distributed* the letters for South America received by him, the fact being that he simply forwards them to the post-office of the town where he resides, after which his responsibility ceases.—ED. *S. C. M.*]

intended the issue of stamps for that lively group of islands; but, seeing that he is *postmaster* for England, as well as *consul*, it seems to me that it was only a part of his duty to look after the postage stamps; especially when we remember that the Fiji stamps certainly frank letters to our colony of Australia, and very probably (though I do not know this for a fact) to England itself.

In some places our packet agents "have a good time of it," as our transatlantic brethren would say; but their agencies are not *all* "sugar." My official friend says, "I opened a mail from Cobija the other day, and found a very touching sentence written in the corner of the letter-bill, by the packet agent's chief clerk, announcing that the unfortunate agent had been wrecked from his boat, in an expedition 'up country,' and devoured by alligators." At Arica, too, about a couple of years ago, the whole of the post-office, packet agent and all, was swallowed up by an earthquake, and nothing, living or dead, was left to tell the tale! And besides these little episodes, it should be borne in mind that, in most of these out-of-the-way places, the life of a European is pleasantly varied by attacks of ague, yellow fever, &c., not forgetting the mosquitoes; which last, though small, are decidedly energetic and sharp (especially as to their trunks), and might have been upheld by Dr. Watts, instead of the "busy bee," as examples of industry and perseverance under trying circumstances. In *one* thing the British packet agents have less trouble than their *confrères*, the home officials: I mean with regard to unpaid letters. It is not generally known that unpaid letters, or insufficiently prepaid letters, for Mexico, Haiti, and other places, which have no convention with us, are not forwarded at all, but are sent on to the Dead Letter Office, opened, and returned to the sender; and, therefore, it is evident that all anxiety and responsibility on this score, rest with the home officials, and not with the packet agents. If those poor agents lived in more civilised places, we might expect that the English government would send out the unpaid letters as well as the others, and look to the agents for the collection of the charges; but, as it is, that burden is not laid upon them *yet*. I have spoken of Haiti and Mexico—fancy what the agent has to contend with there! In Haiti, he has to do with (vulgarly speaking) a lot of naked niggers; and in Mexico he has to live amongst a set of people who are a little bit nigger, a little bit Indian, a little bit Spanish, and *not* a little bit rogues, thieves, and vagabonds! And as the agents would never be able to get the angelic creatures who inhabit those favoured climes to pay the postage on unpaid letters, we never trouble them with any.

I have been unable, as yet, to obtain a list of the places which boast of the luxury of a packet agent, but I fancy that the number of officials located by our government in "foreign parts," is much greater than is generally supposed by the uninitiated public. We have no convention with any of the numerous states and republics of South America (even Brazil, large and important as it is, is included in this statement), and therefore, all over South America, our packet agents will be found scattered tolerably thickly. The same may be said of the Hawaiian and Fiji Islands, of various places on the coast of Africa, &c., &c. With regard to Fiji, is it possible that this emission of stamps, inspected as it was by our consul (and packet agent), points to an intended future annexation of the said islands by our government? It may be;—"*quien sabe.*"

One word concerning our colonies. In saying that the stamps of very many countries will not frank letters to England, our foreign possessions are always excepted; for *their* stamps are always able to do this, and to cause the letters which bear them to be delivered free of charge here.

I think I have said quite as much as I need, or as my readers desire, though I must acknowledge that I have not said as much as I *could* say. I will only add that packet agents are not over paid by any means,—that they have plenty of work to do for their money,—that they are, in many places, entirely cut off from intercourse with white men for long periods,—that the climate is almost always unhealthy where they are stationed,—and that they generally get

heartily sick very soon, and too often come home invalided for life. These are cheerful statements, but I do not think I have coloured my facts too highly; and I fancy that my readers will agree with me that, all things considered, to stay quietly at home in England is decidedly preferable to being a British packet agent.

[As a supplement to the foregoing we may add the following particulars respecting the British packet agency at Valparaiso, given in a letter to *The Philatelical Journal* by our friend Mr. L. W. Meyer:—

"On the arrival of any steamer bringing British mails, all that is expected of the agent is, that he be in readiness to open the mails when they are delivered at the Chilian post-office. Though what follows in this and the next two paragraphs is somewhat of a digression, I think it as well to mention it here. The correspondence is brought on shore, either by the P. S. N. Co., or else by the captain of the port. In the latter case the mails are carried to the post-office by the boat's crew; but if, as is more commonly the case, the steamer sends the bags ashore, a curious scene ensues, which I know has aroused the anger of more than one newly-imported Briton who has happened to be a witness thereof. The sight of the boat approaching the shore is the signal for the band of loafers and idlers (which is always to be found on the mole) to rush, with one accord, to the landing, there to await the arrival of the mails. No sooner has the boat fairly touched land, than, without order or permission, the ruffians make a dash at the royal mails, and in a twinkling each bag has a bearer. When it is known that there are no more bags in the boat, there begins a regular scrimmage between the successful and unsuccessful candidates for mail carrying. During the conflict (which is, however, of short duration, the mole being very near the post-office) the bags change shoulders, or are thrown on the ground, and are immediately pounced upon by some one who has been watching his opportunity. This, be it borne in mind, takes place within two or three feet of the water's edge; that no bag has yet been thrown into the sea is really wonderful.

"The mails are delivered free of charge at the post-office, and are then made over by the agent to the postmaster, when the responsibility of the former ceases.

"The letters are then weighed, and stamped with some figures which represent the charge for delivery. The next operation is to place them in their respective "boxes," where they remain till they are claimed.* For this work the post-office claims the following rates: viz., for letters up to $\frac{1}{4}$ oz., 15 cents; $\frac{1}{2}$ oz., 25 cents; 1 oz., 45 cents; &c., &c. Thus, a letter sent from England for 1s. has often to pay an equivalent sum for its delivery. In the case of "samples per book post" the charge is still more egregious: it is no less than 45 cents per pound. I myself have had to pay that sum for a parcel from England, prepaid by four penny stamps! The large commercial houses established in this place have often to pay $30 or $40 every time a mail steamer comes in (about £20 per month) for the simple operation of placing the letters in their boxes. If delivered out of the post office they must pay 5 cents each. This applies to all letters, save those posted in the town itself."]

STAMPS FOR THE PHILIPPINES, ISSUED IN 1847.

In a short paper in the current number of *Le Timbre-Poste* is related an extraordinary discovery; nothing less than a series of stamps for the Philippines, issued in 1847, has been brought to light by the enterprise of a correspondent of M. Moens. On the 14th of May, 1847, so he states, the then postmaster-general of the Philippines, Don Antonio Gutieriez y Pavia, proposed to the home government to issue four postage stamps for the prepayment of the island letters. The proposition was not accepted, because this system of prepayment had not then been adopted in the Peninsula. The postmaster, who no doubt did not expect to be met by a refusal, had already put the stamps in circulation, and they were used for some little time for the interinsular correspondence of Luzon and Manilla. The stamps are square, roughly engraved, and have the bust of Isabella II. in a frame,

* Mercantile letters, it may be supposed, have not long to wait—there is always some one waiting for *them*.

containing in its upper part the word INTERIOR, and the value in the lower. The impression is in colour on white laid paper, and unperforated.

½	real plata	green
2	„ „	yellow
4	„ „	blue
1	peso	rose

M. Moens adds that his correspondent gives him to expect that in a little while he will be able to send him the four stamps in question, and if so they will at once be engraved. Our *confrère* further calls attention to the fact that the postmaster's proposal was referred to by M. N. Rondot in the *Magasin Pittoresque*, but the latter omitted to say that the stamps had been in use.

This last observation constitutes at once our greatest reason for believing in the authenticity of the stamps, and our chief cause for being sceptical of their character. M. Moens' integrity is not called in question, and we do not know his correspondent, who may be describing the stamps from personal knowledge, or have obtained his information from the best of sources; or, on the other hand, may be the concoctor or the victim of a swindle. It behoves us to proceed with caution in a matter like the present. The fact that M. N. Rondot was aware of a proposition having been made by the Luzon postmaster, favours the hypothesis that stamps were really issued in the manner above stated. We, unfortunately, have not M. Rondot's article before us, and therefore cannot say whether his allusion was couched in general terms, or was explicit as to the date of the postmaster's letter, and the number of stamps which he thereby proposed to issue. In any case, however, looking at the suspicious side of the affair, there is no improbability in the supposition, that his article may have fallen under the notice of one or other of those ingenious contrivers of stamps whose machinations are the bane of unwary collectors; and in that case the fabrication of a likely-looking series would be very easy. We cannot quite suppress our surprise that the correspondent who had such precise information, not only of the colours and values of the four stamps, but also of the date of a letter written by the postmaster in 1847, should have been unable to procure specimens to send over with his communication. Surely he could not have described the designs so fully without getting a sight of the stamps themselves, and, if so, to obtain the loan of them was but a step. Does not his letter appear to be artfully composed, with a view to facilitate the foisting on collectors of a spurious emission? Full particulars are first given, and specimens of the stamps are to follow, when the ground shall have been prepared. Well, we shall see how the affair turns out; meanwhile we are only doing our duty in calling attention to the doubts which are almost of necessity suggested by the announcement of M. Moens' correspondent, bearing in mind the great difference which exists between the meaning of two somewhat similar words—*discoveries* and *inventions*.

THE PENNY EXPRESS COMPANY STAMP.

BY CHARLES H. COSTER.

THIS stamp was first noticed in *The Philatelical Journal*, page 107; but beyond such points as can be gathered from the fac-simile therein given, and reproduced here, no information can be gathered from the notice in question.



Through the kind exertions of a western correspondent, I have learned that the "Penny Express Company" stamp was issued by the well-known firm of Langton & Co.,—the same firm that ran the Humboldt Express, Langton's Pioneer Express, &c.,—and was in use, during a very short time only, in Nevada territory. Unfortunately, I have not been able to determine its date of issue.

The stamp is of fine execution, and is apparently from a steel die. It is found printed in black and in blue—both on white paper.

The accompanying engraving will give a very fair idea of the general design; but it must be borne in mind that it has been purposely altered in one particular, so as to render counterfeiting more difficult.

NEWLY-ISSUED OR INEDITED STAMPS.

Russian Locals—*Pavlograd* (Ekaterinoslaw).—The first issued stamp for this district is known to collectors only by our list, in which (by an evident oversight) neither its colour nor its value is noted. No specimen has found its way across from Russia, and now the chance of our making closer acquaintance with its design is diminished by its withdrawal from circulation. The description, which we repeat for clearness sake, is as follows:—

(1). Arms in centre.
(2). Star above and numeral below the arms.
(3). Inscription in surrounding oval frame.
(4). Roman figure of value in angles of outer octagonal frame of crossed waved lines.

The annexed engraving is a representation of the second type, which has just been issued. It is evidently copied, in its general outline, from the first type. The arms and the inscription are in the same position, and the octagonal outer frame, with ground of crossed waved lines, is repeated. The points of difference are the insertion of a numeral above the arms, in place of the star, and the substitution of Arabic for Roman numerals in the angles. The colour of the new comer is a dark dull blue. M. Moens says that there is an orthographical fault in the inscription, *Madka* being written for Mapka; if so it has not been repeated in the engraving, for the latter clearly shows *Mapka*.



Perejaslav (Poltava).—The local authorities in the Poltava government have apparently no strong leanings in favour of art, to judge by the annexed design, which is common to the districts of *Perejaslav* and *Peerjatin*, subject only to the change of name. Our engraving is that of Perejaslav; but "Cæsar and Pompey," it appears, are so much alike that it might stand for both districts.



The stamp is printed in black on chamois; value 3 kop. The Peerjatin stamp, which has not yet come over, but which figures in our July list, is of the same value, and is printed in scarlet.

Schluesselburg.—It is stated that the rural post for this district has long since ceased to exist, and the green 5 kop. stamp is, consequently, no longer to be had.

A letter published in *The American Journal of Philately* gives the correct orthography of several local-issuing districts. Thus Schopeen becomes *Skopin;* Kolomna, *Kalomna;* Borovitchi, *Borowitschi;* and Bronnitzi, *Brounitzi.* We fear it will be no easy matter to obtain the correct spelling of the names of all the different districts.

Great Britain.—The handsome three-halfpenny envelope design, after remaining ten years an essay, has at length made its appearance as a stamp for public use, though its circulation will, unfortunately, be but limited, as it can only be obtained by ordering direct, and in quantities, from Somerset House. The impressions are from the original die, but in pale rose-pink, which is not so effective a tint as that of the old essay. *The Philatelist* describes the shape of the envelopes it had received, and also the device on the flap; but these details are, in the present instance, valueless, since the stamps are struck at Somerset House on envelopes furnished by the applicants, and each batch may be on different-sized envelopes. Our contemporary says that on making inquiries many months since as to the likelihood of an emission of three-halfpenny envelopes, he was given to understand that the die had been mislaid or destroyed, and he conjectures it must since have turned up. We incline to think that so useful a value must ere long be issued for general use, like the penny envelope.



New Granada—*Cundinamarca.*—In the discovery of the stamps of the sovereign states of the Colombian republic, it seems to be the rule that the last should come first and the first last. Thus it happens that the two

primitive designs here figured have only just turned up, and they are stated to have been in use four months before the issue already known made its appearance.

The illustrations here given—which have been courteously lent by the proprietors of





The Philatelist—are not copied from the stamps themselves, and it is not pretended that they are more than "approximate portraits" from tracings of the same; they are, however, sufficiently accurate to show the general design. They are printed in black on colour; the 5 c. on greenish blue, and the 10 c. on pink. Dr. Magnus, in his new journal, expresses his doubts of their authenticity.

Livonia.—We have received a stamp purporting to be issued for Livonia, of which we will give an illustration in our next number. The central device consists of a mailed arm grasping a sword, and springing from what may be a rock. This is in an oval, inscribed BRIEFMARKE WENDENSCHEN KREISES in white letters, and the oval itself has a broad white exterior rim. The rest of the stamp is filled with a ground pattern of horizontal pearls and lines, the four angles bearing a small white star. The stamp is printed in two colours, deep green and scarlet. The oval is green, as is also the outline of the arm; the solid ground of the centre and all the design outside the oval is in scarlet. It is printed on white paper, gummed, and perf. 14. We have no information of its value, and are rather puzzled at the change in the armorial device of the province. On the older stamp is figured a griffin rampant.

Philippines.—The concluding number of the defunct *Timbrophile*, contains the following account of a newly-discovered stamp, value 3 cents. A correspondent sends us a rather curious stamp not hitherto noticed, of which we give the description. It is a blue 3 cuartos. Above it is inscribed CORREOS 1854-55, below FRANCO 3 c^os. In the centre, effigy to the right in a pearled oval, interrupted above and below, hence 25 pearls on the right, 24 on the left. It is a copy of the 1853 Spanish type, and bears the "gridiron" obliteration common to Cuba and Luzon. The impression was made by means of an engraving lithographically transferred. The colour is a greenish blue. We think that it is but another essay, and not a stamp which has seen service. Still, it is as well to put this stamp by the side of the lithographed 5 c. of 1853-4 (which was not known until 1865), and the 10 c. of the same type (mentioned by M. N. Rondot, which no one else has met with up to the present time), and nothing would surprise us less than the discovery that this stamp is a "find," like the 27 paras of Moldavia and others.

French Colonies.—We owe to the new Parisian journal, *La Gazette des Timbres*, the intelligence that the eagle series for colonial use was suppressed some time since, and unperforated supplies of the home stamps sent out, composed of the following values:

Empire,	5 c.	unlaureated.
,,	1 ,,	laureated.
,,	30 ,,	,,
,,	80 ,,	,,
Republic,	10 ,,	bistre.
,,	20 ,,	blue.
,,	40 ,,	orange.

Our contemporary does not say whether the stamps of the republic are of the lithographed or the engraved type; but as the copies we have seen are engraved, inexperienced collectors must take care not to confound them with the 1848 issues. It is stated that the above stamps were first received back on colonial letters on the 25th of December last.

Guadalajara.—The same journal publishes a letter from its contributor Mons. "Albis," in which the latter states that he has just heard from Mexico that the provisional Guadalajara were at first employed without the authority of the president of the republic, Don Juarez, who commenced an action, and obtained a judgment, in the supreme court of

Mexico against the then postmaster, Don Guadaloupe Montenegro, for having had the stamps struck without permission.

GERMAN EMPIRE.—Our Birmingham contemporary has received from a correspondent two unperforated copies of the 5 groschen stamps, of the small eagle type, issued in January, postmarked *Leutersdorf, Jun.* 16, which probably came from a sheet accidentally sent out unperforated by the Berlin authorities.

PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND.—Our last-quoted *confrère* has received from the postmaster of the island specimens of all the values in use at the end of last month, and there being no 10 cents amongst them, he argues that that value does not exist, *ergo*, M. Moens, who gave an engraving of what we must now suppose to be an imposture, has been victimised. *The Philatelical Journal* also states that the stock of the obsolete penny is being utilised, the stamps being surcharged 2 CENTS.

JAPAN.—*The American Journal of Philately* gives the following as the values of the new perforated set:

1½	tenpoes	brown.
2	,,	blue.
3	,,	vermilion.
7½	,,	green.

They are printed in sheets of forty.

ARGENTINE REPUBLIC.—It is stated in *Le Timbre-Poste* that the current 5 c. has been temporarily replaced by the same value of the 1864 type.

SWEDEN.—It is said that the series will be completed by the issue of two more values—the 9 and 17 öre.

FORGERY OF THE NEW 4 c. GREEN PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND.

WE have to warn all our readers—more experienced collectors, equally with beginners—against a most dangerous forgery of the above-mentioned stamp, in which the design, in all its principal points, is most carefully imitated, and there is so slight a difference in shade as to render comparison with a genuine stamp necessary for detection. The most noticeable points of variation between the forgery and the genuine stamp are as follows:—

GENUINE.	FORGED.
1.—The crown of the head of the portrait does not touch the frame. There is a plainly visible space between it and the frame, along the whole length.	1.—The crown of the head touches the frame along a certain distance, and in a direct line under the letters DW of the word EDWARD in the inscription in the upper margin.
2.—The square disks in the lower angles, containing the figure 4, are a trifle higher than the band running between them, inscribed with the value.	2.—The square disks in the lower angles, containing the figure 4, do *not* project above the intervening band, inscribed with the value.
3.—There is a clear space between the letter O in the word POSTAGE, on the first line of the inscription, and the letter E of PRINCE in the second line.	3.—The letter O in the word POSTAGE, in the first line of the inscription, touches the letter E of PRINCE on the second line.
4.—There is a vertical line of fine dots outside the exterior row of fine horizontal lines which forms part of the ground on the right-hand side. In other words, each one of these horizontal lines is succeeded by a dot.	4.—The line of dots, referred to on the other side, is absent.

We could go on multiplying the distinctive characteristics, but we have been careful to mention only those positive differences whereby the forgery can be at once detected by itself, without the necessity for comparison with a genuine specimen.

These dangerous counterfeits are also sold obliterated, and the false postmarks have not been applied—as is usually the case with forgeries—in such a manner as to leave the best part of the stamp clean, but are struck over the stamps with apparently official carelessness, and thus are all the more deceptive. The genuine cancelling mark consists of a transverse oval, formed of ten horizontal bars, of which the top and bottom ones are curved, so as to complete the oval. The forged mark consists of an irregularly shaped transverse oblong, formed of two horizontal lines of long, and three of short unshapen patches. They are sold three or four together, stuck on paper, and have every appearance of having been cut from an envelope. The unused forgeries are sold in sheets of 100, at fourpence each specimen.

We are glad to learn, from our Birming-

ham contemporary, that the matter has been communicated to the proper authorities, and that the home agents of the colonial post-office have been instructed to take such action in the case as will bring the offenders to justice. We shall rejoice if they get their deserts, and we have no doubt our readers will be equally glad; meanwhile, as these spurious wares have been launched into circulation, it will be well to take every precaution, to prevent their being imposed on collectors.

WHAT IS A POSTAGE STAMP?

BY OVERY TAYLOR.

THIS question suggested itself to the writer's mind on reading the following paragraph of the article explanatory of the scope of Mr. Pemberton's forthcoming catalogue, which appeared in a recent number of *The Philatelical Journal.*

> We confine ourselves strictly to stamps which prepay postage and that are sold to the public, thus totally ignoring *chiffres-taxe* and such like rubbish for unpaid and returned letters, which everyone collects because they are adhesive usually, and tolerable-looking occasionally. What we want is consistency, and not needlessly to multiply species in face of the outcry raised by those who object to all varieties. And let us ask, where is the consistency of cataloguing stamps for unpaid letters, or stamps or envelopes for letters returned to the sender? The latter are the more sensible, for they do carry the returned letter free. Such stamps as the Baden *Landpost*, Hanover *Bestellgeld-frei*, and others, representing an extra tax or fee for delivery, we certainly catalogue as quite within the province of our intentions.

From these remarks, which break fresh ground, it will be seen that the answer to the inquiry—What is a postage stamp?—cannot be without interest.

The fact is, that collecting in its infancy was a pursuit conducted in such an utterly unscientific way, that many adhesives then secured recognition as postage stamps, which, if a code of rules for the guidance of collectors were now being laid down, would be rigorously excluded. Anything which emanated from a post-office, or was in the least degree connected with it, was seized on with an indiscriminate ardour, and incorporated with the orthodox emissions of a country. This weakness for things postal was fostered by the early catalogue makers, and is still but too frequently manifested. Thus it has often occurred that some particular impression or label belonging to a previously unrecognised class, and possessing, perchance, a special claim to notice, has been favourably referred to by one or other of the magazines, and the attention thus paid to it has led to a demand, by the possessor of some heterogeneous collection, for the admission of the whole species, on the ground that they all do the same duty. The vague uncertainty thus introduced, and the unrestrained elasticity of construction which results from it, combine to show that the time has arrived for establishing a clear definition of the term postage stamp.

The simplest answer to the query which heads these remarks is, that a postage stamp is a stamp that pays postage. A postage stamp, in other words, is the conventional sign adopted to evidence the payment of a sum of money to secure the carriage of a letter or paper by the post-office to a given destination. Understood thus as an *evidence of prepayment*, the official, returned letter, and unpaid letter labels are *not* postage stamps.

Let us take first the OFFICIAL stamps. No payment is made when they are attached to, or struck on the letters which bear them. They do not represent postage, but *exemption from postage.* The impressed stamps are not obliterated. They are hardly more than office seals. In our own country, they serve to show from what department a letter emanates, but the signature which accompanies them really contains the franking power. In point of fact, government communications enjoy the privilege of being carried free of any charge whatever; and the marks they may bear, which merely indicate that they *are* government communications, cannot be considered as being, in any sense of the word, postage stamps. The adhesives, such as the Danish, the colonial "Service" stamps, &c., when we come to look the matter fairly in the face, are not entitled to more consideration than the handstamped impressions. They have a facial value, but, as I understand it, it is purely nominal and fictitious. They are issued, probably, for the purpose of checking the weight and number of official letters and documents sent through the post, and perhaps also to

prevent the abuse of the franking privilege by the government *employés*, who might be tempted to make free use of an office handstamp, but who are obliged to render a strict account of the employment of the adhesive labels dealt out to them. Such being the case, they should in strictness be excluded: that they are likely to be is another matter. The handstamps are very uninteresting objects for collection; and although the attempt has been made to introduce and classify them by a well-known writer, whose opinions no one respects more than I do, yet it is very evident that they will never be generally accepted. With the adhesives it is a different affair. The Spanish official have been included in every catalogue and prepared album that has been published. The Danish are generally admired, and the colonial Service stamps have found a place in many collections. It is, perhaps, too much to ask philatelists to discard these stamps altogether, but ought they not to be kept quite apart from the postage stamps proper?

Unpaid Letter Stamps.—Among these are numbered the French *chiffres-taxe*, the Italian *Segna-tasse*, &c., &c. Judged literally by the standard we have set up at the commencement, these are not postage stamps, for so far from being evidences of prepayment, they are proofs of *non*-payment; and most of them represent, not merely the postage of the letter to which they are attached, but also a fine for the sender's negligence. But, it may be urged, in arrest of judgment, they are put on in the post-office, and thus constitute the official certificate to the receiver that the letter-carrier is authorised to claim the amount which is "figured" on them. In fact, though these stamps do not prepay, they, nevertheless, represent the *postage;* and in the countries in which they are in use, they form the conventional sign of postage *due*. They are the admissible corollary of postage stamps proper; the public, when it wishes to employ the services of the post-office, for convenience sake puts a label of a given value on a letter, and the office is then bound to carry the letter; if the office conveys an unpaid letter, for convenience sake it puts on a label representing the charge for carriage, and the receiver is obliged to pay if he want his letter. It may be paradoxically put, that although you cannot *buy* an unpaid letter stamp, you have to pay for it, and payment is of "the essence of the contract." For these reasons, I think that *chiffre-taxe* stamps are fairly collectable; and Mr. Pemberton himself must surely modify his decision to include in the body of his forthcoming catalogue only stamps sold to the public, unless he is prepared to reject the "unpaid letter" series of Turkey, which is used for correspondence from localities where no postal agencies have as yet been established.

Returned Letter Stamps appear to me to be totally unworthy of collection. A distinction must be drawn between stamps which, in one sense or another, represent postage, and merely *postal* stamps, such as the returned letter labels. Their apposition to a letter gives rise to no payment at either end, and as in the case of the official labels, they in reality prove only *exemption* from postage. The return of an undelivered letter is a piece of courtesy on the part of the post-office, unless, indeed, it be considered that the ordinary postage stamp, attached on the departure of the letter, not only pays the carriage to destination, but also the return carriage in case of non-delivery. A returned letter label in any case is a thing with which the public have nothing whatever to do; it simply forms part of the internal organization of the postal service. We have no more need to concern ourselves with it, than we have to pay attention to the seals wherewith the mail-bags are fastened up; and the assumed necessity for collecting them, has, I am inclined to believe, been felt to be irksome by many philatelists.

Registration and Too-late Stamps.—How far can these be considered collectable? They, like the returned letter labels, are portions of the internal economy of the post-office. In this country, the word REGISTERED is struck on the letter with a handstamp, and the payment of an extra penny stamp, to cover the fine for late postage is—in London, at any rate—indicated by the handstamp L. 1 or L. 2, as the case may

be. We do not collect these handstruck impressions; ought we to collect the adhesive Victorian "Registered" and "Too-late" labels, the Trinidad "Too late," the United States "Registered," &c.? The class is not a numerous one, and, of the two kinds, one represents a specially guaranteed mode of transmission, the other an earlier despatch. These advantages are prepaid. Shall we then, for once, be inconsistent, and, whilst collecting the labels, the true offshoot of the cheap postal system, reject the uninteresting handstamped words? I leave it to my readers to answer.

Newspaper Impressed Stamps. — These are a troublesome class of stamps, which have occasionally formed the subjects of more or less incomplete lists, and whose claims have been repeatedly urged by the few—shall we say happy?—possessors of collections of them. My own impression is that they are not deserving of recognition. They are the relics of an obsolete system. They were not sold to the public, nor struck on the papers by postal officials. They were the means used of collecting an item in the Inland Revenue, and they lost any postal character they might have possessed fifteen days after the date of emission. I apprehend that most collectors would object to their being raked up from their obscurity and forced on them, under the pretext that they were postage stamps.

Permit me, in conclusion, to invite my readers' serious attention to the subject, for it will bear consideration; and if from the discussion some general rule, acceptable to the majority, can be established, as to the classes of stamps which are within, and those which are without the limits, my object in drawing attention to the matter will have been gained.

How Dr. Magnus became a Stamp Collector.—Ten years ago my eldest son, then an urchin nine years of age, had brought home from school a score of ragged stamps—English, Belgian, Dutch, German, and Italian—and made comical efforts to classify them. A few Spanish and French republic stamps, which we hunted up from our letters, set the seal on the partnership—Magnus, father and son—and all our endeavours tended to swell the number of stamps which filled the album Later on, the well-known fickleness of children left me alone at the head of the collection. It was from that day that I seriously pursued the study.—*La Gazette des Timbres.*

THE FIJI ISLANDS IN SEARCH OF A PROTECTOR.

There is something almost touching in the friendless position of the Fiji Islands at the present time. They have been hawked about most persistently from one great power to another, and the answer to each and every application has been in effect, "No child of mine." England treated the idea of a protectorate with scorn; America calculated that she had enough to do with her own Indians; the Australian colonies, which are deeply interested in the establishment of a responsible government in this particular group, are quite unable to do anything except to recommend Great Britain to "annex" it; the only polite answer was obtained from Prince Bismarck, of all people in the world. Nearly eighteen months ago, in reply to a numerously signed petition, requesting that the Fiji Islands should be placed under the Prussian flag, he wrote a civil letter with his own hand to the leading merchant in Fiji—a North German—and expressed his regret that the state of affairs in Europe prevented him from giving attention to Fiji just then, but he hinted that no long time might elapse ere Prussia would be at liberty to act in the South Seas.—*Pall-Mall Gazette.*

[In our own parliament, recently, a question was put to the government as to its intention with regard to the Fijian administration, and its reply was that it would recognise as *de facto* in power the council of white men at Levuka over such islands as its sway might extend.—Ed.]

REVIEWS of POSTAL PUBLICATIONS.

La Gazette des Timbres. Paris: Pierre Mahé.

The apparition of this journal will be heartily welcomed by philatelists of every shade of opinion. Its publication commences under the most favourable auspices. It succeeds the well-known *Timbrophile*, whose prestige it inherits, and under the direction of that prince of philatelists—Dr. Magnus—its success is certain.

The first number is interesting, not so much from the information it contains, as for the programme with which it opens, entitled "Our Aim," and written in that attractive style of which the learned editor

is so peculiarly master. In a few well-chosen sentences Dr. Magnus sketches the rise of philately and the publication of the first magazines in England, Belgium, and Germany, then touches on the issue of the first French journal, *Le Collectionneur*, of M. Maury, which owed its position to the carefully written articles of that once famous collector, M. Herpin, and fell rapidly away when he ceased to contribute. The career of *Le Timbrophile* next comes under notice, and the causes which interfered with its publication,—viz., the war, and the editor's numerous occupations—are briefly dwelt on; and then, in natural sequence, follows the explanation of the aim of *Le Timbrophile's* successor. That it includes the publication of instructive articles and monographs we need hardly say, but it is worthy of special notice that Dr. Magnus contemplates writing, under the title of "The Little Gazette" a series of "Papers for Beginners" similar in character and intention to those which are being published in these pages. We are glad to see the utility of such articles thus emphatically recognised, and we shall look forward with interest to the promised contributions. In the course of his *exposé* the learned editor intimates his intention of treating of fiscal and telegraph stamps, as well as of postal emissions; but with regard to the fiscals, he will notice only the adhesives, putting aside the impressed stamps until public opinion be in favour of their being studied. We regret that Dr. Magnus should have decided in favour of the admission of even adhesive fiscals. That he will analyse and chronicle them with his usual ability we do not doubt, but we question very much if any considerable section of his readers will follow him.

Among the contents of the new journal instalments of a descriptive catalogue will find place. This catalogue will comprehend a full description of all the types, followed by an enumeration of the sub-types and varieties, and of the reprints. Official essays will be separately treated.

After the introductory article comes the first chapter of "La Petite Gazette," or rather its preface, in the shape of a letter from Dr. Magnus to his nephew, entitled "What one may learn in Collecting Stamps." To this succeeds the "Chronicle," which occupies twelve pages, and is, in fact, a *résumé* of the emissions since the beginning of the year. In running through it we notice that Dr. Magnus confirms our opinion that both the Finnish cards are engraved. *Per contra*, the learned doctor gives his vote in favour of the authenticity of the Goa stamps, against which, in presence of the accumulating proof of genuineness, we must now withdraw our own objections. Reference is made to the telegraph card of this country, and the whole of the notice printed on the back is quoted. The paragraphs treating of this card have been copied verbatim into the official journal of the republic, with due acknowledgment of the source—an honour, probably, unexpected by their writer.

The number closes with a lengthy but useful notice to subscribers respecting the communication of novelties, in which senders of new emissions of private offices are requested to accompany the specimens with proofs of authenticity, in the shape of newspaper articles, prospectuses, or other documents.

This first number runs to twenty-four pages in all, in consequence of the length of the "Chronicle," but the ordinary contents will be sixteen pages. In size it is an imperial octavo. The typographical arrangements are good, but we cannot say much for the frontispiece, which strikes us as being a very inartistic composition.

CORRESPONDENCE.

THE CINGALESE CURRENCY.

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

DEAR SIR,—In your magazine for May you speak, under the heading of "Ceylon," of "the new Cingalese dollar," &c. We have no dollar here. Our standard is the *rupee*, the same as in India, and is worth all through India and Ceylon exactly two shillings. In exchange between England the value, of course, varies according to condition of money-market. In Ceylon we have a decimal division of the rupee into cents, whilst in India their division is into annas and pies.

The cent, therefore, is not equal to the English farthing, but in postal matters the government have reckoned it so, thus conferring a slight postal boon upon the Ceylon public, rather than, by adhering to the exact previous rates, have stamps expressed in cents and fractions, which would have been necessary.

I am, dear Sir,
Yours obediently.

Colombo. X. X.

THE "PENNY POST" MARKS.

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

DEAR SIR,—With reference to the penny posts which I brought under your notice in my last letter, I beg to state that the dates of two of them in my possession are February 16th, 1830, and July 3rd, 1830. In my opinion there were small offices in the suburbs of large cities, which, on payment of a penny, forwarded letters to the metropolis; these offices also existed in the towns themselves, for in Dublin I have covers impressed with the names of *streets*. Your correspondent, J. H. H., has not stated whether he possesses any covers stamped with the names of *persons*, —as "BOLLON'S PENNY POST;" and I should be inclined to think that he has spoiled his specimens by separating the *stamp* from the *cover*. If the Americans could only find such things as these "down South," I have no doubt that many a letter would be written by enterprising dealers to suburban postmasters, to inquire of them what they knew about the new comers.

I remain, Sir,
Yours truly,
Dublin. M. H. C.

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

SIR,—In *The Stamp-Collector's Magazine* for May, page 74, you refer to some old marks found by a correspondent on ancient letters, and as you desire some further information, the few I enclose may assist you as regards dates.

I have a collection of about 1000 varieties of postmarks, which I made several years ago; and among them I have thirty-six varieties of the *Penny Post*, in black, red, and blue, the oldest being a Southampton one, dated 29 May, 1827 (blue ink.) I have always been at a loss to comprehend these, as I understood that the penny post began in 1840. Likewise thirty-two 1d. PAID, and two 2d. PAID. I have one OKEHAMPTON, 6d. CLAUSE POST, being the only one I have ever seen, and should like to know what "Clause Post" means. I have only three varieties of Sunday marks, which are rather curious. The one marked Oc. 7. 89, means October 7, 1789. Can you inform me the meaning of the small triangle in the tracing of August 6, 1850? and a similar one by itself you will observe on an official letter from the India Office. I also send two *Penny Posts*—Southampton and Milbrook —on one paper, which might assist to an explanation. Milbrook is about two miles from Southampton. As it is the only one I have saved entire, I should like it returned. My oldest postmark is of the year 1740.

I also send tracings of three Swiss marks I found on letters of about 1864. Should you consider them as postage stamps? You will observe it seems as a frank-mark of 1 f. and 78 c.

The Salisbury postmark, as shown in the tracing, is the largest I have met with.

I am, Sir,
Yours truly,
Lymington. J H.

[The tracings and specimens sent by our correspondent are of much interest. The Okehampton one is composed of a transverse oblong, with OKEHAMPTON on the first line and 6D. CLAUSE POST on the second. What a "clause post" could have been we are at a loss to conjecture. The other most noticeable impressions are the DRUMMOND ST., 2D. PAID, and KENSINGTON 2 PY. PAID, which indicate the existence of a twopenny post, peculiar, probably, to London. The Swiss marks consist of (1) a triangle with a bar across the middle, FR. above, and 1 F. 78 C. below. (2). An oblong rectangle, with similarly disposed abbreviations, and (3) a small oblong inscribed B. 6 R. These marks are similar to those found on French letters, and already noticed in these pages. We should certainly hold them over, pending explanations of their use. We cannot give our correspondent any information as to the meaning of the triangle.—ED.]

THE CHILIAN ENVELOPES AND POST CARDS.

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

DEAR SIR,—On the first page of *The Philatelist* for May there is an engraving intended to give an approximate idea of the design of the Chilian envelopes; it is also understood that the stamp is the work of a native artist.

As I have as yet seen or heard nothing of the envelopes in question, I wrote to the postmaster-general, and received in answer the assurance that the envelopes had not yet been received, and that he had not seen and could give no account of the stamp, the engraving of which I described to him.

I believe, therefore, that I am not far wrong in saying that the design is the production of some "foreign" artist, perhaps even of the gentleman who, some time ago, on his own account, issued envelopes for the Argentine republic; in both cases the design of the adhesive has been closely copied.

I would here warn collectors, too, against accepting Chilian post cards without the corresponding adhesives. *The Philatelist*, in describing them, says, that, "in common with the new Russian post card, this emission has the disqualification of bearing no impressed stamp." One thing, however, they have *not* in common, viz., the *adhesive* stamp. If I mistake not, the Russian card is sold *without* the stamp; ours, never. Like the post cards of most countries, these are sold at facial value—2 c. and 5 c., respectively.

I remain, dear Sir,
Yours obediently,
Valparaiso. L. W. M

THE PETERSBURG AND PLEASANT SHADE STAMPS—MR. COSTER'S REPLY TO MR. PEMBERTON.

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

DEAR SIR,—The July number of *The Philatelical Journal* is just to hand, and in it Mr. Pemberton's "review" of my letter in the July number of *The Stamp-Collector's Magazine*, on the subject of the Petersburg stamp.

I had at first intended not to take any notice of the review in question, which, permit me to say, is written in a style entirely unworthy of any occupant of an editorial chair. However, "drowning men clutch at straws," and I suppose that Mr. Pemberton saw no other way to keep himself from sinking. Mr. Pemberton's review is, in fact, one continued slander, with scarcely a single accurate assertion, from beginning to end. This is very plain language, but it is, nevertheless, quite warranted by the circumstances of the case.

Setting aside all his personal abuse, let me quote, verbatim, his "review" of my letter, above referred to. Mr. P. says—

"We ourselves, as the writer and investigator of the subject, are bound to confess that we do not believe that there is one atom of truthful fact in the letter mentioned. The establishment of the existence of Mr. Upchurch rests solely with a third and probably suppositious person, in whom we do not believe. Mr. Coster, though undoubtedly a collector of considerable merit, has been again hoodwinked, our writings have had the usual effect. * * * Let us but give our opinion—the result of really careful investigation—and our American cousins can then find out facts by the dozen, or else get some one of unblemished

moral character to write them for them at so much per foot. * * * What we wrote concerning the Petersburg was the result of careful analysis, and we are not disposed to alter one single word of our statements."

This is very fine language, and quite worthy of its talented author, but it seems to me that it is the poorest kind of argument; for it will be observed that, although he indulges in plenty of *abuse, he does not even attempt to show a single point in which my proofs are defective.* He does not believe in Mr. Young or Mr. Upchurch's existence. It is to be regretted that Mr. Pemberton should be so incredulous, but as I do not suppose that either of the gentlemen in question would feel disposed to go to Europe to prove to Mr. P. their veritable being, I will endeavour to prove it by other means.

First.—I beg to refer Mr. Pemberton to any United States business register or directory. He will find therein "W. C. Upchurch, Raleigh, N. C.," and "R. A. Young & Bro., Petersburg, Va." Then, if he will refer to the co-partnership directory, he will find that Jno. D. Young, Esq., is one of the firm of R. A. Young & Bro.

Second.—I am to day sending to the editor of this magazine a three-cents stamped envelope of the present issue, bearing the return request of Messrs. R. A. Young & Bro. Also a letter from Mr. Young, written on paper bearing Messrs. R. A. Young and Bro.'s printed business heading. I send this letter so that the writing therein may be compared with the writing on the envelope. I also send Mr. Young's visiting-card. Should the editor of *The Stamp-Collector's Magazine* find all these "documents" in order, perhaps he will oblige me with a note at the bottom of this letter, so stating.

The sentence about "getting some one to write facts by the foot" is too supremely ridiculous to take any further notice of.

In regard to my being "*again* hoodwinked," I desire to know (supposing even that I were in error in the present instance, which I certainly am not) to what *previous* occasion Mr. Pemberton refers, when he uses the word "again." I am happy to say that I have never made any assertion in any stamp magazine that I am not able to sustain by abundant proofs; and I must therefore call on Mr. Pemberton to "rise to explain."

As to the "Pleasant Shade," we have but to compare what Mr. Pemberton says, on pp. 9, 60, 63, 68, 117, and 118 of his infallible journal, with what he says on p. 116, and we are forced to exclaim—"Consistency, thou art a jewel" (N.B.—Not, however, in the possession of Mr. P.). I have shown (in *The Stamp-Collector's Magazine* for August) that this stamp does exist as a genuine issue, and need add nothing further thereto, except that the name of "Pleasant Shade" *is* found in all the post-office directories published prior to the war, but that since then the name of the post-office has been changed. As to whether those that have been offered to Mr. Pemberton in England are genuine or not, I cannot say, unless he will send me one to compare with a *genuine* copy, to which I have access.

It certainly is to be sincerely regretted that unprincipled parties have made the scarcity of known genuine specimens of Confederate provisionals the means of endless swindling; but unless Mr. Pemberton can learn to discriminate between the good and the bad, he had better not attempt to elucidate matters, but rather should apply to persons better posted than himself.

In conclusion, let me correct an apparently slight but really important error in my letter in your July number, which arose through a mistake on my part in reading Mr. J. D. Young's letter. Speaking of the envelope bearing Messrs. Young's imprint, I said it was recognized as the writing of one of the partners of "Ralf Brós." This should read "R. A. Young & Bro."

Trusting that you will excuse my occupying so much of your valuable space with a subject concerning which Mr. Pemberton stands almost, if not entirely, alone in his opinions, I feel tempted to close by repeating, for his special benefit, the familiar rhyme:—

"A man convinced against his will,
Is of the same opinion still."

Yours very truly,

New York. CHARLES H. COSTER.

[The letter sent by our correspondent is signed "J. D. Young," and is in the same handwriting as the address on the envelope. Both letter and envelope bear Messrs. Young's imprint. The letter is dated from Petersburg, Va., 22nd May, 1872, and contains most of the information respecting the Petersburg stamp which was embodied in Mr. Coster's first letter. At the close of the letter Mr. Young says, "Let me assure you that I do not consider giving such information as I can about this a trouble, rather a pleasure. As I before stated, I once had a small collection, and know how to value such things." The visiting-card simply bears the imprint, "John D. Young," and below "Petersburg, Va."—Ed.]

ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS.

H. A. F., Victoria.—1. The Mecklenburg and Brunswick quartett should be collected entire, but a single quarter might be put by the side of the entire stamp, to illustrate its use.—2 and 3. The 1½ schilling stamp, with value in centre of a wreath, is one of the provisional Holstein stamps issued by the Prussians during the Danish war; and the 1½ schg. Schleswig belongs to the same epoch.—4. The profile on the Java stamps is that of the king of Holland.

E. B., St. Albans.—Your 30 c. Belgian is certainly of a paler shade than ordinary—more buff than amber; it comes, probably, from stock recently printed, and, as a colour-variety, is worthy of collection.

A Collector of Stamps, Norbiton, writes to express his concurrence in the opinions as to the advisability of collecting cut envelopes, advocated in a letter quoted in the article entitled "The Gordian Knot of Stamp-Collecting," which appeared in our June number.

A. S. S., Wokingham.—We are aware that the circulation of most of the French imperial stamps has exceeded that of the Republican issue; nevertheless, we are obliged for your communication.

F. R., New York.—We beg to thank you for your courtesy in sending us a specimen of the perforated Japanese—the first we had seen. It was duly noticed in our last.

P. J. A., Inverness.—The list of philatelic publications alluded to on page 182 of our last volume, was published in the October number of *The American Journal of Philately.*

W. G. B., London.—The fact that you received a perforated 4 c. French (head of Liberty) on the 26th *June*, does not militate against the correctness of a statement made by us in *April*, to the effect that no one had then seen such a stamp. In fact, the perforated 4 c. was issued in June, and is not a new edition of the Bordeaux type, but an engraved copy of the design of the latter.

F. H. H., Kew.—The labels from France, printed in black on yellow, orange, and red paper, bearing the profile of a man in the centre, and inscribed TNAT SNOC LIREMUD, must be unmitigated humbugs.

L. W. M., Valparaiso.—The inaccuracy of the statement with reference to the abstention from using the imperial stamps during the siege of Paris, has already been admitted.—Our English postage stamps can still be cashed at the post-office against 2½ per cent discount.

OUR CONTEMPORARIES.

[EMISSIONS NOTICED IN THE PRESENT ARTICLE:—*Falkland Islands—Geneva—Austria—Denmark—Wurtemburg—French Colonies—Sandwich Islands—New Brunswick.*]

La Gazette des Timbres.—The opening number was reviewed in our last impression; the notice of the second number of a journal which takes an honoured place among "Our Contemporaries" finds place here.

The latter opens with the first instalment of the promised "Notes on the Methodical Formation of a Collection," which will, we do not doubt, prove of much value, for, as its author remarks, "Up to the present time no one has settled, or at any rate demonstrated, the principles which should govern the formation of a collection of stamps. Everyone has been guided by his own taste and fancy. No doubt each one can extend or restrict his collection according to his idea or his personal resources; it is not less true that the formation and classification may be submitted to a defined method. What distinctions should characterise a collection of this kind? To what categories of stamps can it apply? And of each category what are the stamps which the collection should contain, to be complete? On the other hand, what are the stamps which should be excluded, in order that it may not lose its *spécialité?*" These questions go to the root of the matter, and from the replies which they will receive, and the discussion by which they will be followed—if such replies do not meet with general acceptance—will, we trust, result the establishment of such exact and recognised definitions as will subject stamp-collecting to a salutary code of laws. We will not attempt to forestall the discussion by answering any of these questions ourselves, but we may remark that, faithful to the title of the journal and of the article itself, its author treats not of postage stamps in particular, but of all kinds of stamps—postage, telegraph, and fiscal—in general. With the observations treating of fiscal stamps we have nothing to do; but the rules which should govern collecting as they apply to all stamps, whatever their employment, will, *à fortiori*, apply to the collection of our own *protégés*—postage stamps.

The author, with strict regard to logic, opens his article with a definition of the word stamp, and argues that the service performed by a stamp, namely, the payment to the state of a charge or duty, and not the fact of its being adhesive or impressed, should decide its acceptance or exclusion. He then proceeds to the division of stamps into two grand classes or categories—I. The fiscal stamps, which represent the payment of a tax or duty; and—II. The postage and telegraph stamps, wherewith payment is made to the state for services rendered by it. The author's predilections are strongly in favour of the collection of fiscals, and are shown by his putting them in the first class, for no reason that we can imagine other than priority of invention. He discusses, with evident pleasure, the circumstances connected with their emission, and expresses his regret that up to the present time they have not been properly catalogued, whilst the smallest details connected with postage stamps have been carefully described. In further development of his objection, he adds the following foot-note, the argument in which deserves attention:—

"Not only have the secondary varieties been described, which have but little value for the history of stamps, but, which yet might merit notice as affecting the partial emission of a given type (the Oldenburg stamp, with error *Oldeiburg;* stamps of Modena and Parma, with sundry errors, &c.), but other varieties have also been mentioned which are totally insignificant, such as those which result from an *isolated* typographical accident (as, for instance, when two envelopes with inscription having passed under the press at the same time, one of them has received an uncoloured impression from the die). It would, perhaps, be advisable to disengage the already minute details in the study of stamps from these complications which offer no real interest."

In the "Little" or "Minor Gazette," Doctor Magnus discourses on "what may be included in a limited collection." After referring to the existence of the different classes of stamps mentioned above, he recommends the young collector to confine his attention to postage stamps, and further

counsels beginners to a complete abstention from the study of perforations, of varieties of shade, and of descriptions of paper, but he engages them to accept, though with caution, the issues of private offices.

The Chronicle and the first instalment of the *Catalogue Raisonné* complete the number. In the latter article the list of the Austrian stamps is commenced, and the names of the colours which should be collected by beginners are printed in a thick salient type.

The third number of this journal reaches us at the moment of going to press, and we have only space for a hasty survey of its contents. It opens with a notice of the Falkland Islands, and their solitary hand-struck impression; which, as it is probably made on the envelope after payment of the postal rate, Dr. Magnus considers to be nothing more than a simple postmark.

In the continuation of the "Memoir on the Methodical Formation of a Collection," the author describes the various species of postage stamps, recommends the acceptance of unstamped post cards, and adds, that as an aid to study and verification, it is well to add to the collection:—1. Stamps prepared by a postal administration, but not issued in consequence of some change, political or otherwise. 2. Official reprints, which however, he admits have scientifically no intrinsic value. "The stamp," he observes, "is not an engraving published for the satisfaction of collectors, but an official instrument created for the service of the public." 3. Counterfeits, when made with a view to defraud the governments, or, in some exceptional cases, as an indispensable means of verification (*e. g.*, Moldavia, 1st issue). 4. Essays issued by a postal administration, or, at its instigation, by private engravers, but not mere speculative productions. In the "Minor Gazette," beginners are, with reason, warned against putting their faith in obliterations as a guarantee of authenticity, and good advice is given them as to the selection of their stamps. A second instalment of the "Catalogue Raisonné" and the usual "Chronicle" complete the number.

Le Timbre-Poste.—In the current number appears a further instalment of Dr. Magnus's article on "Stamped Envelopes," in which those of Switzerland are treated of, commencing with the 5 c. envelope of Geneva. Dr. Magnus is not of those who doubt its authenticity because all the entire envelopes known are unobliterated. As to the adhesive 5 c. green on *white*, which is said to exist, the following are the learned Doctor's observations:—

> It would be tolerably difficult to distinguish this stamp from the stamp of the envelope. However, as the paper of the latter is yellowish grey, if a stamp with small margin should turn up, on *white* paper, and gummed at the back, there would be a very strong presumption in favour of an adhesive stamp. But the yellowish tint which paper acquires in time, and the necessity for gumming a stamp in order to mount it on an envelope, render these characteristics very uncertain. The best proof that could be given of the existence of adhesive stamps printed on white paper would be to produce an uncut pair of them. Until then the existence of the adhesive stamp, printed in colour on white paper, will always appear to us doubtful, and the distinction between it and the cut envelope very problematical.

The number closes with "Three facts in the History of the Postage Stamp in Austria," by Baron A. de Rothschild. The first of these facts is, that whilst the postage between Austria and France, prior to the conclusion of a postal treaty, was about thirty-two centimes, it is now, by virtue of the treaty, sixty centimes, of which sum twenty centimes go to the profit of the Austrian treasury, and is a clear loss to the French public. This strange result arises from the application of a favourite doctrine of the French post-office, that it is entitled to collect a charge of twenty centimes on all letters traversing French territory, no matter to what extent, and that it recognises the right, on the part of foreign post-offices, to claim an equal sum.

The second fact has reference to the usefulness of stamped envelopes in Hungary. A correspondent of the baron, residing in Hungary, informed him that finding that many of his letters to France, duly prepaid by him by means of adhesive stamps, never reached their destination, he applied to the postmaster of his town—the second in importance in the realm of St. Etienne—for an explanation, and the latter then admitted to him that the postal *employés*, being very badly paid, did not hesitate to increase their income by removing the 25 kreuzer stamps from letters for France, selling them, and destroying the letters themselves! The

Hungarian postmaster indicated to the applicant, as a friend, a means of escaping from a practice to which he declared his subordinates resorted from pure want, viz., the employment of stamped envelopes. Baron Rothschild, unable to guarantee the exactness of this piquant anecdote, closes it with the expression of a good-humoured doubt whether his friend may not have written with more wit than accuracy.

The third fact is, that the "journal tax"—which Austria collects by means of the well-known square stamp, with arms in centre—on all foreign journals, though termed a tax, is, in reality, a poorly disguised increase of the postal rates, and ought, so thinks the writer, to be considered as a serious infraction of the international conventions.

The Philatelical Journal opens, as usual, with the "Cream of the Magazines," and, in connection with the "Papers for Beginners," on Denmark, discusses, for the benefit of advanced collectors, the issue of the early Danish stamps, on paper *burelé*, and non-*burelé*, and prints the following list of the varieties, originally compiled by the late Mr. Pauwels.

First Issue.—4. R.B.S.

No burelé.—Yellow-brown, chocolate.
Burelé, white or yellowish paper.—Yellow-brown, chocolate, dark brown.

Second Issue.—Dotted ground.

No burelé.—2 sk. blue, pale blue; 4 sk. brown, yellow-brown; 8 sk. green, *var.* on yellowish paper; 16 sk. grey-lilac, bright violet.
Burelé.—2 sk pale blue; 4 sk. yellow-brown, chestnut-brown, varying; 8 sk. yellow-green.

Wavy Ground.

No burelé.—4 sk. yellow-brown, brown; 8 sk. green; 4 sk. brown, *rouletted;* 16 sk. violet, *rouletted.*
Burelé.—4 sk. yellow-brown, chestnut-brown, deep brown; 8 sk. green.
4 sk. pale chestnut, *rouletted.*

Our contemporary closes its comments on the Danish stamps, with a bit of gossip anent the well-known pair of brown essays, "head of Mercury and king," which is worth reprinting.

During the year 1863, we obtained from Mr. Eric Ritzau, of Copenhagen (then a well-known collector), a pair of the genuine stamps, of which he gave us the history. Of the original essays, as submitted to government, either but three pairs had been preserved, or else but three pairs had been printed (our memory will not allow us to state positively); but these three original pairs were thus dispersed, first, the pair in Mr. Ritzau's collection sent to us; secondly, a pair in the possession of a Danish gentleman, Mr. Hans Kiœr, then residing in Hong Kong (who was also an old correspondent of ours), and third, a pair that Laplante (a then well-known Paris dealer) had managed to secure. Subsequently, a second pair was engraved, of which fifty pairs came into the hands of collectors—all others are forgeries; and this is the outline of the curious history of the three original pairs of Danish essays, as given to ourselves nine years ago, and which we never remember to have seen in print.

Following the "Cream of the Magazines" comes an instructive article by the Rev. R. B. Earée, on the Swedish stamps, and an intricate demonstration, by Mr Tiffany, of the inaccuracy of the official documents quoted by us in 1867, in reference to the large-figure Argentine. We must admit that we lack the time to prove his calculations; and, on the other hand, we must also acknowledge that the history of these large-figure Argentines is not quite clear from doubt, in spite of the documents which were communicated to us.

In the article on "Novelties," the editor, referring to the issue of unperforated republican stamps to the French colonies, considers it self-evident that they must belong to the *engraved* type, "as this type has always hitherto been perforated, whilst the lithographed were unperforate;" but his argument proceeds on the assumption that there are no more lithographed stamps left, whilst to us it had seemed possible that the remnant of the lithographed supply had been sent out to the colonies.

The valuable paper on "The Turkish Stamps," by "A Parisian Collector," commenced some months, back is completed, and Mr. Atlee's monograph on the Sandwich Islands is continued in the present number. From the latter we learn that the recent forgeries of the 1 and 2 c., figure black on white wove, blue wove, and blue laid (according to a statement made to Mr. Atlee by a continental dealer of known probity), were received direct from the postal authorities of Honolulu. It is therefore evident, says the writer, that the officials have lowered themselves to commit a fraud on stamp-collectors, for the sake of putting money into their probably famished exchequer.

"Our Catalogue" contains some further

announcements respecting Mr. Edward L. Pemberton's projected work, including that of his intention, for clearness' sake, to "eschew minor variations in the texture of unwatermarked paper, and to catalogue no *subsidiary* shades. "The Latest Strike," "A Fool answered according to his Folly," "Reviews," and "Answers," complete a fair average number.

The Philatelist for September is principally noticeable for the continuation of two well-known articles—"The Envelopes of Germany," and "The Spud Papers." In the former the Wurtemburg emissions form the subject of analysis, and the following observations occur therein with regard to the relative excellence of the impression of the envelopes at Berlin and Stuttgard :—

> Another element of variety is dependent on the inscriptions. The Wurtemburg envelopes were manufactured at Stuttgard. This first series bears marks of the want of that finish which is to be found in the envelopes manufactured at Berlin ; and in no point is this want of finish so noticeable as in the printing of the inscription. If we compare the Wurtemburg envelopes with those of the southern division of Tour and Taxis, the inscription on which consists of the same words as on the Wurtemburg, the irregularity of the printing of these latter will be self-evident. Instead of there being an interval between each repetition of the four words of the inscription, the last word of one sentence frequently runs into the first word of the succeeding one, and the letters are sometimes above and sometimes below the line.

The "Spud" paper treats of the New Brunswick forgeries, of which specimens of these illustrate the article. None of them seem really dangerous; but the 17 c. black has rather a deceptive look about it, and it may be as well to mention that this forgery is distinguished by the *absence* of the brooch which appears in the genuine on the Prince's shoulder. In the article "Our Prize Essays," the editor describes the prizeman's designs, which he says "might be mistaken for coloured lithographs;" and having had the opportunity of inspecting them ourselves, we can fully endorse this encomium.

The American Journal of Philately is certainly not improving. The September number contains a useless "table of dates of first issue, and number of stamps issued by each country." The sole novelty in the article on new issues, is a mythical Chinese local stamp, value $\frac{1}{2}$ *boo*, and supposed to have been issued at Hongkong by a firm styled Sutherland and Co. ;—probably an American house. *The American Journal of Philately* has no doubt of the authenticity of the stamp. The instalment of "Notes on United States Locals" is occupied with a recantation of past errors in description. The "Notes on the Stamps of Brazil" are well-written, but contain absolutely no new information; and the number closes with a reprint of an article written by Dr. Gray ten years ago.

THE CITY DELIVERY POSTS OF SAN FRANCISCO.

BY C. H. COSTER.

I.—THE CALIFORNIA PENNY POST CO.

[ALTHOUGH many of the varieties of the "penny post" were described in a recent number of *The Philatelical Journal*, I trust that no apology is needed for reproducing them here, together with such other types and information as I have been able to obtain.]

This company was started in the year 1855 by one J. P. Goodwin, for the purpose explained in the following circular, which we have extracted from the June number of *The Philatelical Journal*.

"Penny Post Company, Office, 135, California Street, San Francisco. By enclosing a 5 cents envelope to the Penny Post Co. in a letter, that may be sent up by express for 25 cents, the answer enclosed in that envelope will be delivered in San Francisco by 7 o'clock, without further charge. Rates—5 cents prepaid, or 10 cents not prepaid."

It had offices established in several of the principal cities of the west, as enumerated on the printed franks of the company, illustrated on the succeeding pages.

To commence with the envelopes, the types of which we will designate by the letters appended thereto.

A.—Unfortunately, the illustration will give but an indifferent idea of the original. The discrepancies arise through the printers having no type similar to the old-fashioned style used on the envelope in question. I will point out the differences :—

"To the Penny Post Co." is in open letters.
"For" is in shaded letters.
"No." and "Street" are in much larger letters.
"California" is in open letters.

The government postage is prepaid by unperforated 3 cent and 10 cent stamps of the 1851 issue, which are postmarked "St. Louis." It bears the usual handstamp of the "Penny Post Company" in the left-hand lower corner.

Next we have an envelope in everywise similar, excepting that it is slightly larger, and reads PENNY POST PAID, 7. This I have not seen, but I have received notice of it from a valued correspondent, who says it is prepaid by two 3 cent stamps of the 1851 issue, and that it is endorsed "Answered, Novr. 7, 1855." *The Philatelical Journal* notices a cut copy of the above, which, it says, is from an 1853 envelope. All the above are printed in black on buff coloured envelopes.

B.—The illustration speaks for itself. The words "To," "No.," "Street," and "Cal." are slightly different in the original, which is on a 3 c. buff envelope of 1853, and impressed in black. The specimen from which I now describe is dated in pencil "February, 1856." *The Philatelical Journal* notes a 2 c. to match, but reading "To the post office." As, however, it is cut from the envelope, further particulars are lacking.

C.—The transverse oval is embossed, and it is impressed in red on a 3 cent 1853 envelope.

D.—For exactly what purpose this was used I am at a loss to surmise; I can scarcely think that it was used for the private correspondence of the company, but rather that the notice at top is intended to call the attention of the sender to the fact that it is not printed on a government envelope, and must, therefore, be prepaid in government stamps; and that it does not allude to the private fee of the "penny post," which was probably collected at destination. It must be understood that I do not assert this as a fact, but merely give it as a suggestion.

As to the *adhesives*, we will designate them by numbers for reference.

1.—Transverse oval, formed by row of pearls, surrounded by single line, enclosed in rectangular frame. The space between the oval and the outside frame is filled up with straight lines. In the centre: CALIFORNIA PENNY POST CO. in curved line at top; 5 CENTS in centre; at bottom, PAID TO THE POST OFFICE, curved. Apparently from a wood-block. Blue impression on rough yellowish paper.

2. 

blue impression.

3. 

"

4. 

"

These last three are, to all appearance, printed from steel dies. I have no proof that No. 4 was ever used by the "California Penny Post Company," but I believe that No. 3 undoubtedly was.

5.—*The Philatelical Journal* also notes a stamp, which is very similar to the design enclosed in the rectangular frame forming a part of envelope B; "but the entire background is of very fine horizontal lines, on which PAID 5 appears in white letters, surcharged with FROM THE POST OFFICE, CARE OF THE PENNY POST CO., in text hand, above which are the words CALIFORNIA PENNY POSTAGE. The small imitation stamp is larger, and clearly resembles the 1853 envelope; the impression is blue, on very thin white paper." It is somewhat dubious as to whether this is an adhesive or has been cut from an envelope. The *pros* and *cons* may be found at the top of page 107 of the journal from which I extract the above.

A.

TO THE PENNY POST CO.

PENNY-POSTAGE PAID, 5.

FOR_____

No._____ Street,

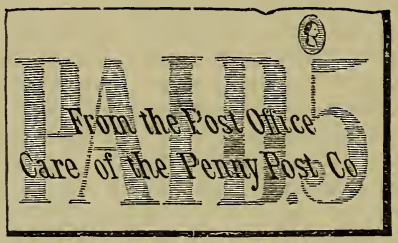
_____

CALIFORNIA.

The party whose name is on this Envelope, is hereby authorized to open the same and appropriate its contents.

B.

LETTERS and other MAIL MATTER deposited in *any* Post Office, will be DELIVERED in SAN FRANCISCO, SACRAMENTO, STOCKTON, or MARYSVILLE, *immediately* on the arrival of the Mails, if addressed to the care of the "PENNY POST CO."



*To*_____

*No*_____ *Street,*

_____

Cal.

C.

The Penny-Post Co. deliver letters enclosed in these Envelopes *immediately* on the distribution of the Mails, in
San Francisco,
Sacramento,
Stockton,
Benicia,
Marysville,
Coloma,
Nevada,
Grass Valley,
Mokelumne Hill.



TO THE PENNY POST CO.

Care of _____

No. _____ *Street,*

_____

Cal.

The party to whose care this is directed is hereby authorized to open the same and appropriate its contents.

D.

Letters enclosed in this Envelope *alone* cannot be forwarded, as the Postage is not paid. Seal your letter, then enclose in envelope addressed to the Penny-Post Co. Write plain. Give occupation, number and name of Street when known.

_____

To _____

No _____ *Street,*

_____

Cal.

Care of the Penny-Post Co.

NEWLY-ISSUED OR INEDITED STAMPS.

JAPAN.—The values quoted for the perforated set by *The American Journal of Philately* appear to be incorrect. Our Brighton contemporary, whose information is doubtless derived from a trustworthy source, states them to be as follows:—



½ tenpo.

½	tenpo	chocolate-brown
½	,,	sage-green
1	,,	blue
2	,,	vermilion.



1 tenpo.



2 tenpoes.

It also adds: "The ½ tenpo sage-green is the only gummed stamp of this issue; we therefore presume that it supersedes the ½ tenpo chocolate-brown, and that the latter will become scarce. Doubtless a perforated 5 tenpoes is in use, but no specimen has yet reached us. It will be noticed that the symbol which appeared at the top of the old set is found at the bottom of the new, with *one* variable device above." The impression of these new-comers is on the whole inferior to that of the unperforated set, the designs being more or less blurred. The central characters alone are finer. Our contemporary gives no reason for his assumption that a 5 tenpo stamp is in use, but the extension of the postal system would form a sufficient ground for crediting its existence.

The *Gazette des Timbres*, to hand since the above was written, gives the values as *sen*, or *zeni;* but in these denominations it is easy to trace the *tenpo* of the English journals, and this value is admitted on all hands to be the equivalent of the American *cent*. Our Parisian contemporary gives the following explanation of the inscription, which seems to us to be rather contradictory. "The new stamps are of the same type as the old, but of the two characters in black which they bear, the lower, which signifies *sen* or *zeni*, is the *reproduction* of the upper one on the old. In fact, the stamps are issued in a new currency, hence whilst in the old the value is expressed in *mons*, the new has it in *sen* or *zeni*."

Now, such being the case, it seems to us that the character on the new stamps, signifying *sen* or *zeni*, can hardly be the reproduction of the character on the old stamps, signifying *mons;* and if, in fact, the old stamps bear the character which represents *sen*, or *zeni*, then their value cannot have been expressed in *mons*, unless, indeed, both denominations are quoted on the stamps.

Dr. Magnus gives as reasons for the impossibility of deciphering the characters by means of Mr. Earée's list, that, as regards the brown and greyish green, the figure representing ½ is not found therein; and as for the two higher values, the difficulty in recognising them results from the fact, that the signs on the first stamps, and those given by the journals, are the common Japanese figures, whilst the signs on the new blue and red stamps are "monumental" figures—*i.e.*, as we understand it, antique numerals.

SPAIN.—Through the kindness of an esteemed correspondent, we are enabled to announce that the new emission for this country will come into use on this 1st of October, and will consist of the following values:—

With figure of value:	
4-4 cent de peseta	pale blue (unperf.)
2 ,, ,,	mauve, red-violet.
5 ,, ,,	deep green.
With head of king:	
6 cent de peseta	bright blue.
10 ,, ,,	dull lilac.
12 ,, ,,	lilac.
25 ,, ,,	light brown.
40 ,, ,,	pale brown.
50 ,, ,,	pale green.
With profile of king:	
1 peseta	dull lilac.
4 ,,	pale brown.
10 ,,	pale green.

We hope soon to have a sight of these long-expected novelties, and so be able, in

the next number, to furnish our readers with a more minute description of them. Meanwhile, we trust they may be worthy of our most sanguine anticipations.

Russian Locals.—*Fatejh* (Koursk). The handstamped envelopes of this district have but just made their appearance, fourteen months after their discovery. The design is an odd one, and may give rise to much conjecture as to the staple productions of Fatejh. If the gun be a fowling-piece, and the birds partridges, then the intimation which these signs may be taken to convey, that there are some good covers in the neighbourhood of Fatejh, may prove useful to sporting philatelists in search of "fresh fields and pastures new," and the illustration appears with seasonable appropriateness. However, leaving the task of deciphering the design to more competent hands, we have to notice that there are two values of this design, viz., 4 kop., "for letters going to post-towns"—so says our correspondent—and 6 kop., "for letters delivered in the district." Hence it will be seen, that the charge for delivery in the neighbourhood is higher than that for conveyance to a post town. The colours are 4 kop. dark blue, and 6 kop. vermilion, and the impression is on the flap of the envelope.



Belozersk.—The stamp for this district is stated by the Belgian journal to be now printed on cartridge-paper, and the impression is said to be better than it used to be.

Soummy.—The same authority notices a Soummy 5 kop. red, changed in value to 6 kop. by the simple expedient of a pen-and-ink alteration of the figure. We should hardly care to insert a specimen of such a "provisional" stamp unless we received it direct from the post-office, and hardly then; for the facilities for manufacturing a supply would form an overpowering temptation to dealers of a certain class. The information quoted by M. Moens, that 1 kop. green, 2 kop. blue, and 5 kop. red stamps "have existed," is rather too vague to be of any great value.

Riasin.—The 2 kop. black, most probably superseded by a 5 kop., is now printed in gold, copies of which have been received by M. Moens, who also notices that the 2 kop. blue has changed from pale to Prussian blue, in consequence of a new supply having been printed off.

Livonia.—Annexed is the engraving which arrived too late for insertion in our last. In reference to our inability to comprehend the change in the design, an esteemed correspondent writes us that the arm grasping a sword is no other than the coat of arms of Wenden; whereas the winged griffin, which appeared on an earlier issue of the Wenden stamps, is the heraldic device of the county of Livonia.



Portuguese Indies.—The stamps of the Portuguese settlements, or Goa stamps, as we may for shortness term them, are now generally admitted to be genuine, and we willingly withdraw the protest which we felt called upon to lodge against them on their first appearance. Their original describer, M. Moens, has given a catalogue of the various types, which we cannot do better than reproduce, acknowledging that we avail ourselves of the translation of the same already published by our Birmingham contemporary. Two types have been discovered and may briefly be identified by the following distinctions:—

First Series.

First Type.—Wove paper, thin, *percés en points* (16) *sur ligne droit.*

10 reis	black,
20 „	vermilion.
900 „	bright violet.

Second Type.—Same paper and perforation as above.

40 reis	dull blue.
100 „	green.
200 „	olive-yellow.

Second Series.

First Type.—Wove paper, much thicker, perf. 13½, square punctures.

10	reis	black.
20	,,	vermilion.
40	,,	ultramarine.
100	,,	grass-green.
200	,,	canary.
300	,,	dark violet-brown.
600	,,	,, ,,
900	,,	,, ,,

THIRD SERIES.

First Type.—Laid paper, perf. 13½, square punctures.

10	reis	black.
20	,,	vermilion.
40	,,	ultramarine.

Our Belgian *confrère* having been able to complete his list, after the examination of a supply of all the values which has reached him from the colony, is able to certify that the second type is no longer employed for any of the values. He also states that a new series is about to be issued, the existing design not giving entire satisfaction. Nothing indeed could well be poorer. One frame serves for all the values, the indicating numerals of which are afterwards hand-struck in the centre of the circle.

MOLDAVIA.—The mystery which enveloped the stamps of the first issue of Moldavia, has been in a great measure cleared away by the investigations of collectors, consequent on the publication of the official documents relative to this issue, which appeared first in *Le Timbre-Poste*, and which were laid before our readers in the XVIIth and XVIIIth numbers of the "Papers for Beginners."

In No. XIX., Mr. Overy Taylor, in reference to the five types described by Dr. Magnus, stated that the weight of opinion was in favour of the genuineness of the stamps of the *first* types on *laid* paper; that of this type and paper three values were known, viz., the 27, 54, and 108 paras, and that the 81 paras was still to be discovered. He further stated that this was the verdict of Mr. Philbrick, "A Parisian Collector," and other authorities, in which he begged leave to concur. This opinion was furthur confirmed in an article by "A Parisian Collector," which appeared in the February number of *The Philatelical Journal*, in which the author says, "Up to the present time, no specimen of the 81 paras has been found on laid paper, but we would venture to predict that it exists; and our own belief is, that the only stamps which formed a portion of this issue, are the 27 paras, the first type of the 54, the first type of the 108, and the unknown type of the 81."

The untiring energy of the editor of *Le Timbre-Poste* has been at length crowned with success. A specimen of the 81 paras has been disinterred by him, answering all the requirements to its thorough genuineness. It is on laid paper, and obliterated with the circular handstamp mentioned, *sup.* page 70;* the name of the town in the upper half being GALATZ, and the date 26–9. The obliterating ink is of the same colour and nature as that found on all the other known authentic specimens of the 27, 54, and 108 paras on laid paper. The type belongs to that described by Dr. Magnus as type III. We are informed that copies of this type exist in the collections of Dr. Magnus and Mr. Philbrick, on ordinary plain wove paper; but they are unobliterated, and therefore, if from the same die, of which we cannot speak from personal examination, they are probably reprints.

NEW SOUTH WALES.—The outline of a Kangaroo, surmounted by the letters A. P., forms the watermark of certain penny newspaper bands, the stamps on which are surcharged "specimen," and no one knows whether this watermark is in use, or is merely an essay. *The Philatelical Journal* believes it is at present in use; but it rather oracularly adds, "From a circumstance which has come to our knowledge, we think we may safely assert that, if not current *now*, it will not be used at all." Our engraving is less than half the size of the watermark it represents. What can be the meaning of the letters A. P.? Do they stand for Australian postage?



ECUADOR.—We find in the current number of the *Gazette des Timbres*, an engraving of a new type for these stamps, of which a 1 real

* The word in the lower half is not MOLDAVIA, but MOLDOVA.

orange-yellow has already appeared. The engraving is exceedingly rough, but whether intentionally, or not, we cannot say; if, however, the blurred illustration is a studiously exact copy of the original, then certainly the Ecuador authorities have not gained much by the change of type. The design is an evident copy of that of the Costa Rica stamps. The arms are in the centre, with the lictorial fasces beneath, in a foliate frame, above which is a scroll, inscribed in small letters, CORREOS DE ECUADOR, and above that again is an arched label, inscribed PORTO-REAL, broken by the figure 1, on a circular disk. The value is repeated in letters on an horizontal label in the lower margin. The stamp is lithographed on white paper, and is *piqué* $10\frac{1}{2}$.

UNITED STATES.—It has been decided to issue post cards, which are to make their appearance on this 1st of October. They are to bear an impressed one cent stamp, and also a head of the goddess of Liberty, with the legend UNITED STATES POSTAL CARD, and the instructions: "Write the superscription on this side, and the communication on the other." There is something rather pedantic in the case of the word "superscription" in this sentence, but then it would not have done to have textually copied the English form. The Americans are no doubt right in terming the card a "postal" card; the term "post card" seems to us objectionable, and to be, in fact, a verbatim rendering of the inscription on the foreign cards.

MEXICO.—A six cent olive-green of the new type, on ordinary white paper, without any blue lines on the back, has just been received at Brussels; it is probably not too much to anticipate that the other values will put in their appearance on paper without the *moiré* back. Possibly the accession of a new president may give rise to the emission of a new series; *certes*, the present one, if withdrawn, will not be regretted, except by collectors who have failed to obtain specimens.

PHILIPPINES.—The only true and correct list of the values of the new series is the following:—

6 cents de peseta		
16 „	„	ultramarine.
62 „	„	lilac.
1 peseta 25 cents		blue on flesh.
2 „ 50 „		rose (?)
5 „		grey (?)

We should like to know what is the value of the peseta here referred to.

MAURITIUS.—The Belgian magazine states that it has received intelligence of the preparation of two new envelopes, value, 10d. rose, 1/8 blue. There will also be a tenpence adhesive, "morocco colour and gold." *The Philatelical Journal* throws doubt on this announcement, arguing, with some reason, that news of the intention to issue these new stamps would more probably come from Europe than from the island.

PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND.—The 10 cents rose-lilac, introduced by M. Moens, but unknown to the postal authorities of the island, he now states was received by him indirectly from Mons. Maury, who has not yet come forward with any explanation as to how, when, and where he obtained it. Have the forgers of the 4 cents had the audacity to invent a value, and palm it off on the well-known Parisian dealer as a veritable issue?

ROUMANIA.—The Roumanian government, tired of the lithographic productions of native artists, has ordered a set of engraved stamps at Paris, and they are on the eve of making their appearance; so saith that oft-quoted authority, *Le Timbre-Poste*. Meanwhile, the printing off of the existing type has been arrested, and some post-offices which have run out of ten bani stamps are selling pairs of five bani in their stead.

ALASKA. (Behring's Straits).—Dr. Magnus closes his chronicle of new issues in the current number of his journal, with the following postscript. "At the moment of going to press, a trustworthy person informs us that he has learnt from a traveller, that a private post-office, using its own postage stamps, exists at the Russian establishment of Alaska, to the south of Behring's Straits. We give the statement under reserve."

SWEDEN.—It is stated that a new envelope and a new post card, each of the value of 10 öre, will make their appearance on the 1st of January; if so, then a new 10 öre adhesive will also be required. No sensible explanation is yet offered of the issue of a post card at the same price as the envelope.

FINLAND.—We have received information from a semi-official source, that new 8 penni post cards have been issued with the inscriptions in *three* languages (*qy.*, Finnish, Swedish, and Russ). These may fairly be termed the polyglot cards.

SERVIA.—The one para stamp of this country, now printed on thick white paper, is no longer perforated. A fresh emission, signalising the majority of the young prince, may surely be anticipated.

ORANGE FREE STATE.—The shilling stamp, says *The Philatelical Journal*, now comes over in a brown-orange shade.

TRINIDAD.—We also learn that the latest arrivals of the shilling stamp for this colony are printed orange.

THE POISONED POSTAGE STAMPS.

AN AMERICAN STORY.

[THE following curious narrative caught our eye in a French paper of recent date, and was doubtless originally translated from some American journal. We translate it back into English, and give it for what it may be worth].

Doctor Chesley, of Nottingham, New Hampshire, received, a few days since, a letter, bearing a signature with which he was unacquainted, and enclosing two postage stamps, accompanied with a request for a prompt reply to an address in New York. The doctor, thinking he had unearthed a client, wrote off instanter the required reply, and stuck on the envelope one of the stamps he had received. But no sooner had he passed his tongue across the gummed back of the stamp than he felt a sudden qualm. He immediately tried his pulse, looked at his tongue in the glass, listened to his own breathing, and set down in writing the following diagnostic:—"Mysterious sensation of lassitude; convulsive beating of the heart; difficulty in breathing; general disturbance of the system." Having thus "diagnosticated," the doctor called his wife, and said to her,—"My dear I have poisoned myself with this postage stamp."

"Intentionally?" she asked.

"No," he replied. "Involuntarily. It was sent to me through the post, and I did not know it was poisoned."

"My dear, it's not possible," returned the wife.

"Not possible," he cried. "That's just like the women,—well then, madame, do me the favour to lick the other postage stamp." And he handed her the second stamp sent. She wetted it with her tongue, and was immediately seized with the same symptoms as those of her husband, but of a much more violent character.

"There, I told you so," cried the doctor, triumphantly. Then he felt his wife's pulse, made her show her tongue, applied his ear to her chest, and said, rubbing his hands, "You are much more severely bitten than I. Would you like to know how that happens?"

"I would much rather that you saved me," murmured the wife.

"Let us go in an orderly way to work," replied the doctor. "You must first learn why the symptoms are more accentuated with you than with me; secondly, I shall save myself, for, having absorbed the poison first, it is but logical that I should get rid of it the first. After that I will take you in hand."

Here the doctor made a pause, introduced his finger and thumb into a tobacco pouch, thence withdrew a pinch of tobacco, and holding it under his wife's nose,—"You have often reproached me, madame," said he, "with smoking tobacco, but it is this vulgar habit which you may thank for not being a widow now, for the tobacco has acted as an antidote—vulgarly called a counter-poison—and that is why you are worse than I am."

If the doctor had continued a few minutes longer, his wife would have been lost; but he stopped in time, took an emetic himself, and administered to her another emetic, and both husband and wife are quite well to-day. The suspected stamps have been sent to Boston to be analysed.

A MECHANICAL STAMP ALBUM.—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.

OCCASIONAL NOTES.

A LIGHT RED penny Nova Scotia is certainly a great rarity, for Mr. S. Allan Taylor says so, and who could doubt his word? He informs our publishers that no one ever seems to have seen it before; and then with a touch of sarcasm, which is not without its substratum of truth, he adds, "It would doubtless be worth many pounds, if some aspiring philatelist would put it up at auction." We do not think that Mr. Taylor —philatelic Barnum as he is—expected to be able to palm off this scarce rarity on our publishers, though, perhaps, had he succeeded with the trial specimen, more might have been forthcoming; but whilst giving even Mr. Taylor his due, we think it as well to hint to him that chloride of sodium (common salt), or of lime, had a great deal more to do with the production of his light red Nova Scotia, than had the printer; in fact, the presence of the chemical can be detected almost immediately on applying the moistened tip of the tongue to the stamp. Our readers also may take the hint, and fight shy of similar transformations.

REVIEWS OF POSTAL PUBLICATIONS.

Catalogue prix-courant de Timbres-poste, essais divers, timbres-télégraphe, timbres fiscaux, &c. Fourth edition. 1st part. 1872. Brussels: J. B. Moens.

THIS publication, when it arrived at a third edition, in the early part of last year, was so enlarged as to embrace essays, telegraph, and fiscal stamps. The fourth edition now appears, with these various stamps arranged under the head of each country, so that at a glance may be seen what each country has done, not only in postage, but in other stamps; and though still called a *prix-courant*, it is in reality one of the most complete catalogues of postage, telegraph, and fiscal stamps that has yet appeared. In former editions of this work, M. Moens had adopted an alphabetical order of countries in each quarter of the globe; he has now abandoned this plan, and the whole is arranged alphabetically, without reference to the quarter of the world in which the various countries are to be found. For our own part, we prefer this mode to the geographical arrangement of the countries adopted by M. Berger-Levrault. What is required in a catalogue is easy reference; and now that the number of stamps and stamp-producing countries has so much increased, simplicity has become more than ever a *desideratum* in the arrangement of a catalogue.

The first number, which embraces A, B, C, and a portion of D, has come to hand so late, that we are unable to give more than this cursory notice of the work, reserving a fuller review of it until further advance is made towards its completion. We notice with satisfaction, that the perforations are given in the present edition; and that the dates of issue, as also the colours, have been carefully revised. When complete, we may venture to predict that it will be a great boon to philatelists of all classes.

Kpankla (segunda edicion de) y Klentrron (primera edicion de). Cartas Philatélecas del Dr. Thebussem y de Don Eduardo de Mariátegui. Madrid: Rivadeneyra, 1871.

THE second edition of the quaint and well-known *Kpankla* presents a considerable increase in size on the first. It has taken unto itself a supplement, entitled "*Klentrron*," and consisting of a letter from Don E. de Mariátegui to Dr. Thebussem. The supplement, we must avow, is not of great interest, but the body of the work is replete with pleasant reading. In fact, it is just the kind of publication required to popularise collecting in the country in whose language it is written. If we may venture to give a hint to its learned author, it would be to the effect that, with a little further enlargement, room might be found for the insertion of a chapter which should recapitulate in general terms, the introduction and spread of the postal system and its concomitant stamps, with a passing reference to those emissions which illustrate, in an eminent degree, the value of stamps as artistic products and historical evidences. It will then answer still more conclusively than at

present, the trite query—What is the use of them? and tend still further to spread the knowledge of philately in the country of the Hidalgos.

Of the new matter introduced into the second edition of *Kpankla*, the most noticeable is the reference to the obliteration of the surplus stock of Spanish stamps with a cross. Dr. Thebussem, who is no other than our old friend Senor M. de Figueroa, begins by quoting an old ordinance of Philip II., enjoining on his officials never to begin any letter or other document otherwise than with the sign of the cross, nor finish without some such phrase as "God guard you." He then, passing from the sixteenth to the nineteenth century, gives the text of the post-office regulation, dated 14th September, 1857, which requires that all useless stamps shall be marked with a cross in black ink. It is an odd rule when one comes to think of it, and it would seem to have had something to do with the accumulation of a large stock of obsolete issues. Dr. Thebussem does not quote the order for cancelling surplus stamps with broad printed bars. There is an immense number of these impressions in the market, and they have become of no more value than an ordinary used German stamp. The Spanish law against dealing in postage stamps does not operate in the case of these unsightly specimens.

In conclusion, we need scarcely say that we trust this publication will have the wide circulation it undoubtedly merits, for it is a striking evidence in itself of the thought-developing power of the study of stamps, and philatelists may well be proud to reckon the distinguished Spanish *savant* among their ranks.

THE master of one of the district post-offices at Ryde announces, by the following notice posted upon his shutters, his resignation of the duties of postmaster. "Notice.—Esplanade Post-office.—This office is closed, the renumeration of *eightpence* per day not paying working expenses—namely, receiving and despatching letters and newspapers, issuing post-office orders, transacting savings-bank business, and issuing dog and gun licenses; for which sum we had to find string, blotting-paper, pens, red and blue ink, gas, and 14 hours a day constant attendance, from seven a.m. till nine p.m., find office room, and fit up the office at our own expense. The brass plates for newspapers to be sold cheap. Inquire within.—Joel Hearder."

CORRESPONDENCE.

THE SURCHARGING ON THE MEXICAN STAMPS.

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

SIR,—I have a specimen of the 8 reales violet, or lilac, first issue Mexican, surcharged ORIZABA. It also has an oblong mark impressed in black—DE CORREOS TAV; the remainder is not on the stamp. I have not noticed this in any of the lists.

Yours faithfully,
W. M. COLLES.

WHAT IS A POSTAGE STAMP?

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

DEAR SIR,—How would some such definition as the following meet the query heading Mr. Taylor's article in your last number?

Postage stamps are marks attached, in various ways (by means of adhesive labels, envelopes, wrappers, hand-stamping, and so on), to letters, cards, circulars, newspapers, packets, &c., and signifying—*with respect to the cost of transit of such through the post office*—one of three things:—

a.—That a certain payment (including registration and too-late fees) has been made beforehand towards defraying said cost.

b.—That a certain payment is expected to be made on delivery.

c.—That the letter, packet, &c., is, for some reason or other, carried free of charge.

I confess that to me anything included in the above seems worthy of being called a "postage stamp." Whether all such should be collected is quite another matter. Let each one choose his own standard, and then be consistent.

Can you (or any of your correspondents) give me any information about the Italian magazines alluded to in *The Stamp-Collector's Magazine*, vol. ii, p. 141, vol. iv., p. 128? The progress of philatelic literature in Italy seems to have been overlooked by writers on the subject. I have noticed one reference to it elsewhere, but cannot lay my hands on the passage. The *Timbrophilist*, too, advertised by Van Rinsum, in 1869, as "published monthly in the Dutch language," I have never seen mentioned in any English magazine.

Yours faithfully,
Inverness. P. I. A.

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

DEAR SIR,—Under the above heading, Mr. Overy Taylor draws attention to those various auxiliaries of postage stamps proper, that, either by intent or accident, have come to be accepted by almost every *postage* stamp collector. As Mr. Taylor invites the serious attention of his readers to this subject, I feel sure he will not object to my criticism of his statements, particularly as in many points Mr. Taylor's views and my own are identical.

Mr. Taylor divides his remarks under the following heads:—(1) official; (2) unpaid letter; (3) returned letter; (4) registration and too-late; (5) newspaper impressed stamps. Each of these subjects I will discuss in their due order.

OFFICAL STAMPS.—My opinion concerning these impressions is given at p. 177 of your last volume. My list, then commenced, was written purely upon a point of consistency; for I said then, as I repeat now, that if we take

the adhesives we must, to be reasonable, also take the impressed. Mr. Taylor advises the rejection of official stamps altogether, and to a certain extent I feel bound to agree with him. Collectors never will discard the Danish and Spanish officials, or the Indian "service;" but let them follow Mr. Taylor's advice to keep them "quite apart from postage stamps proper."

Unpaid-Letter Stamps.—Mr. Taylor's argument in favour of keeping these labels is logical, and one that certainly had not occurred to me. Here again, however, the old difficulty of adhesive *versus* handstamped comes to the fore. Granted "that although you cannot *buy* an unpaid letter stamp you have to pay for it;" if for that reason you accept these labels, how about those handstruck impressions that you also had to pay for? If Great Britain uses a large impressed figure, or a mere pen-mark to show what is to be paid by the receiver, and France uses a label for the same purpose, must the mere accident (as it were) of the latter country using an adhesive stamp prevent us from placing in our albums the device adopted by Great Britain? It might be argued, that if we confine ourselves solely to *adhesive* unpaid-letter labels, then must we, to be consistent, reject *all* postage stamps that are not adhesive. Such an idea, however, can never have any existence, except in theory.

Returned-Letter Stamps.—These are upon an equality with the official stamps, and if we accept one class we must accept the other; or, if we reject one we must reject the other. I consider them quite out of place in a postage-stamp album, and if taken, they should (with the officials) occupy a book to themselves. The only adhesives are the many varieties of Bavarian, and the one for Wurtemburg. Many of the former are very commonplace, and nearly all one sees of the latter are forged.

Registration and Too-late Stamps.—These have been adopted by the following countries:—

Registration.	German Confederation.
	,, Empire.
	Prussia.
	New Granada.
	New South Wales.
	Queensland.
	United States.
	Victoria.
Too-late.	Victoria.
	Trinidad.

Of these, were not those of our colonies sold to the public, and by *them* affixed to the letters? If so, their collectable value is at once settled. That the registration stamps of New Granada were issued to the public I am almost certain; therefore, the only ones that are *known* as used solely by the authorities, are the Prussian, German, and the lately emitted label of the United States. As to the Trinidad "too-late," I will give no opinion; but as all the stamps alluded to above (except these and that of the United States) show that a certain amount has been paid by the sender, I consider them collectable.

Before I enter upon the subject of newspaper stamps, let me give my philatelical creed. I believe in accepting for a postage-stamp collection all labels, envelopes, or cards issued to the public—no matter whether by governments or by private individuals—for the prepayment of correspondence. I also accept all labels or bands for newspapers or printed matter issued by government post-offices, or offices existing under authority of any government. By this rule respecting printed-matter stamps, we can ignore a lot of things that are "neither fish nor fowl, nor good red herring," as the old saying has it.

Among others, I place upon the *index expurgatorius* the numerous British locals, and the railway newspaper stamps of this and other countries. In passing, I may condemn the collecting of the Austrian newspaper-tax labels, as they were merely fiscal, and neither prepaid the papers to which they were attached, nor showed that the *postal* authorities had made any extra charge. The *violet* French journal stamps are equally valueless to collectors.

Newspaper Impressed Stamps.—I am not aware that, with the exception of the Tuscany, any impressed newspaper stamps but our own were ever available for postal purposes. Although Mr. Taylor is quite correct in saying that our impressed stamps lost all their franking powers fifteen days after the date of their emission, still they *did* prepay newspapers through the post, and, therefore, they became postage stamps. These impressed stamps are still used by *The Times* and *Stamford Mercury*, and they are always obliterated, like other stamps, so how can we refuse to take them? Certainly, they are not issued to the public in one sense, yet they are in another. Anyhow, they are not used by the post-office, and the public pays for them before they are posted, and without the mediation of the postal authorities.

I have strung a few ideas together, making my remarks as compact as possible, but the subject of "What is a postage stamp?" is so intricate that I fear I have scarcely done justice to it in a letter.

Yours faithfully,

Birmingham. W. DUDLEY ATLEE.

[The assertion of our esteemed correspondent seems to us too large, when he states that the impressed stamps on newspapers *did* prepay them through the post, and therefore became postage stamps. The stamps impressed at present on newspapers are for the purpose of postage; but previously to the abolition of the duties on newspapers, *every* newspaper was compelled to bear an excise stamp. The sheet thus stamped enjoyed immunity from postage during a certain period from the date of publication, not from the fact of its being stamped, but from the fact of its being a newspaper.—Ed.]

THE PETERSBURG STAMP: FURTHER REPLY OF MR. COSTER.

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

Dear Sir,—I regret to be obliged to trespass further on your space concerning a subject on which I know Mr. Pemberton's opinion to be at variance with that of the great majority of stamp collectors. However, Mr. Pemberton's reply (*The Philatelical Journal*, p. 133) to my letters in your July and August numbers is not of a kind that I can let pass unnoticed, seeing that he endeavours to support the erroneous arguments that he has already advanced, not by bringing up any kind of *evidence* in rebuttal of such facts as I have already referred to, but rather by selecting *parts of sentences* from my letters, whose true meaning is lost from their being unaccompanied by the context; and even these selections he has so twisted and turned to suit his own purposes as to render them almost impossible of recognition.

In the first place, Mr. Pemberton points out, at some length, that in my July letter I state that I had "ascertained that the Petersburg stamp was not issued until some time in the latter half of 1861, and one of the clerks employed in the Petersburg post office says that it was used until the Confederate 5 c. stamp of De La Rue & Co. arrived, say, about May, 1862," and that in August I said that the "Petersburg stamp was not issued until March, 1862." This is all very true; but why did not Mr. Pemberton also quote the very decided qualification that accompanied the above extract in my July letter, viz.: "Although I have every reason for believing that the dates (*i.e.*, of issue and withdrawal), as given by me, are correct, I shall still continue to investigate this point." It is clear that I did

not fix "the latter half of 1861" as the exact date, but only as approaching the exact date of issue as nearly as I could then arrive at—else why should I have promised to further investigate the matter? Well, as the result of such further investigation, I found out that the stamp was issued early in 1862, as set forth in my communication of August. I cannot find any contradiction on my part here, seeing that I gave the date of 1861 with all possible reserve.

Mr. Pemberton then says, that after having stated, in July, that the stamp "was not issued until some time in the latter half of 1861," I said in August that I found "little or no chance of obtaining any clue to the date of issue until," &c., &c. If Mr. P. will kindly read the paragraph in my letter from which the above is extracted, he will perceive that it was not the *date of issue*, but the *exact* date of issue, to which the paragraph in question alluded.

He next compares six "assertions" made by me in July with seven that I made in August. They all hinge upon the supposition that I deny in August *positive assertions* that I made in July as to the date of issue; but having settled that point as above they all fall to the ground. By the way, Mr. Pemberton's "fact, assertion, comment, or whatever it is," number 4, speaks of May, 1863; I presume he means May, 1862.

But I have said quite enough as to the date of issue, which is, after all, a minor point, and not the ground on which Mr. P. based his argument as to the "abominable swindle," &c. His main point was that certain handwritings were fictitious. Well, I produced abundant evidence from Mr. J. D. Young, of Petersburg, Va., to prove that Mr. Pemberton was in error. In his journal for July Mr. Pemberton throws out insinuations amounting to as much as saying that he believes Mr. Young to have been employed for the occasion to do what is called "cook up facts," and then even went so far as to declare that he did not believe in Mr. Young's existence at all. He does not even pretend to produce any kind of evidence or argument to sustain these outrageous insinuations, for the very plain reason that he could not possibly do so. In August, writing on the same subject (viz., the genuine character of the addresses on five envelopes), all the reply he makes is: "We stated in April that these spurious Petersburg stamps formed 'one of the cleverest, but most abominable swindles of recent days.' To that statement we are prepared to abide, *and decline to accept Mr. Coster's explanations as in any way altering our expressed opinion* that the specimens of type II., varieties 1, 2, 3, and 4 are quite spurious."

If "declining to accept," &c., is to be considered as *argument*, I may as well give up; but I scarcely think that the stamp-collecting fraternity will accept it as such. But to return to the questions of Mr. Young's existence and veracity. His existence I have already proven most effectually, and I think that the accompanying certificate from the British Vice Consul at Richmond settles the latter point (and, indeed, the former also) beyond the shadow of a doubt. It, therefore, seems to me that it is time for the "infallible" (?) Mr. Pemberton to play that "last trump card" to which he so mysteriously alludes, and which he appears to have heretofore kept tucked in his sleeve, therein imitating the immortal "heathen Chinee."

Of course Mr. P. could not resist the temptations to cast a few slurs on Mr. Steinback, and Mr. H—— N—— (not Mr. H—— W——, as Mr. Pemberton writes), but, it seems to me, that if he can find no other way of weakening Mr. Steinback's statement, it will not suffer much harm. Although the regulation of the Petersburg post-office may appear very arbitrary and absurd, I may mention that a very similar rule exists here in regard to the government agencies for the sale of revenue stamps. Many of these agencies are prohibited from selling more than $ 5 or $ 10 (as the limitation may be fixed) to any one person at one time. Should any one desire to purchase a larger quantity, all he has to do is to buy, say, $5 or $10 worth at first, then leave the store and return and repeat the purchase, and so on, until he has purchased the requisite quantity. So the regulation of the Petersburg post-office does not appear so very improbable, after all. Apparently, Mr. Pemberton has never heard of such a thing as wishing to "test a point," though it does not seem beyond the bounds of possibility, not to say *probability*, that such might have been Mr. Nelson's object.

With regard to Mr. Pemberton's query—"Who is Mr. Campbell?" the note from Mr. Young that I forwarded to the editor of this magazine (for the purpose of examination) with my letter, which will probably appear in the September number, contained that information, so that I must await its return before giving an answer.

Begging leave to refer to the accompanying note from Mr. Young,

I remain,
Yours very truly,
New York. CHAS. H. COSTER.

[The letter referred to by Mr. Coster, and still in our hands, states that Mr. Campbell was "formerly an owner, or part-owner, of *The Daily Progress* newspaper, published in Petersburg, before and during the war."—Ed.]

[*Letter forwarded through Mr. Coster*]

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

SIR,—Through the kindness of Mr. Chas. H. Coster, I am offered the opportunity of defending myself, in your columns, against the gratuitous comments that *The Philatelical Journal* is pleased to make with reference to myself, in connection with the Petersburg stamp.

I believe that I cannot better accomplish my object than by inviting the attention of your readers to the certificate of the British Vice Consul at Richmond, appended to this note.

I wish it to be distinctly understood that all information that I furnished Mr. Coster was derived from responsible parties, in a position to know the particulars of the matter in question.

It is both difficult and painful, in this case, to reply to the aspersions on my character and standing; but I trust that the method I have adopted will prove satisfactory.

I am, Sir,
With high consideration,
Your obedient Servant,
Petersburg, Va. JOHN D. YOUNG.

[COPY.]

British Vice Consulate,
Richmond, August 12th, 1872.

THIS is to certify, that from information of the most satisfactory character, I am convinced that Mr. John D. Young, of the firm of Messrs. R. A. Young & Bros., of Petersburg, Virginia (a mercantile house of high respectability), is a gentleman of integrity, whose character and reputation among the community in which he has resided during his whole lifetime, are such as to forbid anyone from entertaining the idea that he could be guilty of a fraud, or imposition of any kind.

Given under my hand and seal of office at the city of Richmond, on this 12th day of August, 1872.

(Signed) WILLIAM MARSHALL,
British Vice Consul.

OUR CONTEMPORARIES.

[EMISSIONS NOTICED IN THE PRESENT ARTICLE:—*New Granada—Wurtemburg—Spain—Cuba—Philippines—United States.*

The Philatelist for October is unusually rich in novelties. It contains the first notice of the new stamps for Jamaica, Mauritius, New Zealand, Bermuda, Chili, and Great Britain, besides other items of interest. "A few Words on the Stamps of New Granada" forms the title of an able article by "Warden," of which a continuation is promised. The subject of this first instalment is the true chronological order of the first three issues. An American writer of note argues that the large rectangles inscribed ESTADOS UNIDOS DE NUEVA GRANADA, should, contrary to the received order, come first; "Warden" is able to prove, as the result of careful research, that these stamps are properly catalogued as forming the third series. His proof is as follows: On the 15th June, 1868, a complete readjustment of the relations of the different parts of New Granada to each other was brought about by a new constitution, which substituted the federal for the provincial system. The republic of New Granada, consisting of thirty-six provinces, was changed into the Granadine Confederation of eight states, viz., Antioquia, Bolivar, Boyaca, Cauca, Cundinamarca, Magdalena, Panama, and Santander. Under the Granadine Confederation the first two issues appeared—*without stars*, be it noted. Whilst they were in use a split in the confederation took place, which ultimately led to the holding of a congress, and this congress resulted in "a reunion under the name, 'United States of New Granada;' since September 20th, 1861, changed to that of United States of Colombia;" and it was after this reunion that the large rectangles were issued. The existence of *nine* stars, signifying nine states, is explained by the fact that Cundinamarca was then subdivided into two states, Tolima and Cundinamarca, as at present known. "Warden" further concludes that, as regards the two first series, "the CONFED. GRANADINA, *large* figure, were issued in the latter half of 1858, or early in 1859, and were shortly followed by the *small*-figure set; these last being not improbably the issue of a rival post-office, started for convenience' sake during the troubles which temporarily divided the confederation." This brief analysis does but scant justice to the article, which contains other arguments, drawn from the postmarks, &c., to which we have not space to refer.

Following this paper comes the conclusion of the carefully written monograph on "The Envelopes of Germany," by "A Parisian Collector," the later Wurtemburg series forming the subject of investigation. Incidentally, an explanation is afforded of the difficulty of procuring money-order envelopes which have passed the post. It appears they bear a form of receipt, which has to be signed by the receiver, who then has to hand them back to the postman. In "The Spud Papers" the counterfeits of the Philippine and Cuban stamps of 1864, and those of the Austrian Mercury are commented on. The article on "Telegraph Stamps" contains a descriptive list of the Spanish and Cuban emissions. The former, though begun only in 1864, already number thirty-three varieties; whilst the Cuban, started in 1870, amount to eighteen. "The Philatelic Press;" a reprint of our analysis of the forgery of the new 4 c. Prince Edward Island; "Postal Scraps;" and "The Editor's Letter Box," complete a very readable number.

Le Timbre-Poste has a heavy list of new issues, extending through more than half the number. The remainder is occupied with an article on "Old Swiss Stamps," which we purpose reproducing in these pages; a short paper on "The Telegraph Stamps of British India;" a further instalment of Dr. Magnus's exhaustive paper on "Stamped Envelopes;" and a reply to our own observations respecting the alleged discovery of a series of stamps for the Philippines, issued in 1848. We cannot but felicitate ourselves on the result of our request for further information, for it has drawn from our *confrère* an explanation which places the authenticity of the stamps in question beyond all doubt. We can only regret that he did not give us, in the first place, the particulars he now vouchsafes, viz., that his correspondent holds an official position in the Philippines, is personally acquainted

with Don Gutierrez, the postmaster by whom the stamps were issued, and obtained from him the information which has been published, that Don Gutierrez has promised to procure a series of the stamps, and that when the said stamps are sent over they will be accompanied by justificatory documents. We regret also that our contemporary should have considered our remarks as intended to throw the least blame or discredit upon him. They were not written with the intention or expectation of giving him pain—we thought we had made that clear,—but simply because even M. Moens, in spite of his long experience, is still liable to be deceived, as he was in the matter of the Kissingen and Leitmeritz stamps. M. Moens charges us with not having had the frankness to admit we were wrong in condemning the stamps of the Portuguese Indies; but in our September number—a month before the appearance of this unmerited reproach—we had made the *amende honorable*. However, passing over the slight acerbity of his reply, we await the arrival of the 1847 series, which, alas! will go to swell the number of unattainable rarities.

Allgemeiner Briefmarken-Anzeiger.—Of this publication, Nos. 22 and 24 are now before us, dated, respectively, the 15th August and 15th September. It is published at Hamburg, and contains descriptions of new issues, articles, and intelligence as to the state of the stamp markets. There is a stamp bourse, or exchange, at Hamburg, and we learn that on the 11th September a fair business was done, there being a good attendance, in spite of the bad weather. The exchange is open two evenings per week, from eight to ten, and, as the addresses of the places of meeting are given, we presume it is held under cover. There is also a philatelic club, which the editor takes care to inform a correspondent certainly does exist, and for which the entrance fee is twelve groschen. Again: at Bremen and Lubeck there are stamp exchanges, and reports of the business done are published in this paper. In the literary portion we find reviews of contemporaries, notices of new stamps, and sundry chatty articles. Dr. Magnus is taken to task for being satirical on the German philatelic congress. It is not generous of him, says our Hamburg *confrère*, to poke fun at them in that way; he would do better to translate the German newspapers, and thereby acquaint himself with the scope of the congress. Nevertheless, there is evidently no bitterness in the rejoinder, for the next sentence contains a gratuitously inserted announcement, that the subscription to the *Gazette des Timbres* may be lodged at any post-office in Germany. In another paragraph we get a notice of the evil doings of a certain M. Ernest Stoltze, junior, of Brunswick—no doubt a stamp forger or swindler,—who has gone away to Bohemia, leaving his hotel bills unpaid. Altogether this Hamburg journal has an earnest, business-like air about it. It would not be German if it were not practical, and in gregariousness the German philatelists outdo us. The collectors of Lubeck have formed themselves into a club, and our Hamburg friend tells us that the merry fellows intend getting up little suppers during the winter.

The American Journal of Philately.—"One only gets angry at the truth" is an old saying. Our contemporary, struck with the justice of our critique on his recent review of Mr. Scott's album, attributes it to malevolence. What a world of truth there must have been in our observations! Then, unable otherwise to escape from the dilemma in which he was placed by our discovery of two directly contradictory assertions in a recent number ("But few amateurs collect locals," and, "Locals are collected by most amateurs"), he explains them by stating that the latter was written by Mr. Scott, and the former by the *soi-disant* editor, Mr. Turner. Ah, that convenient Mr. Turner! We perceive now for what a wise purpose he was invented! Still, we hope he will avoid contradicting his author and publisher in such a point-blank style, and permit us seriously to assure the latter that his unwarranted ascription of unworthy motives on our part, will not prevent us from impartially reviewing his journal, and praising or blaming its contents, as truth may require. This much established, we have pleasure in complimenting Mr. Scott on the readableness of his current number, which contrasts very favourably with its

immediate predecessors. The continuation of Mr. Tiffany's article on the stamps of New Granada, contains a careful analysis of the 1863 series, and closes with the following sensible remarks on reprints in general, apropos of the reimpressions of the series under discussion.

A reprint made and issued by the authors of the original, and with the original die, plate, or stone, may serve, in its representative character, to fill the place of a rare original temporarily, and, without assuming to be other than it is, in some measure complete the historical interest of a collection; but even then it is only as a nearer approximation that it is of more value than a well-executed forgery or illustration. But when, by a transfer from the die, or from the imprint thereof, a so-called reprint is attempted, whether officially or by irresponsible parties, for the benefit of collectors, the perpetrator has produced only a counterfeit, devoid even of the timbro-maniacal apology, that "it shows the latest state of the die," and whoever attempts to pass it off as an original, attempts a forgery.

To Mr. Tiffany's article succeeds "Papers for Purchasers—No. 1.," by "H. J. R.," which forms the preface to a projected series of articles descriptive of forgeries, and is written in a pleasant, chatty style. We fear the value of descriptions of counterfeits is overrated; still, we wish the writer success in his endeavours to serve the good cause.

The Stamp-Collector's Guide is a well-conducted little paper, published in New Jersey; and the fact of its having reached its tenth number, is indicative of its possessing a certain support. The printing is good, and the illustrations effective. In the last number is given the following interesting explanation (copied from an American daily paper) of the delay which has occurred in the issue of post cards for the United States.

The opinion of Attorney-General Williams, on Saturday—in which he decides that the Postmaster-general had no authority under the new postal code to contract for postal cards, there being no specific appropriation made for that purpose, and he having, therefore, no warrant for using other appropriations—was brought about, it is said, by a quarrel among certain engraving companies, who allege that the whole postal card business was a job put into the hands of the National Bank Note Company. It is known that the sample card which was adopted by the department was got up by the National Bank Note Company of New York, and that the Department was in the act of issuing an advertisement asking for bids for furnishing the card like the sample, to be opened in a time so short that no company could prepare a sample to accompany its bid. Thus it is claimed the National Bank Note Company being the only one to furnish a sample, the contract would be awarded to it. The competing companies being assured of this, sought measures to kill the whole business, proper competition not being allowed, and obtained legal advice in the matter. That advice was to the effect that the post-office department had no power to get up the cards without an appropriation, and the department being so informed asked an opinion of the Attorney-General, who decided as above stated. Postal cards will not therefore be issued until an appropriation is made for them by Congress at its next session.

Our contemporary claims that, as a matter of justice, we should give him (and not the *A. J. P.*) the credit of the first notice of the American registration stamps, which we are happy in doing.

The Postage-Stamp Reporter is an eight-page journal, hailing from Lowell, Mass. Its value as a philatelic publication is depreciated by that tawdry vulgarity of style which Americans are too apt to mistake for wit and vigour. Too often common sense is sacrificed to sound in the concoction of a silly sneer, as witness the following phrase: "The newest *abrasion* in English philatelic circles is the result of a heated discussion." One is tempted to inquire if the writer knows the meaning of the word "abrasion." The person who ridicules what he does not understand is also capable of appropriating, without acknowledgment, what does not belong to him. Our article on the forgery of the new 4 c. green Prince Edward Island is reprinted (though not in its entirety), without any notice whatever of the source whence it was derived. We hope the example we have the honour to show the editor of the *Reporter* in acknowledging our indebtedness to him for the really useful article on the new Japanese currency, reprinted in another part of the present number, will have its effect on him, and we shall rejoice if we find in future impressions of the *Reporter* more praiseworthy matter than exists in the copy now under notice.

The Canadian Philatelist.—This is a resuscitation of the journal which discontinued publication some months since. It dates from Quebec, and consists of eight pages of legible print. The proprietors are evidently animated with the desire of producing a respectable and useful paper, and we cordially wish them success. The first number opens with a well-written paper on the collection of envelopes. The subject is fairly discussed, and the writer gives his voice in favour of the acceptance of entire envelopes. Then

follows "Our Programme," in which the editor announces his intention to uphold the "extended system," whilst respecting the opinions of the less scientific body of collectors. From "The Progress of Philately in 1872," we are pleased to learn that "in Canada the prospects of stamp collecting are brighter, and no longer can it be said "the whole body of collectors are boys." Under the heading of "Newly-issued Stamps" the latest emissions are discussed and illustrated, some of the engravings, by the way, being very badly worked. A paper entitled "Stamp Collecting and its Advantages" is the first effort of Mr. John Lindsay, and, as such, is a very satisfactory production. We are always glad to hail the appearance of new writers, and we trust Mr. Lindsay will go on as he has begun, and be joined by other recruits.

NOTES ON THE UNITED STATES LOCALS.

BY W. DUDLEY ATLEE.

VIII.

SNOW'S DESPATCH.

At page 154 of the last volume will be found mentioned the small label of this post, printed in black upon blue paper. I am now able to add one upon buff, which has long had a place in an old American collection. From the good company in which this *vieux-neuf* figured, I have every faith in its authenticity.

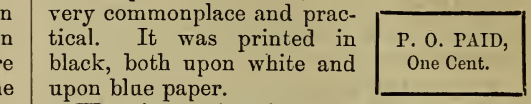
SNOW'S EXPRESS.

Whether this express had any connection with Snow's despatch I am quite unable to determine, for both it and the stamp I am about to describe have hitherto been unknown to me even by name. The design (if such it may be called) is of the simplest, being an old-fashioned looking figure 1, with SNOW'S reading upwards on one side, and EXPRESS reading downwards on the other. Above is ONE, between two strokes, and below is CENT, similarly placed. This unique stamp is printed in blue upon thin paper.

P. O. PAID.

Another resuscitation; but when or where it was used, or for what purpose I know not, and I fear there is but little chance of finding out.

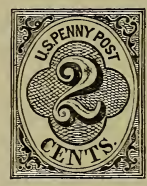
The aspect of this newly-found stamp is here reproduced. It is, as will be observed, very commonplace and practical. It was printed in black, both upon white and upon blue paper.



Were it not that the pair I have are upon paper so old as to almost fall to pieces with the gentlest handling, I should look upon them with great doubt; but, as it is, I shall believe in their genuine character until the contrary be proved. The value being only a cent, it is just possible that they were emitted by the postmaster of some government office as a means of collecting a late fee; but this is only surmise.

U. S. PENNY POST.

Through the kindness of the publishers I am able to give a representation of a very rare and finely-engraved local, never before chronicled.



Unfortunately, the only specimen I have seen is cancelled with an undecipherable postmark, so that I am not able to mention the place of its nativity. From the prefix U.S., I should almost be inclined to accredit it to the "United States City Despatch Post," of New York. The impression is black on white.

3RD AVENUE P. O.

According to Mr. S. Allan Taylor, this post was established in 1855, or 1856, by one S. Rothenheim, a carrier for Boyd's post. The stamps he made himself, with a hand-stamp of either brass or metal. He afterwards gummed and trimmed them carefully, and put them up in pill-boxes for sale, on the principle that they got lost and destroyed better that way, and more were the sooner asked for. Street letter-boxes being generally kept at groceries, the usual place for the stamps was the till or cash-drawer, where they got greatly tossed about, and being separate, small, and gummed, they were easily destroyed. The stamp was similar in size and shape to the oval East River post office labels, the inscription being AVE. 3, P. O. S. R.,

PAID. The impression was black on green. Copies of this stamp are virtually unattainable; but those of a forgery, of Montreal manufacture, lettered 3RD AVENUE S. R. POST OFFICE, in an oblong, are plentiful.

METROPOLITAN ERRAND AND CARRIER EXPRESS.

For the following particulars I am indebted to Mr. S. Allan Taylor. This post was a swindle, concocted by a carrier of one of the New York expresses, directly after the failure of the incorporated company trading under the above title. The carrier in question stationed some boxes at various stores, and supplied the owners thereof with some stamps, type-set, printed on green glazed paper, and inscribed METROPOLITAN ERRAND & CARRIER EXPRESS, TWO CENTS. The shape was a small oblong.

The carrier and proprietor of this so-called *express* must have delivered the letters himself, at odd times, or after hours, or else they must have been thrown into his employer's box as unpaid. His venture soon "went up."

BENTLEY'S DESPATCH, NEW YORK.

The label usually sold as having been issued by this post is a narrow oblong, lettered BENTLEY'S DESPATCH, in small Roman type, and Madison Square in old English, all within four single thick lines. This imposition is rightly condemned by Mr. Overy Taylor. Mr. Allan Taylor informs me that, having occasion several times in 1858 to visit the Madison Square letter office, he repeatedly saw the stamp then in use; but he has never seen one since.

The stamp was printed in bronze on white, and was evidently a copy of the small "Blood's Penny Post, Philad'a." The style of letters, size, and appearance were all similar.

The name of "H. W. Bentley, Dispatch, 945, Broadway" (which is Madison Square) appears in the *New York Directory* for 1858, but is missing in 1859, and all directories since. Mr. S. A. Taylor says: "In the fall of 1864 I went to look up Bentley, but the Madison Square post office was removed across the street. I inquired of the person in charge about stamps, but she had never seen any. I inquired where Bentley had gone to, but of that she was ignorant. At this time no stamp was used, letters being simply handstamped MADISON SQUARE LETTER OFFICE, in a transverse oval."

G. CARTER'S DESPATCH.

This post *probably* existed in Philadelphia. The stamp was very plain, bearing, upon a solid ground, G. CARTER'S DESPATCH, with PAID in the centre, the whole enclosed in a linear oblong, with slightly rounded corners. Small oblong, black on white.

In the genuine, the stroke over PAID extends from above the right side of P. to between I and D. Lower stroke, waved, from under right side of P to below centre of D. Thick letters. Forgery is of same depth as original, but longer; in it the stroke above PAID is only over the middle letters, and the lower stroke only extends to under the upright of D.

PAPERS FOR BEGINNERS.—No. XXII.

BY OVERY TAYLOR.

EUROPE.

France.

As, in all that relates to the fine arts, France is among the foremost, it is but natural that her postage stamps should be distinguished, in an eminent degree, by the correctness of their designs and the delicacy of their execution. Nor is it surprising that, issuing as they do from a country which has proved the home of revolution, they should reflect, to a peculiar extent, the political convulsions which have rent it since their first appearance. The various emissions have been referred to with pride by every writer on postage stamps, as strongly evidencing the value of philately as a teacher of history; and, in fact, so clear from anything like doubt or difficulty are their own annals as to stamps, that the interest which attaches to them is rather historical than philatelical.

The first series saw the light just after the revolution of 1848. The government of Louis Philippe had witnessed the establishment of the cheap postage system in England eight years before, but, notwithstanding the repeated demands of the mercantile community, had taken no steps towards its introduction in France. It was reserved to

the Republic to confer the desired boon on the people, and accordingly, in the autumn of 1848, under the *régime* of Etienne Arago, the decree was issued, fixing the uniform postal rates at 20 centimes and 1 franc, and ordaining the emission of stamps of those values on the 1st January, 1849. There remained between the issue of the decree and the date indicated for the appearance of the stamps, an interval of only three months in which to prepare the supplies; and but for an accident, the work of engraving the dies and printing off the stock would have been confided to an English firm. Pressed for time, the government applied to Messrs. Bacon & Perkins (or sir Perkins, as the French work has it from which I gather these details*), for an estimate. "Sir Perkins" replied that he would require six months to deliver the stamps, and that his price was one franc per sheet of 240. This being an exorbitant price, and the time demanded exceeding that fixed by the law, the government broke off the negotiations, and looked about for a French engraver. Not many months before, when coin was scarce, the French finance minister had requested the Bank of France to issue a large number of 100-franc notes. The bank could not comply with the request, for it had only one plate—that of the 200-franc notes—and the engraving of a new plate was reckoned to cost a thousand pounds, and eighteen months to a couple of years' labour. In this difficulty recourse was had to an engraver named Hulot, who in *two months* completed the plate of the present 100-franc note, and turned out a sufficient supply. To him the government now addressed itself, and a week before the 1st January, 1849, every post-office in France was provided with stamps, besides which there remained in stock a surplus of eight to ten millions. It was a brilliant success for M. Hulot, and some time after he wrote a letter, containing some interesting details of the way in which he got through his work. "In five weeks," says he, "the matrix was engraved; within an equal period the *ateliers* were fitted up, and the plates, containing the electrotype casts for 300 stamps, executed. Lastly, a few days' pressing, with hand-worked presses, producing 1,200,000 stamps per day, enabled me to supply all the French post-offices."

The type, of which the printing was superintended by M. Hulot, was actually engraved by M. Barre, and remains to this day one of the finest productions, if not *the* finest, among stamp designs. The profile of the Republic may be described as faultless, and the minor details harmonise in their severity with the classic portrait. "In this instance," as Dr. Magnus well observes, "the obligatory framework does not distract attention by misplaced florets or ornaments."



Everything is in the best of taste, and the only fault found with the design is based on utilitarian grounds,—the numeral of value is not sufficiently conspicuous. Regarded, however, from an artistic point of view, can it be said that the recently issued 1 c., 2 c., and 5 c. Republic are improved by the large corner figures? Does not their presence, on the contrary, constitute a blemish?

Of the two first issued stamps, the 20 c. made its appearance in black, and the one franc in vermilion. The latter is counted among the choicest rarities in a collection, and it is not surprising that it should be so scarce, seeing that it only remained in circulation a single twelvemonth. It was then withdrawn, because the post-office was about to issue the 40 centimes orange, and feared that the two values would be confounded together, on account of their similarity of colour, joined to their identity of design. Pursuant to a post-office circular of December 1, 1849, the stock of vermilion one franc remaining in the provincial offices was collected and returned to Paris; hence the suppression was complete. Probably, in prevision of the issue of 40 centime stamps, for which orders were given in April, the one franc, as early as August, 1849, was printed in carmine. No official document exists authorising the employment of this colour, and a well-informed writer suggests that directions were simply given to the printer to print the

* *La Poste Anecdotique & Pittoresque.* Par Pierre Zaccone. Paris: Achille Faure. 1867.

stamp for the future in a colour with less orange in its composition.* Finally, about the time of the emission of the 40 c., the 1 franc was issued in dark carmine.

The 40 c. orange made its appearance in December, 1849, or January, 1850, and the provincial offices received their supplies during the first ten days of February. This stamp is found in several shades of orange.

By the law of the 15-18th May, 1850, a retrograde step was made in the postal tariff, the rate for a single-weight letter being thereby fixed at 25 centimes. This necessitated the issue of the 25 c. blue, which took place on the 1st July following, blue being chosen to replace the black of the 20 c., because the latter colour was reserved for the postmarks. The change in the rate gave rise to another call on M. Hulot's energies, and led incidentally to the printing off of a supply of a provisional stamp which never was issued. When, after the passage of the law, M. Hulot was requested to prepare a new plate, he was unable to assure the Minister of Finance that it would be ready in time, and it was therefore agreed that he should print a supply of stamps in *blue* from the 20 c. dies, and surcharge them with the figures 25 in *red*. This was accordingly done, and a machine was employed to print "25 c." in red on each stamp, the machine being a wheel, with types of the figures at the extremity of each spoke.† M. Hulot was able, however, to get ready the plate of the new 25 c., and to print a sufficient supply from it within the given time; so the provisionals, not being wanted, were all destroyed, save some very few specimens, of which only three or four are known to exist. Some sheets of the 20 c. *blue* without the surcharge got mixed, it is supposed, with the supplies of the 25 centime blue, as an obliterated 20 c. blue is in the possession of "A Parisian Collector."

On the 12th (or 23rd) July, 1850, the 15 c. green made its appearance, and on the 12th of the following September, the 10 c. brownish yellow, or cinnamon, completed the series. All the values, except the 1 franc vermilion, but including the embryo 20 c. blue, were reprinted in 1862. The reprints are distinguishable by the lightness and brightness of their tints. The obliterations are of three kinds: (1) a lozenge formed of seven crossed bars—the well-known "gridiron" mark; (2) a six-pointed star of dots; and (3) a lozenge formed of dots, with the post-office number in the centre. The two latter are also found on the imperial stamps.

On the 2nd December, 1851, occurred the *coup d'état*, which gave to Prince Louis Napoleon the actual supremacy, and enabled him to prepare the way for his assumption of the purple. The profile of Liberty on the stamp was no longer appropriate. The Republic existed in name, but the President was the *de facto* ruler. This state of things is accurately indicated on the presidential stamps. The title, REPUB. FRANC., remains, but the portrait is that of Napoleon. They were, moreover, in their essence, "provisional" stamps, destined to remain current for but a brief space of time. The 25 c. blue was issued on the 12th August, and the 10 c. cinnamon in the course of September, 1852. The portrait of the Prince-President is by no means a bad one, and it is executed with the same carefulness, and by the same hand, as the profile of Liberty. Beneath the neck appears a minute capital B.—the initial of Barre, the engraver's name. The blue 25 c., like the blue stamps of the Republic and the empire, differs very much in intensity of shade, varying from light to a full dark blue.



After the proclamation of the empire, it became time to think of changing the obsolete inscription on the stamp. REPUB. was taken out, and replaced by EMPIRE, and the metamorphosis was complete. The issue of imperial stamps commenced in August, 1853, with the 10 c. cinnamon—the value used for the local Parisian rate. A few days afterwards, the 1 franc carmine followed, a stamp which is now getting of a certain rarity. Then came, on the 8th September, the 40 c. orange, and on the 3rd November the 25 c. blue. This last had but a brief currency, for it was soon after

* See "An Interesting Embryo," *The Stamp-Collector's Magazine*, vol. vii., p. 85.
† *Idem.*

decided to return to the old rate of 20 centimes, and it is consequently a trifle rarer than its companion low values.

The 20 centimes blue came out on the 1st July, 1854. A universally recognised very dark blue variety of this colour exists. In October, 1854, appeared the 80 centimes carmine, of the same shade as the one franc, which it, in fact, replaced; and on the 4th November of the same year, the 5 centimes green, inaugurating the establishment of low rates for printed matter, was issued. From that time, up to 1860, no further change was made.

NEWLY-ISSUED OR INEDITED STAMPS.

SPAIN.—The entire new series is now before us, and, taken altogether, we cannot say we greatly admire it. Naturally, the first thing that strikes us is the colours. They are by no means happily chosen. Some are ineffective, and between others confusion is almost certain to arise. The 10 c. differs only by a shade from the 12 c., and the 25 c. is but a trifle darker than the 40 c. The full-face portrait is by no means a pleasing one, for the king is represented as if suffering from weak and inflamed eyes; but, with better chosen tints, the effect, as a whole, might not have been unpleasing. The three highest values are alone satisfactory. Of these the design is here represented. The profile is boldly drawn, and the lettering above being more regular, does not present the bizarre appearance remarkable on the lower values. The latter are of the type illustrated in our August number, of which we here reproduce the engraving. There remain to be noticed the stamps for printed matter, which are of two kinds. There is, first, the 1 centimo, which is composed of four quarter-centimo (or 1 millesima) stamps, arranged after the manner of the Brunswick and Mecklenburg quartets, and unperforated. The Brunswick stamp has evidently stood as the model, so far as concerns the design, as will be seen from the annexed engraving; the crown (with the necessary modifications) and the transverse oval beneath being reproduced; but the diminutive size of the former has not been copied. It will be noticed that the centimo de peseta contains only four millesimas d'escudo. The 2 and 5 centimos de peseta—of the former of which we give an engraving—are simply the old types of 1867 (5 and 10 mil.), with the marginal inscriptions re-engraved, or reset. The engraver of the higher values—E. Julia—has written his name along the edge of the neck of the profile, and also (but in almost undecipherable characters) under the cravat of the full-face portrait. The word COMMUNICACIONES, written above the portrait, indicates, as it may be well to remind our readers, that the stamps are intended for telegrams as well as letters. We learn from the *Revista del Correos*, to hand at the last moment, that the new tariff—to give effect to which these stamps are emitted—has given general satisfaction. The same journal states that the finance office, and not the postal department, is responsible for the designs.









RUSSIAN LOCALS.—*Demiansk* (Novgorod).—This stamp has been in existence since 1868. The honour of discovering it belongs to *Le Timbre-Poste*. The impression being defective, it is impossible to guarantee the accuracy of the copy of the arms; but they are sufficiently clear to enable us to perceive their likeness to, if not identity with, the arms on the Novgorod stamp. The two supporters (bears or boars) and the crossed swords are there. The device in the lower half of the shield may be peculiar to the town of Demiansk. The value of this stamp is 3 kopecs; it is printed in black on white blue-coated paper. The four Russian letters —N. G. D. Z.—in the angles signify "Novgorod, Government, Demiansk, *Emstwo*"—rural ad-



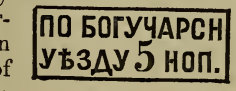
ministration. The oval inscription bears the same signification.

Melitopol (Taurida).—The stamp described by us last year (p. 97) is here represented. It was withdrawn from circulation because of its asserted resemblance to the imperial stamps; but although the general idea may have been taken from them, there is really nothing in the type to render confusion possible, especially as this stamp was printed in red on white. Perhaps the true reason, presented as above in a distorted form, is that the imperial arms are *reserved* for the imperial stamps, hence the local authorities were exceeding their powers in adopting the same for their district emission. Determined not to subject themselves to reproach on the score of trespassing on imperial attributes in the choice of a design for the stamp destined to replace the condemned type, the authorities, sitting, we should think, in solemn council, have issued the annexed uncommon device. Presumably, the man on horseback is the rural postman, ambling along very leisurely to the town in the distance, and, positively, the man is smoking! It must be a quiet country round about Melitopol, where people are not in the habit of getting nervous if the postman is an hour or two late. As *Le Timbre-Poste* says, "Many queer things have been represented on stamps, but no one expected to see a smoker figuring on them." The stamp on which this postal worshipper of nicotine holds such a conspicuous place is printed in blue on white paper, unperforated.





Boguchar (Voronesh).—Described in our list more than a twelvemonth ago, the stamp for this district only just makes its appearance. It is printed in black on white, and is of the value of 5 kop. As a postmark, it would pass muster; but as a stamp, it is nowhere.



Egorieff.—The black 3 kop. is used for correspondence *for the town*, and the blue of the same value *for the district* of Egorieff.

Kolomna.—The red 5 kop. is used for both town and district letters; the 5 kop. blue serves as an unpaid-letter stamp.

Riasan.—The blue 2 kop. is the ordinary letter stamp. The gilt 2 kop. is an unpaid-letter stamp, as was also the 2 kop. black, which, by decision of the printer, it superseded.

Schlusselburg.—Our Brussels contemporary, from whom the three preceding paragraphs are quoted, states that the local post for this district was *suppressed* in 1866. This proves that the local post system is of earlier date than we had supposed.

CHILI.—Our Brighton contemporary gave, last month, the annexed engravings; one re-





presenting the true type of the adopted envelopes, and the other that of the post card stamp. Our contemporary is positive that this time he has the veritable designs, and he vouches for the values and colours, which we quote; at the same time we cannot help expressing our surprise that the American Bank Note Co. should copy so slavishly our English design for the post card stamp, and the Ceylon envelope design for the envelopes. If, however, as has been stated, the card emanates from Messrs. De La Rue's *atelier*, then a key to the similarities is obtained. The following are the values and colours quoted:—

POST CARDS.

2 (dos)	centavos	brown.
5 (cinco)	„	purple.

ENVELOPES.

2 (dos)	centavos	brown.
5 (cinco)	„	purple.

10 (diez)	centavos	blue.
15 (quince)	„	pink.
20 (viente)	„	bronze-green.

MAURITIUS.—In our last number we quoted an announcement made by *Le Timbre-Poste*, to the effect that a tenpenny stamp was about to make its appearance, coloured "morocco and gold." A tenpenny stamp has appeared, but its tints, instead of presenting the curious combination which our Belgian contemporary led us to expect, resolve themselves into simple "red-maroon." *The Philatelist* was the first to obtain and engrave a specimen of the new type, of which we are now able to publish the annexed illustration.



There is something of the eight cents of Ceylon about the general disposition, which shows a departure from the style so long patronised by the island authorities. For ourselves, we prefer the old design, which is prettier and less intricate, to our idea, than the new one. Our contemporary omits to state whether the new comer is watermarked. Envelopes of the values of tenpence and one-shilling-and eightpence, respectively, are, it appears, really on their way.

PERSIA.—Seven years ago the annexed design figured in these pages as being the type adopted by the Persian government for a series of postage stamps. Then, when no stamps appeared, the report was set down as an unfounded one. Only a few perforated copies of the design which took its place, not a very high one, in the list of rejected essays, were kept. Now Dr. Magnus announces, in the *Gazette des Timbres*, that a series of postage stamps of this almost forgotten type has been issued by the Persian government. He is unable to quote all the values, but he possesses a specimen of one of them, which bears a character in the angles, signifying eight, and is roughly printed, by the typographic method, on very thin paper. The margin having been cut away, Dr. Magnus is unable to say whether the stamp is, like the essay, perforated or not.



GREAT BRITAIN.—Our Brighton contemporary gives us the information of a forthcoming new issue of our shilling adhesives, after the annexed type. Our readers, whilst perceiving at a glance that it differs from the existing design, may be puzzled to discover in what the difference consists. It is simply in the impression of the corner letters and registration number in *colour on white*, instead of in white on colour as at present. The change is slight, but the effect in lightening the appearance of the stamp considerable. Hitherto only the four low values—½d., 1d., 1½d., and 2d.—have had white corners, but all the higher values are now to receive them, and the dies are to be retouched. After the shilling the turn of the threepence, it is said, will come.



JAMAICA.—We have to thank *The Philatelist* for the first intelligence of a welcome accession to the ranks in the shape of a halfpenny Jamaica stamp, of the design of which our readers will be able to judge from the annexed engraving, which renders description unnecessary. The impression is in maroon on white paper. Our contemporary does not say what watermark (if any) the paper contains. The stamp is engraved by De La Rue & Co., who appear to have the monopoly of the supply of colonial issues.



FINLAND.—The polyglot post card has made its appearance. The inscription, CORRESPONDENCE CARD, in Finnish, Swedish, and Russian, is arranged in three lines, with a different type for each line. The instructions at foot are dealt with in the same manner. The 8 pen. stamp is maintained at the left-hand corner, and the frame is of the same pattern as on the preceding issue. As before, the card is of a pale buff tint, and the inscriptions, &c., in deep green. The reverse of the card is bordered in the same style as the front, but the pattern is interrupted at the

top and on either side by an inscription signifying that the space within the frame is reserved for the communication, for which ten dotted lines are provided.

United States.—A correspondent, residing at Lowell, Mass., sends us a cutting from *The Boston Advertiser*, relative to the new postal card. It reads as under:—

The new postal card will be made from dies cut in hardened steel for surface printing, a novel and heretofore considered impossible mode of engraving. The lines, instead of being sunk, are raised like those of an ordinary wood-cut, so that the plate may be used in the same manner as type in any printing-press. The completed card is three inches by five and one-eighth inches in size, made from a fine quality of card-board, and is of a light buff colour. A border of scroll-work runs around the edge, while in the upper right-hand corner is a very handsome stamp, consisting of a head of liberty encircled with stars and surrounded with elliptical scroll work. The denomination is one cent, and the colour of the work a rich velvet brown. The inscription is simply UNITED STATES POSTAL CARD. WRITE ADDRESS ONLY ON THIS SIDE, THE MESSAGE ON THE OTHER. Below are ruled lines, while the reverse is blank.

Roumania.—In the annexed type the bearded portrait of the last series of stamps is found in conjunction with the old frame of the 50 bani. Only a small unperforated supply of this stamp, in very pale blue and red, and of the 10 bani, in ultramarine, has been printed off to meet the immediate requirements of the post-office, the stock of the new series not having yet come to hand from Paris.



Dutch West Indies.—We learn on good authority that postage stamps will shortly be emitted for the Dutch possessions of Surinam, Curaçoa, &c. They will bear the portrait of King William III., and will closely resemble the design of the present series for the mother-country, differing principally in the angles. The values will be 2½ c., 3 c., 5 c., 10 c., 25 c., and 50 c. A contemporary says that they will not be gummed, probably because in hot climates stamps frequently get stuck together.

France.—It is nearly two months since the new 80 centime rose, with profile of Liberty, made its appearance, without any preliminary flourish, at Paris, and it has since been followed by the 30 c. brown (light and dark). The expected large and unmistakable figures are not to be found. The numerals are somewhat larger than the old ones, but they are rather clumsily squeezed into the old border, and the word POSTES and the c's, by which it is flanked, are in consequence made smaller. Altogether the compromise is not a very satisfactory one.

New South Wales.—The *Gazette des Timbres* presents us with an engraving of a watermark, discovered on a copy of a Sydney stamp, on laid paper. The engraving being better executed than many of the others, enables us to at once recognize the watermark as forming the summit of the crown, surmounting the medallion of Britannia, the old ordinary watermark on English foolscap hand-made paper, and is not peculiar to any official paper, as suggested by the editor.

Ecuador.—M. Moens is of opinion that the one real, described by us last month from *La Gazette des Timbres*, is a humbug. The editor of the latter journal, however, is not shaken in his belief in its genuineness; and in the last number he states, that prior to the issue of the new type the old 1 rl. yellow was printed in "olive-yellow," on bluish paper, as also the ½ real, but the paper of the latter is of a lighter tint than that of the 1 real.

Denmark.—*Holte.*—The first local stamp for Holte has gone the way of all things, and its successor is now before us in the shape of the subjoined type, which certainly has an original look about it. It is coloured chrome-green on white, is perforated, and was issued on the 15th September last.



Japan.—The 5 tenpoes (or *sen*, to use the correct orthography), to the rumoured existence of which we referred last month, turns out to be actually in circulation, of the same type as the other values, printed green, and perforated.

Austria has just issued a newspaper band, about 15 inches long, by 2½ in. wide. Along either edge, for a distance of nine inches, runs a broad orange-yellow stripe, and a little beyond the middle of the band is an impression, in orange yellow, from the die of the 2 kr. adhesive.

South Australia.—The ninepenny stamp came over by the last mail printed a reddish-lilac. The copy from which we describe is postmarked Aug. 12, '72. There is no change in the design.

New Zealand.—An entirely new series of stamps, of which the values will be 1d., 2d., 3d., 4d., 6d., and 1s., is said to be in preparation.

Bermuda.—*The Philatelist* states that a threepenny stamp may shortly be expected, intended for payment of postage between Bermuda and North America.

British Honduras.—The same authority says that the threepenny stamp for this dependency will be issued dark chocolate.

Switzerland.—*Rigi Scheideck.*—The stamp of this hotel is now printed bright blue.

NOTES FOR COLLECTORS.—III.

BY A PARISIAN COLLECTOR.

Austria.

(*Continued from page* 126.)

Following the chronological order, we next come to the first series of stamps which were issued for prepaying the postage on journals. Previously to the issue of these stamps certain other stamps had been issued, for the purpose of being affixed to foreign newspapers coming into the country; but these stamps represent rather a fiscal tax than any additional postage rate,* and are scarcely admissible in a list of postage stamps, from which they would certainly be excluded under Mr. Overy Taylor's definition of a postage stamp. The collection of them has, however, found favour with amateurs, and will probably continue to do so, from the strong relationship they bear to a postage stamp proper. A full account of the issues and various values is to be found in this magazine (vol. ix., page 7), to which we have nothing to add, except that the 1 kreuzer blue and the 2 kr. brown are still in use.

JOURNAL STAMPS.—FIRST SERIES.

Authentic and original copies of the two higher values—the yellow and the rose Mercuries—are so scarce that it is impossible to state whether any or what varieties exist. The specimens which we have examined are invariably upon thinnish hand-made paper. A copy—in our possession—of the yellow, affixed to a Vienna bourse list of the 23rd May, 1856, and bearing a dated obliteration of the 24th, is also on thin hand-made paper. As none others were printed after that date, it is not probable that any issue took place on thick paper, similar to that employed for the latter portion of the first general series of stamps, and of which we find specimens among the blue Mercuries. Specimens of these latter stamps are also found on ribbed paper, similar to that described p. 126. The variations in shade among the blue stamps are considerable, passing through every gradation, from light grey blue to full blue.



As has been seen by the despatch quoted at page 6, vol. ix. of this magazine, the yellow Mercury was, on the 21st March, 1856, superseded by a scarlet stamp of the same type, the rose having been suppressed previously. For some time doubts existed as to the authenticity of this stamp, it being regarded by many as a fancy impression. Such doubts may, however, be considered as extinguished. Authentically postmarked specimens are to be found in the collections of Mr. Philbrick, and of M. P———l, of Brussels, leaving no shadow of a doubt but that the stamp was actually employed. It is printed on thick paper.

Classification.

1851. I.—Thin paper.

	1 journal	Prussian blue, pale blue, dull blue (shades).
	10 journals	yellow.
	50 ,,	rose.

II.—Ribbed paper.

	1 journal	light dull blue.

III.—Thick paper.

	1 journal	dull blue, Prussian blue.
1856.	10 journals	scarlet.

SECOND GENERAL SERIES.

The change of the monetary system in

* [Baron A. de Rothschild considers them as forming an ill-disguised increase of the postal rates, in contravention of treaty obligations.—Ed.]

Austria in the year 1858 necessitated a corresponding change in the postage stamps. The florin being no longer divided into 60 kr., but into 100 kr., and its value being also slightly reduced, exact counterparts of the former values could not be found in the new coinage. For a description of the series we refer our readers to Mr. Overy Taylor's paper in this magazine (vol. viii., p. 170), to which we have but little to add. There are two or three shades of the 2 kr. yellow, the 5 kr. red, the 10 kr. brown, and the 15 kr. blue; but they depend almost entirely on a variation in the depth of the same colour, save in the 5 kr. red and the 10 kr. brown, where the first is to be found in bright brick-red and vermilion, and the second in reddish brown and in dull brown. The 2 kr. orange is rare even obliterated, and (rare)[3] unused, if we may so arithmetically denote the mode adopted by M. Herpin, when describing the degree of rarity of a stamp. M. Berger-Levrault, in his catalogue, gives 1860 as the date of issue of this shade of the 2 kr. We have no means of verifying or disproving that date, but we doubt its correctness. The rarity of the stamp is rather an argument for a fortuitous impression in darker colours, than for an issue to which any date can be affixed.



The issue is printed on wove paper, thickly covered with adhesive matter, and is perforated 15.*

Classification:

1858. 2 kreuzer Naples yellow (shades) light chrome-yellow, orange.
3 ,, black.
5 ,, vermilion, brick-red (shades).
10 ,, light umber-brown and reddish-brown.
15 ,, Prussian blue and light ditto.
Journal stamp, Prussian blue (shades).

* The St. Andrew's crosses are still found in this series, but the disposition is reversed; instead of being in colour on a white ground, the ground is coloured and the cross white. But very few amateurs have made collections of these fillings-up, which fall under no possible definition of a postage stamp, or any other stamp, except one representing nothing.

1859. 3 kreuzer sea green, varying in shades.
Journal stamp, lilac (shades).

THIRD GENERAL SERIES.

This series, issued on the 1st January, 1861, presents no varieties, except such as arise from varying depths of the same colours. The values are similar to those in the preceding series, and probably the sole reason for the change was to bring in a series of envelopes of similar design, which now appeared for the first time in Austria. The stamps are printed on white wove paper, and perforated 14.*

The series of envelopes was manufactured in two sizes, the large and the ordinary; for though entire copies of the 25 and the 30 kreuzer are not known, yet, as all the other values, including the 35 kreuzer, have been found in the large size, it may be supposed that the entire series was issued in that size. The paper employed was thin, soft wove, and unsurfaced. Copies, however, of some of the values in the ordinary size are to be found on thicker paper, surfaced.



The whole series of envelopes was reprinted in 1866, in the ordinary size; but the reprints may readily be distinguished from the originals by observing the difference in the form of the two side flaps. In the reprints there is, also, on one or other of the flaps a watermark, consisting of one or more letters, or parts of letters, composing the words BRIEF COUVERTS.

Classification:

I.—General series, perf. 14.

2 kreuzer Naples yellow, light, medium, and full.
3 ,, green, light green.
5 ,, vermilion, brick-red, and light ditto
10 ,, reddish brown (shades).
15 ,, Prussian blue and light ditto.

II.—Journal stamp, imperforate.

(Value 1 kr.) grey-lilac, grey.

* In addition to the reprints of the second and third series, made in 1865, of which a description is given in this magazine (vol. viii., p. 170), the adhesive letter stamps of these two series were again reprinted sometime last year. These reprints are distinguishable from the others by means of the perforations, which in the original issue are 14, in the first reprint 12, and in the reprints of last year 11.

III.—Envelopes.

3	kreuzer	green, light green.
5	,,	vermilion, brick-red, and light ditto.
10	,,	red-brown.
15	,,	Prussian blue and light ditto.
20	,,	orange (shades).
25	,,	warm brown.
30	,,	violet (shades).
35	,,	pale Vandyck brown (shades).

THE NEW JAPANESE CURRENCY.

REPRINTED FROM "THE POSTAGE-STAMP REPORTER."

THE Japanese propose to revolutionize their currency and financial system, and, in fact, have already begun the change. The Japanese embassy, which was in this country and in England a year ago or more, had charge of this matter. At first they were inclined to adopt the English system, this seeming to them better than any other which they examined in Europe; but when they reached the United States, and became acquainted with our system, their views were changed, although the English sought earnestly to prevent this. The Japanese commission finally decided to adopt our decimal system, taking our dollar as their unit, and immediately took measures to put it in operation. Part of the commissioners went home to change the coinage, and the others remained here to superintend the printing of bills and bonds like ours.* This work, we believe, is not yet finished, but the coinage has been so far changed that new coin is already circulating in Japan. An article in *The New York Times* describes this new Japanese coinage as follows:—

"The lowest denomination of their gold coin is one *yen*, equal to one dollar. There are then gold coins of the denomination of two, five, ten, and twenty *yens*. The silver coin is called *sen*, the denominations being five, ten, twenty, and fifty *sens*, the lower denomination being equal to five cents of our currency. The copper coinage is one *sen*, equal to the one-hundredth part of one *yen*; one-half *sen*, equal to the two-hundredth part of one *yen*; and one *rin*, equal to the one-thousandth part of one *yen*. These low denominations are absolutely necessary in that land of plentiful commodities and cheap labour."

* [That this work is not confided to American firms only, is evidenced by the following telegram, which we cut from a daily paper:—

"Paris, 16th Oct.

"The Minister of Japan and the Second Japanese Minister of Finance have left for Frankfort, in order to conclude a new arrangement with the house of Dondorf & Co., for the fabrication of Japanese paper money."—ED.]

NOTES ON THE EARLY STAMPS OF MOLDAVIA.

BY A PARISIAN COLLECTOR.

SINCE the announcement regarding the discovery of a postmarked specimen of the 81 paras, which appeared in *The Stamp-Collector's Magazine* for last month, and also in *Le Timbre-Poste*, we have had an opportunity of examining the specimen in question, and we find that it has been wrongly described as being on *laid* paper.* It is on plain wove paper, not showing any *vergeures*. In truth, a further examination of several specimens of these early Moldavian stamps has led us to modify our opinions in so far as that the *vergeures* on the paper must be regarded as a crucial test of genuineness. A magnificent unsevered pair of the 27 paras are now in the collection of Mr. Philbrick, in which the *vergeures* are scarcely discernible; and in our own copy they are very faint and far apart. Further, in a lot of about twenty postmarked specimens of 54 paras, all of the Magnus type I., we found a copy on paper in which there is not the shadow of an appearance of *vergeures*, and which may be regarded as being plain wove.

From these considerations, therefore, it seems that a test depending upon the paper employed must be abandoned, and that we shall be compelled to seek for the true test of genuineness in the *type*.

All the copies of the 27 paras, now numbering seven or eight, which have been yet exhumed, and all the copies of the 54 and 108 paras of the Magnus type I., are postmarked, and no specimens of these stamps have yet been found postmarked or obliterated with any stamp other than the ordinary

* On more than one occasion we have had to express our admiration of the great acuteness of Dr. Magnus. On the specimen being shown to him, he at once discovered that the supposed *vergeures* were due to the *vergeures* on the paper of the letter to which it was attached.

postal handstamp, consisting of two concentric circles, within the upper part of which is the name of the town, and in the lower part MOLDOVA. Figures within the inner circle, in moveable types, show the day of the month and the number of the month.

We have examined some hundreds of specimens of the first type of the 40 and 80 paras, of the second issue, and we find them obliterated with two kinds of postmarks, and two only. The one is the postal handstamp mentioned above, and the other is a stamp of various forms, with the word FRANCO in the upper part, and the name of the town below. This latter stamp continued in use for some time, and its use is evidently subsequent to that of the circular postal handstamp. It is therefore clear to us that no obliterating stamp, properly so called, was in use during the continuance of the first series, but was adopted only after that the second series had been in use for some considerable time; as out of every hundred specimens probably one half will be found bearing the circular obliteration. This circular stamp as a mode of obliteration, gave place, as we have said, to an obliterating stamp of various shapes. Each town appears to have had a shape peculiar to itself; but, invariably, whatever be the shape of the stamp, the word FRANCO is in the upper part and the name of the town underneath. Thus the obliterating mark for Jassy is an oval, in the upper part of which is FRANCO, and in the lower JASSY. Galatz has two marks, the one like a flag, the words being in two lines, following the waves, and separated by a wavy line; and the other is an oval with "No. 2" in the centre of it. Berlat is also flag-shaped. Botuschani is a simple parallelogram, the words being in straight lines, separated by a line. Baceu is an oval, with the ends cut off in a curve, and the words separated from one another by an ornamental line. The designs of the stamps belonging to Fokshani, Pietra, &c., are more complicated, and more difficult to describe, but they all tend to strengthen our proposition. It may be remarked that the impressions of the circular postal handstamp are most commonly in thin greenish blue ink. It was not till the FRANCO obliterating stamps came in that we find obliterations in carmine, vermilion, violet, &c.

We will now ask our readers to turn to the sixth volume of this magazine, where they will find a translation of Dr. Magnus's valuable monograph on the Moldavian stamps, as it appeared in *Le Timbre-Poste*. This monograph was subsequently reprinted in the form of a pamphlet, and was then enlarged by a description of the 27 paras just discovered by M. Moens. No reprints, no forgeries,* no fancy impressions, no varieties of type of this latter stamp are known, and as we have before said, every specimen yet discovered is marked with the circular postal handstamp. But no less than five varieties of the 54, 81, and 108 paras will be found there described. Of these we have never heard, much less seen any specimens —other than those of the type No. I. of the 54 and 108 paras, and the 81 paras just discovered by M. Moens—obliterated with the circular handstamp, or with any of the obliterating stamps which we consider superseded the use of the circular handstamp as a mark of obliteration, and continued in service throughout the rest of the existence of the first type of the second series. We admit to having seen specimens of some of the other types, bearing an obliterating mark, but not a genuine one, as we believe, or one which we have been able to find among the true marks.

Referring now to the engravings and the description of types I. of the 54 and 108 paras, our readers cannot fail to be struck with the great family likeness (as remarked by Dr. Magnus, vol. vi., p. 52), which exists between them, especially in the principal features—the ears, the nostrils, and the cheek-bones. The opening of the horn, and the dotted shading should also be noticed. On comparing these features with those portrayed on the 27 paras, the same similarity exists, especially in the nostrils, the cheek-bones, and the triangular shape of the ears. It is true that

* [Our esteemed correspondent is in error in supposing that the 27 paras stamp has never been forged: we had the forgeries sent us at a high price in the summer of 1871: they came from an honourable source; and before they had got distributed our correspondent discovered and informed us of their spurious character, and they were all returned to him. We have never met with any other.—ED.]

the ears are rather more open in the 27 paras, and the nostrils are a trifle less parenthetical, but the likeness is very striking.

If we now compare these with the newly-found 81 paras, the same family likeness still exists: the same cheek-bones, the same triangular ears, the same parenthetical nostrils.

On further comparing this 81 paras with the types described by Dr. Magnus, it is found to belong to the 3rd type, the similarity of which to the 54 and 108 is also remarked, at page 52, by Dr. Magnus.

It, therefore, appears to us that the only types belonging to the stamps of the first series which are genuine, are the following:—

27 paras	the single type
54 „	1st type
81 „	3rd type
108 „	1st type.

With regard to the *second* series, we agree with what Mr. Overy Taylor stated in his paper on these stamps. That the first type of the 5, 40, and 80 paras is good, there cannot be a doubt. The second type of the 5 paras, and of the 40 and 80 paras, is much more than doubtful, having never been seen obliterated, and the 3rd type of the 80 paras has, we believe, never been seen with an authentic obliteration.

THE "WEST TOWN" LOCAL.

In 1859 the "West Town Boarding School," an institution located in West Town township, Chester Co., Pa., issued a local postage stamp for the prepayment of the carriage of all outgoing letters between the institution and the nearest post-office, which is located at Street Road station, on the West Chester and Philadelphia railroad, a distance of a mile and a half. The income derived from the sale of these stamps is applied to the support of a daily stage-line between the station and the school. They are sold at two cents each, no value, however, being expressed on the stamp.

The design consists simply of the name WEST TOWN, surrounded by a wide ornamental border. They are printed in bronze, by the lithographic process, on white paper, and in sheets which are composed of 225 labels. The annual consumption is about 10,000, or nearly 130,000 since they were first issued. The stamp remains in use at the present time, and no letter is forwarded from the institution to the post-office unless it bears one. The customary manner of affixing it is to place it on the back of the letter, in the centre, it thus serving the purpose of a seal.*

Counterfeits of the stamp are in existence, printed on coloured paper, the genuine being on white.

This school was established in 1799, and is intended exclusively for the benefit of the youth of the religious society of Friends, none but children of members of that body being allowed to attend it. The number of pupils average 225.

[The foregoing is an account which has been furnished us by an American correspondent, and it forms a striking commentary on an offer made to our publishers, some weeks since, by an American collector, of a pair of West Town stamps at *six shillings* each!

Our correspondent sends us a couple of these stamps, uncut, to exemplify the mode of printing. The under one of the two is printed—relatively to its companion—wrong side up. The lettering is rather rough, and the stamps are smaller than those generally sold as West Town in the packets, though it may be that there have been two emissions of a similar type.—ED.]

ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS.

M. H. CARR, Dublin.—We certainly prefer the accepted construction of the word *philately*. All sciences are endless. There is always something to discover, clear up, or classify. But philately signifies a love of that which exempts from a tax or charge; and therefore, as at present understood, it indicates, at any rate indirectly, the preference felt by collectors for the little rectangles which exempt the letters to which they are attached from a charge.

X. X. X.—The English penny red on blue paper, fine perforations, is known and catalogued.—We do not chronicle either railway or fiscal stamps.—The Tuscany watermark has been duly noticed; the envelope for the French soldiers in Switzerland, the variety of the 3 kop. Russian, and other varieties of postage stamps described by you have all been treated of in these pages, of which we must beg to recommend to you the more careful perusal.

* In *The Stamp-Collector's Guide* (Meriden, Ct.), for March, 1871, a brief notice of this stamp will be found, inaccurate in several particulars, one of which is the date of issue, it being given as 1852, instead of 1859.

EVENTS OF THE YEAR.

A DESULTORY REVIEW.

BY THE EDITOR.

TEN years ago stamp-collecting was a very different thing from what it is now, and the contrast forms the pride of every true philatelist. Then the pursuit was in its veriest infancy, unchristened, save with the sarcastic appellation of "timbromania;" yet very much talked about. The daily papers on both sides of the channel made frequent allusions to it; *The Saturday Review*, in its jaunty way, picked it to pieces; *All the Year Round* praised it; the French play-writers joked upon it; and notwithstanding the sneers of the utilitarians, all the world and his wife went on collecting stamps because it was the fashion to do so. At the present time the press troubles itself but rarely about collectors. To the general public—the outsiders—the pursuit is a mystery; and, in fact, it is so far ignored by those Philistines that, as a rule, they will gravely shake their heads at you, and assure you, in the most positive manner, that collecting is quite a thing of the past. And they are right in one sense, for to the harum-scarum style of amassing stamps, which at the outset was called collecting, has succeeded a careful and scientific method, which lends to the work a charm sufficient to fascinate the attention of ripe scholars and earnest students. Men of all ages and of all professions find in the study and comparison of stamps an interesting and instructive recreation, simply because of the concentrated attention which such an occupation demands. Were it a mere question of sticking stamps on certain given squares the work would be too trivial; but the faculties of observation and classification are called into constant play; and though the mind may, therefore, be almost as much engaged as during the day, yet the change yields repose. Herein lies the strength of collecting, and herein the explanation of the fact that ten years after its inauguration it retains its popularity. If the public knows nothing about the progress of collecting, it is simply because philatelists have literary organs of their own; and also because, as we apprehend, they do not often take the trouble of showing their albums to persons who cannot understand them.

We may be told that these observations are truisms, but if so they are truisms of a very pleasant sort, and may permissibly be repeated in preface of a review of the events of a year which closes the first decade of stamp collecting. They are affirmations of facts on which an old collector cannot refrain from dwelling with a certain fondness, for they represent the triumph of a pursuit once denounced as ephemeral, and enable him to look forward confidently to its further progress and consolidation.

Passing now to an examination of the chief occurrences of the twelvemonth, we come first of all to the literary ventures by which it has been marked, among which we willingly accord the first place to the publication of *The Philatelical Journal*. It has proved itself a most able coadjutor in the study of stamps, and its conductors have been animated throughout by a desire to serve the best interests of the science. Fully convinced, as we are, that there "is room enough for all," we wish our contemporary good speed, and regret the momentary stoppage which has unfortunately resulted from the illness of its esteemed editor. We trust also that before long we may be favoured with his long-promised essay on "Perforations," and his "History and Catalogue of Postal Reprints." Next in importance to the Birmingham journal comes the *Gazette des Timbres*, edited by Dr. Magnus. If we do not place it on the same level with the former, it is simply because it treats not only of postage stamps, but of a crowd of fiscals, in which we trust it will be long before English philatelists take an interest. In as far as the postal section is concerned, it is needless to say that a paper edited by Dr. Magnus can hardly be surpassed. His assumption of the editorial chair is a subject for congratulation, and we doubt not but that the *Gazette* will render even greater service than did the defunct *Timbrophile*. Among minor lights may be reckoned *The Stamp-Collector's Journal*, which after shining through a few numbers merged its existence in that of *The American Journal of Philately*, a magazine which has fairly held its place

throughout the year, and, if we may judge by the last two numbers, has decided on making a worthy effort to attain a higher position as an authority in philatelic matters. Across the Atlantic *The Canadian Philatelist* has appeared, disappeared, and reappeared, we trust, for good. As there are certainly a great many collectors in the Dominion, the journal should meet with wide support; and its existence will, we hope, prove an incitement to philatelic students in that part of the world to make public the results of their labours. To the foregoing might be added the names of half a dozen journalettes published in the United States. These journals form an index of the popularity of collecting, and contain occasional items of interest, but they are too small to do much real good. The old-established journals, consisting of *Le Timbre-Poste* (a magazine of exactly the same age as the *S. C. M.*) and *The Philatelist*, have maintained their reputation as standard authorities; and we trust we may be permitted to claim, without vanity, that we have fulfilled the promise made a year since, that we would sustain the excellence of this, the oldest established of English philatelic organs.

The issue of fresh editions of the popular prepared albums has occurred almost as a matter of course, and forms a faithful indication of the sustained interest in the pursuit. Moens', Stafford Smith's, and Oppen's, all have their champions, and do their work as aids to collectors who are unwilling or unable to arrange their possessions in blank albums. In like manner, the leading dealers continue to publish their price catalogues, which, if they do not contain a reference to the minor varieties, are tolerably complete as to the normal ones. To the list of descriptive catalogues, no addition has to be made, save that of M. Moens' partly-issued work. Among English publications, Dr. Gray's catalogue still retains its supremacy, and we trust the new year will bring a new edition of this old favourite. Mr. Pemberton holds out the promise of a catalogue which shall include all known varieties, and we earnestly hope that this promise will be realised at no distant date. Meanwhile, Dr. Magnus has commenced, in his journal, the publication of a similar work, but it must inevitably take a long time to collect, in this way, sufficient "copy" to make a separate volume.

The general bent of study this year has been in conformity with the tenets of the "French" or advanced school; even the papers nominally intended for the guidance of beginners showing a considerable tendency towards the admission of varieties of secondary importance. This same tendency has also been manifested, to a certain extent, even by our American cousins, heretofore the determined opponents of the recognition of perforation, paper, and watermarks. On the other hand, it is our duty to notice the occurrence of a certain reaction in this country against the too great extension of the boundaries of the science.

The gains of the year, in the matter of philatelic knowledge, are by no means unimportant. The emissions of the Dominican Republic, Turkey, Hawaii, La Guaira, and Trinidad, have been ably analysed in the pages of our contemporaries, and in our own the uncertainties which surrounded the first issues of Moldavia have been definitely cleared up, considerable progress has been made in the classification of the United States locals, and a commencement has been made of the history of the little-known Californian emissions. These are a few of the leading studies of the year, to which must be added the gibbeting of forged stamps, by Mr. Atlee, in *The Philatelist*, and the exposures of the dealers in forgeries, which have appeared in our own and our Birmingham contemporary's columns. The campaign against the roguish dealers has, we have reason to believe, been attended with the happiest results. That the good thus done may be made permanent, we appeal to our friends to do their best to increase the circulation of the respectable journals, and we propose to set apart a column every month, in which to advertise constantly the names of all dealers who are, or have been, discovered to be engaged in the sale of forged stamps.

The attention paid to the wants of that very numerous class which is composed of young or inexperienced collectors, is a subject for congratulation. The "Papers for Beginners" which are being published in these

pages, initiated the movement, and have been favoured with far wider approval, and greater consideration, than their author had anticipated. Dr. Magnus, on the other side of the water, has begun the issue of a similar series of papers for the benefit of French collectors, written in that attractive style of which he is so peculiarly master, and *The American Journal of Philately*, we are happy to see, has commenced the publication of "Notes for Novices," and "Papers for Purchasers." These introductions to *la haute philatélie* are certainly needed, and they form a suitable foundation for papers of a more erudite character, such as the "Notes for Collectors" which appear in these pages, or the *Catalogue Raisonné* of Dr. Magnus.

We have dwelt thus lengthily on the contents of the journals, as it is principally thereby that the activity of the philatelic world can be gauged. The Philatelic Society of London has not fulfilled the expectations at one time entertained, that it would become the medium of communication between collectors in all parts of the world, and of all shades of opinion. Its failure to do so may have arisen from the fact, that the journals have always offered all needful facilities for the publication of intelligence, and the discussion of disputed questions. We had certainly hoped to see established branch societies in all the leading provincial towns, but we are now convinced that this cannot be. Whether, however, a general congress, or conference, might not be feasible is another affair. We are inclined to think that one might be held next year in Paris—say, in the month of August or September—the exact date to be fixed later on; and we purpose inviting such of our readers as may desire to be present thereat to inform us in advance. We take leave to recommend our *confrères*, should their opinion be the same as ours with regard to a congress, to adopt a similar course, as when once the number of intending visitors be approximately ascertained, arrangements might be made for putting the scheme into a definite shape.

Turning now to the emissions of the year, we find a very varied list before us, in which the series of Fiji and Japan hold the most prominent places. These strange visitors surprise us less than they would have done a few years back. Postage stamps have been issued for so many outlandish places, that no new emission, however secluded or uncivilised its place of origin, excites an amount of attention equal to that which it would have received when this magazine was in its second or third volume, and this is the natural result of a close and constant acquaintance with stamps, and of the regular apparition of novelties. The Japanese labels, however, so curious in their design and in all their details, could not make their entrance into our albums without evoking the display of an ununusual degree of interest; and the Fijian stamps, though undistinguished by any device connecting them pointedly with the native islands, are valued from the striking evidence they bring of the march of civilisation in Polynesia.

Next in importance to the foregoing come the issues of the British colonies. Western Australia has added to its attractive designs one yet more elegant and more finely executed—that of the threepence fawn. Our very old acquaintances, the Cingalese stamps, with value in pence, after passing through various editions and changes of colour, perforation, &c., have been at length set aside, their homely designs being succeeded by those of a new set, with value in *cents*. The new Cingalese are of the usual De La Rue type, handsome and delicate; but whilst admitting their excellence, it is impossible to avoid regretting that they should give fresh proof of the too great uniformity of Messrs. De La Rue's fabrications. In their designs the changes are rung *ad infinitum* on the arrangement of the border, but that is all. The fancy portrait remains always the same, always diademed, always facing the left. The engravers, however, are perhaps less to blame than their patrons, the colonial officials, who sacrifice all other considerations to a love of cheapness, combined with a show of loyalty.

The Sierra Leone set forms a welcome reinforcement to the hitherto solitary postal representative of that colony, even though the designs of the new comers be less graceful than those of the majority of the stamps "launched" by the same firm.

Prince Edward Island has given us a new series, composed of types of unequal merit and inferior execution; and the emission was hardly completed, before the appearance of a forgery of one of the values—the four cents —which surprised everyone, from its close imitation of the genuine; added to this, a fictitious value—the 10 c.—was concocted, and palmed off on the cautious editor of *Le Timbre-Poste*. When we have mentioned the issue of a halfpenny stamp for Jamaica, and of a tenpenny adhesive and two envelopes for Mauritius, we have completed the list of important additions to our colonial series.

Among the other notabilities of the year, we must not forget the stamps of the Portuguese Indies, which, in their exceeding roughness and crudeness, carry us back to the time when colonial first emissions were nearly always of native manufacture. That they will soon be succeeded by a better executed type is only a reasonable expectation. The Persian stamps, referred to at greater length in another part of this number, are deserving of "honourable mention"; but whether they really are "this year's birds," remains to be seen. The type, at any rate, is one with which we have been long acquainted.

In Europe, there has been no lack of new emissions. To begin at home, our own country has issued a new sixpenny, of a design which is at once novel and effective; France has begun to employ a new type; Holland has produced a handsome series, graced by an unusually exact portrait of the king; Spain also, after months of hesitation, has adopted a type containing a full-face, and by no means complimentary portrait of its new monarch; Russia and Finland have brought out post cards; Norway has started a fresh design for its adhesives; Roumania has obtained a set of stamps from Paris, copied, in all respects, from the current French; Germany has come into the field with two series, the second differing from the first only in the size of the arms; and last, but not least, a number of Russian locals have been issued or discovered. The interest felt in these stamps is considerable, and is fully warranted by their unquestionably official character, as also by the peculiar circumstances which govern their emission. They offer a more tempting field to the collector of locals than do the issues of the American private offices, as there are no reprints, forgeries, or bogus issues to confuse the student, and there is hardly a design on the Russian stamps which does not possess a history of its own.

If from the past we turn to the future, we find an emission for Burmah among the probabilities. The ambassadors from the emperor of that remote country are now making the tour of the European courts, and it will surprise us if the postal service in civilized parts does not make as great an impression on them as it evidently did on the Japanese envoys. Among other "may-be's" the issue of a new set for Servia should be counted; the South African republic also owes us a new and improved design; Siberia has been talked of as likely to issue stamps; and the Spanish possessions will be supplied with a fresh portrait of the king.

Our review would be incomplete did we not mention the increased favour with which telegraph stamps have been regarded. Due recognition has been accorded to them as twin-brethren to the postal emissions, and one of our contemporaries has commenced the publication of a catalogue of them, which includes the labels of private companies. For our own part, we feel inclined to restrict ourselves to the more interesting and better accredited government emissions; and to these we purpose shortly turning our attention.

We have now only left to us the pleasant duty of wishing our readers A VERY MERRY CHRISTMAS.

THE POST OFFICE PAVILION OF THE MOSCOW RETROSPECTIVE EXHIBITION.

On the 11th June last there was opened at Moscow, on the occasion of the fêtes given in honour of Peter the Great, a grand retrospective exhibition, comprising among others a post-office pavilion. This pavilion (says the *Nord*, whence we borrow the following interesting details) was situated in the second garden of the Kremlin, and was of very elegant construction. It contained all the objects connected with the

postal service, and gave a very exact idea of the development of the postal relations from the reign of Peter the Great down to the present time. Nowhere does the service offer so much variety as in Russia, where the mail is transported by train, in covered carts, on sledges, in steam-boats, in canoes, on horse-back, ox-back, and camel-back, and even by carriers on foot in places where no other animal than man could push his way. With this idea, the postal administration got together a very remarkable collection of pictures and groups, representing the different methods by which letters are conveyed.

Besides this there was a most complete collection of pictures illustrating the gradual spread of the postal system from the days of Peter the Great, when regular communications were only established between Moscow and a few towns in the west, down to the present year, when the network of postal communications envelops the entire extent of the vast empire of Russia, from its borders on the European side, right into the heart of Asia and the shores of the Pacific Ocean. Other pictures and engravings contained views of the principal streams and mountains showing the points at which the post crosses, and among the most interesting of the groups modelled in wax was one which represented the passage of the mails through the transcaucasian defiles. There was also a collection of carrier-pigeons, and a model of the post-cart of the extreme north, representing a postal sledge harnessed by dogs and reindeer.

The postal exhibition contained, moreover, the most complete collection of postage stamps and stamped envelopes, together with the different receptacles for the correspondence, such as valises, sacks, &c., not to mention that the actual sorting and re-forwarding of the letters was conducted in public in an office worked by employés of the Moscow post-office, much to the satisfaction both of the exhibitors and the visitors, the latter being thus able to receive and forward their correspondence without quitting the ground.

Several foreign post-offices deemed it an honour, on the anniversary of the birth of Peter the Great, to exhibit ther models, &c., by the side of those of the Russian administration. Thus the postal departments of Germany, Austria, Sweden, and the United States forwarded their maps, plans, and representations of all their postal *matériel*, thus enabling the public (the Russian employés included) to make useful and judicious comparisons on the extent of the development of the postal service in different countries.

WHAT IS A POSTAGE STAMP?

BY OVERY TAYLOR.

(*Second Article.*)

I HAVE read with much interest the replies which have appeared in *The Stamp-Collector's Magazine* and *The Philatelist* to my inquiry, "What is a Postage Stamp?" and as I believe it to be of importance that we should arrive at some clear and logical definition of the term, I take leave to examine the arguments which have been advanced by those who are disposed to give an answer to the query, more or less differing from my own.

I take Mr. Atlee's letter first, because his conclusions approach nearer to mine. He is disposed to agree with me, to a certain extent, as to the rejection of official and unpaid-letter stamps, and as to the acceptance of registration and too-late stamps. His principal difficulty is, that with regard to unpaid-letter stamps. No fair reason, he argues, can be given for excluding the large impressed figures or mere penmarks by which countries such as our own indicate the amount to be paid by the receiver of a letter. But I think there is a reason, and a very strong one too. Whilst adhesive stamps, as I pointed out in my previous article, are the legitimate offshoots of the postal system, handstruck or written figures are *the relics of the old system* which it superseded. The offices which use them have not yet perceived the utility of employing stamps for the collection of unpaid postage, they find the old plan works satisfactorily; but so long as they continue to use pen-and-ink, or handstamps, they are, in this particular branch of the service, a quarter of a century behind the age. The collection of postage by means of

stamps was an essential concomitant of the adoption of Rowland Hill's scheme; without stamps it could not have worked, and, therefore, I argue that philatelists may, without inconsistency, reject those handmarks which, long before the introduction of cheap postage, were used to show the amount of postage payable on delivery. I willingly admit that this argument has only recently presented itself to me, and I have to thank Mr. Atlee for it, for it was upon facing his objection, that I arrived at it. It is hardly necessary to add, that my observations do not apply to handstamped adhesives or envelopes proper, which are issued to the public. As to the official stamps, for the reasons already given, my own opinion is that neither adhesives nor impressed are properly collectable; but with regard to the former, many collectors would rather transgress the bounds of logic, than turn them out of their albums.

The editor of *The Philatelist* cannot have read the whole of my observations in the September number of *The Stamp-Collector's Magazine*, or he would hardly assert that I make prepayment the spinal marrow of a postage stamp. If he will kindly refer to my remarks respecting unpaid-letter stamps, he will find that I argue for their inclusion, because, "though these stamps do not prepay, they, nevertheless, represent *postage*;" but I do think that payment of the stipulated value at one end or the other is necessary to constitute a postage stamp. The learned editor inveighs against any attempt to curtail the borders of philately. In this I cannot but think he shows a certain degree of inconsistency. He is willing to make use of the argument of logicality to justify the collection of varieties of perforation, paper, &c., but objects to it when its application would tend in any degree to limit the number of collectable stamps. Now, what I venture strongly to condemn is the attempt to invest certain stamps with attributes they do not possess for the sake of rendering them objects of collection. It is a very arbitrary way of going to work to say, Let us call a returned-letter stamp a postage stamp, that we may collect it. If that be the proper course to pursue, there is nothing to be said, for from the moment a label is chronicled or catalogued it becomes *de facto* a postage stamp. The editor of *The Philatelist* advocates the admission of "labels of a quasi-postal character,"—but why? Where is the necessity for this vague and indefinite extension of the philatelic field? With a single, clear, and well-defined object in view, a collector knows what he is about, and has something to strive for; but divided aims may well lead to a diluted interest being taken.

The editor of *The Philatelist* in one sentence speaks of the "tendency to yield points of more or less importance to the science;" in another he says, "Let each individual collector do as he likes." Here again it appears to me his remarks involve a contradiction. If the editor regards philately as a *science*, it is equivalent to admitting that the pursuit of collecting must be guided by certain rules, and the very first of such rules must be that which defines collectable stamps. Nothing can be more fatal to philately as a science than the mere fact of such a distinguished student as the editor of *The Philatelist* telling collectors to do as they please. It is true, he adds to this the recommendation not to "tamper with that science which delights us all;" but that must be a curious science which admits of everyone doing just as he likes, and still collecting scientifically. Would it not be better if a congress, or conference, of some kind could be held, having for its principal object the declaration of certain leading principles or rules, to be subscribed by those present? Then we should have a definite standard to go by.

For my own part, I beg respectfully to object to arbitrary definitions of the term postage stamp—such as that of "P. I. A.," in the October number of *The Stamp-Collector's Magazine*—made for the purpose of justifying the collection of all classes of labels. It appears to me like beginning at the wrong end. It is not necessary to find out what labels collectors are in the habit of accepting, and then to christen them all postage stamps. It would be more reasonable to determine first of all what is a postage stamp in the true acceptation of the term, and having thus

obtained a definition in accordance with *fact*, it would follow that all stamps which it did not cover were without the pale. This would not prevent individuals from accepting mere *postal* stamps if they chose, but such stamps would be relegated to their proper place, and would cease to receive an amount of attention and study which, taken as a whole, they are not worth.*

SIDNEY SIMPSON & CO., OF HULL, DEALERS IN FORGED STAMPS.

We open our columns willingly to give an advertisement, gratis, to the above-mentioned firm, and we only trust it will be seen and read by all our readers. Messrs. Sidney Simpson & Co. will not, perhaps, like the qualification which follows their name, but it expresses the simple fact. It is a twelvemonth since we first published their address, as a warning to collectors, and they have since been pilloried in the "Black List" of *The Philatelical Journal*.

The circumstances under which we have come into possession of evidence of their dealing are simply these: A short time since, a friend of Messrs. Taylor & Son, Stationers, of Scarborough, received from Sidney Simpson & Co. a sheet of forged stamps on sale, and Messrs. Taylor have kindly forwarded it to us, together with the circulars by which it was accompanied.

The sheet is a ruled one, contains 98 labels, in seven rows of fourteen, and bears the following legend at the top, in *one* line:

"Foreign Postal Stamps for Collectors, all at 1d. each. No....."

In fact, except for a slight change in the wording and disposition of the lettering, it is identical in all respects with the sheets of forgeries sent out by Mr. C. C. Dixon, of Hull, and exposed at page 171 of our last volume. Nearly all the counterfeits are of the commonest class, and are old acquaintances; we recognise among them the too-familiar Mexican, Pacific Steam Navigation Co., and first issue Brazil; the current Bolivian, the Paraguay essay, the forgery of the Guatemala invention, and the new series for the Dutch Indies. One or two novelties are added to keep pace with the times; notably the penny and threepenny Fiji. They *ought* not to impose on anyone, but it is to be feared that a great many young lads are swindled out of their money; and it is a great pity that the matter has not hitherto been brought under the notice of the police. However, we trust that the day of legal prosecutions is not far distant. Meanwhile, we are determined to do our best to put down so abominable a system.

That the trade in forgeries is a lucrative one may be judged from the fact that Messrs. Sidney Simpson & Co. can offer their penny counterfeits at tenpence a dozen, and still allow a commission of *fivepence* in the shilling to the persons who are foolish enough to act as their agents; in other words, they can afford to sell them at sixpence per dozen *net*, and still clear a good profit. In their packets the same forgeries are quoted as on the sheets. For a shilling they offer stamps of Bolivia, Paraguay, Hayti, and Ecuador, "and other equally rare varieties;" and the bait by which unsophisticated buyers are attracted is the obliteration of all the specimens. It cannot be too often repeated that obliteration, in itself, offers no guarantee of genuineness; and there is another equally important fact which requires to be impressed on young collectors, which is, that no stamp which is sold at so low a price as a penny can possibly be *rare*. Lastly, let "beginners," whatever their age, be careful to observe whether the stamps which may be offered to them are guaranteed to be genuine; if not, the stamps are almost certain to be forged.

* Since the above has been in type I have read the observations of my learned friend, Senor Pardo de Figueroa, in reply to my queries. I regret, but am not altogether surprised, that he should disagree with my conclusions, especially as regards the collection of official stamps. To him the question "What is a postage stamp?" is no more a question than "Who was the father of Zebedee's children?" and he declares himself to be in favour of the admission of all classes. He does not, however, support his declaration by any reason whatever. I, on my side, must therefore content myself by registering it.

Romagna Stamps.—Clever obliterated forgeries of these stamps are now being offered for sale by Italian dealers: a full description of them will be given in our January number.

NEWLY-ISSUED OR INEDITED STAMPS.

GUATEMALA.—The annexed engraving, copied from a very heavily-marked specimen of the stamp it professes to represent, first appeared in the Belgian journal for last month, whose proprietor we have to thank for the use of it. It does not profess to be a correct copy of the design, and we have reason to believe it to be a very incorrect one. We do not possess a specimen of this one peso stamp; but we have a rather badly-marked specimen of another value—the 4 reales—and presume the design of the two stamps to be identical. Starting with this assumption, we find that the arms on the shield are *totally different* from those on the engraving. The central item in the device is an upright *blank* scroll, with a blank band below, and, as nearly as we can make out, the hilts of two crossed swords, of which the points project, one on either side, behind the scroll. On the left side, what should be the half of a wreath is clearly visible; but, on the right side there appears to be another ornament; and there is something, but we cannot make out what, perched on the scroll. The ground of the shield is formed of horizontal straight lines, and the border, which surrounds the shield, has a dotted ground. Furthermore, before and after the inscription in the oval there is an elongated rosette. Thus much in correction of our engraving; we hope that very shortly the arrival of unused specimens will enable us to give an exact copy of the design. For stamps, which are evidently of native fabrication, the execution is certainly creditable. It is hardly necessary to add that they, nevertheless, form a striking contrast to the finished Parisian productions, which alone have hitherto been received from Guatemala. The native artists have copied, in a general way, the disposition of the French engraver; but the change in the arms is a striking fact, of which the explanation is most desirable. The colour of the 4 reales is mauve; that of the 1 peso yellow. Both are on white paper, and perforated 12. *The Philatelist* mentions a 1 real yellow, on the strength of a correspondent's report; but the value is probably, as given by M. Moens, 1 peso, though it may well be that other values exist.



ROUMANIA.—The Danubian principalities have at length bid adieu to lithographed designs, and now possess a series of stamps brand-new from Paris. If we did not *know* that they came from the Hôtel de la Monnaie, we should very soon find out, for the new Roumanian stamps resemble the French in the following points:—



1.—The border (Greek pattern).
2.—The inscriptions and their disposition; name of country above; figure of value on each side the word POSTA below.
3.—The circle (pearled).
4.—The perforation ($13\frac{1}{2}$).
5.—The tinting of the paper.
6.—The colours;

and the French check-mark, *Contrôle T. P.*, in a transverse oval, is found at the bottom of each sheet. After this it may be as well to state that the profile is that of Prince Charles. The very fact that these stamps resemble, in so many particulars, the French, is a sufficient testimony to their elegance. The values are as follows:—

$1\frac{1}{2}$	bani	olive-green (for journals).
3	„	bright green.
5	„	bistre.
10	„	bright blue.
15	„	red-brown.
25	„	orange.
50	„	rose.

The combinations of the national colours, which marked the previous series, are no longer in favour.

RUSSIAN LOCALS.—We have this month two new locals to chronicle, whose claims to distinction on the score of elegance are of the slenderest. Both are introduced to public notice by M. Moens.

Aleksandrowsk (Ekaterinoslav).—This is evidently a type-set stamp, and the ornaments which form the circle bear a close resemblance to the portraits of the house-fly which adorn the fatal fly-papers. The inscription rather curiously reads STAMP, RURAL POST OF ALEKSANDRIISK; and yet the stamp really comes from Aleksandrowsk—and *not* from Aleksandriisk, a small town in the Grodno government, which does not possess a rural post, nor from Aleksandrow, in the Vladimir government. The signs in the centre of the stamp form the abbreviation of *rural post stamp*. The value of this oddity is 10 kop. The impression black on chamois-coloured paper, unperforated.



Rjeff.—The annexed design may, or may not, be that of a postage stamp. The inscription reads simply RURAL ADMINISTRATION OF THE DISTRICT OF RJEFF. Neither of the words "post" nor "stamp" occurs, and it is far from improbable that this is a simple seal of the rural administration. There is a second and similar type, differing merely in the disposition of the three stars, of which two are against the margin and one above. Time will prove what importance should be attached to this type; for our part we prefer to regard it as an official seal, and not a postage stamp.



Charkoff.—M. Moens gives currency to a report that the 5 kop. of this district has been issued in blue, as an unpaid-letter stamp; that is to say (in so far as these locals are concerned), for the collection of postage on letters *to* the district.

Bogorodsk.—We possess a blue 5 kop. envelope of the second type. Our Brussels contemporary also chronicles a 5 kop. envelope of the first type, printed deep blue, and of various sizes. The blue stamps, bands, and envelopes are used for letters from the district to the town, and the red (except the 1 kop.) for letters from the town to the district. The issue of so many stamps by this post may be taken as an indication of its importance.

Elizavetgrad.—The stamp here represented was the first issued for the Elizavetgrad district, and was superseded by the similar design which we recently reproduced. The value, it will be seen, is 5 kop.; the colour is carmine. On being examined through a magnifier, an inscription is seen on the side of the book, signifying RURAL ADMINISTRATION ACT. In a short time we hope to be able to give our readers some information as to the general working of the system of rural administration, to which reference is here made.



CUBA.—Another emission! Before one can get on intimate terms with one series, another





makes its appearance; and what good purpose can be served by this perpetual shuffling of types we are at a loss to conceive. However, our duty as ushers is simply to introduce the guests which claim admission to philatelic pages, and not to criticise the motives for their appearance. The annexed designs are as yet known only from proofs, of which have been struck off in the following values:—

First type.

12, 12½, 25, 50 c. de peseta.

Second type.

Una peseta.

As M. Moens justly observes, it is probable

that the 12 c. will not be issued, the 12½ c. being just the half of the 25 c. values. The colours are not yet known.

PERSIA.—We have received no further details respecting the series supposed to have been recently issued for this country; but we have had a communication from an esteemed correspondent (Mr. J. C. Wilson), which leads us to believe that the emission of the series took place a considerable time back. Mr. Wilson's letter reads as follows :—

> I notice, in your magazine for November, that you mention a new stamp for Persia, as chronicled by Dr. Magnus, in the *Gazette des Timbres;* the design seeming familiar to me, I searched amongst a quantity of odds and ends and found the enclosed. You will see that it agrees in every particular with your engraving, the only exception being that the value in the angles is "1," instead of "4" as figured in the wood-cut. I had put the stamp aside long ago as a worthless imposture, although, when I come to think, I must have possessed it some time before forgeries were manufactured; but I can only speak from memory as regards this.

Mr. Wilson's specimen answers to our design, but differs to some extent from Dr. Magnus's description. It is not roughly printed; on the contrary, every detail is clearly visible, and the paper, though thin, is of a certain consistency. It is postmarked, and the look of the obliteration is the only suspicious point about it, consisting, as it does, of eight horizontal lines, forming part, apparently, of a lozenge; this strikes us as being rather an unlikely mark for a country like Persia. The stamp is coloured a light vermilion, and perforated 13. Taken altogether, we are inclined to believe it to be genuine, whilst, however, reserving our final opinion until the arrival of more positive intelligence.

LUXEMBURG.—A fresh supply of the 1 c., 20 c., and 25 c. was printed off at Frankfort in March last. The first-named value returns to the colour it had in 1865—a light red-brown, with perforation on a line of colour; the 20 c. becomes light chocolate, and the 25 c. dull blue. These stamps will not be issued for another three or four months, says *Le Timbre-Poste*, from which we gather these details. It states, in addition, that the 37½ centimes is now a useless stamp, there being no longer any postal rate corresponding therewith; the supplies are consequently to be called in, and the value of the stamp will be changed to one franc by the surcharge, in black, of the inscription UN FRANC on the scroll, which now bears the present denomination; and when the stock of this provisional stamp shall have been exhausted a new type will be chosen.

FRANCE.—A committee has just been constituted by ministerial order, charged with the duty of designating the modification which it may be desirable to apply to the fabrication of postage stamps, and will also have to decide whether it would not be advisable to get the stamps printed by private contract. Several deputies have had interviews with the French finance minister with reference to the reduction of the interior postal rate to 20 centimes, and it is said that M. Wolowski is again about to propose the issue of post cards.

BERMUDA.—*The Philatelist* says: "Some delay in the issue of the expected threepenny Bermuda stamp has taken place, owing to certain of the authorities desiring to employ a type bearing our Queen as a widow, like that employed for some Newfoundlands and Canadian bill-stamps. Being deterred, however, by the representations of their more economical fellows that the expense would be considerable, the head in present use will be employed, with the necessary alterations."

ARGENTINE REPUBLIC.—The 5 c. Rivadavia of the 1864 type, which had been recalled into temporary circulation, is now again "out of commission," after a currency lasting only from the 14th to the 30th June, a fresh supply of the 5 c. of the 1867 type having been printed off in red, on white *wove* paper, like the provisionals of 1867. The impression, says M. Moens, is defective, and evidently from a worn plate. The post-office, it is stated, has announced its intention to issue two new stamps this month.

GERMAN EMPIRE.—Two new values have to be added to the existing series.

$$\left.\begin{matrix} 2\tfrac{1}{2} \text{ groschen} \\ 9 \text{ kreuzer} \end{matrix}\right\} \text{light brown.}$$

The former is for the North, and the latter for the South. These denominations were very much wanted, as they represent the postal rate to the United States, England, France, &c., and have hitherto had to be made up by employing two or more stamps.

United States of Colombia.—The annexed design is that of the current ANOTACION stamp, which is used for letters which are both registered and insured. It is used in conjunction with the 5 c. stamp, with an R in the centre, signifying *registered*, and is printed in black on white.



Wurtemburg has just issued a large postal card, colour blue, with a 2 kr. envelope stamp, impressed in orange, on the right upper corner, and also a reply-paid card, consisting (like that of Holland) of two leaves, each with a 2 kr. stamp in orange, but with different inscriptions.

New South Wales.—M. Moens gives an illustration, in his current number, of another odd watermark, said to exist on the penny wrappers, but probably only an essay. It consists of a kangaroo, surmounted by the letters A. P, face to face with an ostrich.

Spain.—Of the new series, the 6 and 12 cents de peseta, which have hardly seen the light, are, so it is said, to be suppressed; and notice has already been published by the Madrid post-office to that effect.

Straits Settlements. — The Brighton journal states that a 30 cents stamp, design similar to that of our current sixpenny brown, is in preparation, and will probably supersede the 32 c.

Mauritius.—The same authority, rectifying our own statement, as well as that of *Le Timbre-Poste*, gives the following as the correct colours of the new envelopes:—

Tenpence	blue.
One-and-eightpence	marone.

Natal.—We beg to refer our readers to our "Correspondence" column for information respecting another variety of the provisional threepence.

Hungary.—A newspaper wrapper, bearing an impression in yellow of the 2 kr. adhesive, and agreeing in all other respects with the Austrian wrapper, has just been issued.

Jamaica.—The new halfpenny stamps for this island are printed in sheets of 240, and are watermarked CC. and crown.

Austria.—The 3 kreuzer adhesive and envelope are now printed dull greyish-green.

Trinidad.—The fourpence comes over of a greyish blue.

THE POST-OFFICE AS A PROFESSION.

FROM "THE AMERICAN POST-OFFICE GAZETTE."

Of all professions, of all modes of earning a living, farming and the management of post-offices are the two oldest in history. Both antedate the Christian era by thousands of years. Farming began when Adam and Eve commenced their lives outside the garden of Eden. The post-office commenced when men began to gather into communities and live a little apart. Our earliest profane and religious literature mentions the post as an existing fact. Queen Jezebel "wrote letters in Ahab's name, sealed them with his seal, and sent the letters unto the elders and to the nobles in the city." The book of Esther records that Ahasuerus, king of Persia, displeased at Vashti's disobedience, sent letters into every province of his vast empire. Xenophon tells us that Cyrus, when engaged in his Scythian expedition, "caused it to be tried how far a horse could go in a day without baiting, and at that distance appointed stages and men, whose business it was to have horses always in readiness," that they might carry the news and mails he sent home. And Herodotus tells us there were one hundred and eleven postal stages, each a day's journey, between Susa and the Ægean sea, and that at each stage a large and beautiful structure was erected, with every convenience for the transmission of posts.

But the difference between the post of heathen and of Christian times is, that the one was only employed for government purposes; the other is open to every citizen, however weak, however poor. The same distinction has prevailed even up to our own day. The mail service of China dates back far into antiquity, and four hundred years ago there were ten thousand mail stations in that land, but all for the use of government. Not until the present century, and as a practice borrowed from Christian nations,

did China permit the use of the mails to all who could pay the postage.

It was six hundred years ago that the first regular mail service was established in Europe by the Hanseatic towns. So evident were its advantages, that Maximilian of Austria adopted the same plan throughout his empire and Lombardy. About 1480, posts were established in England by Edward IV., but only for governmental purposes. It was reserved for the Stuarts to establish a post-office in the modern sense of the term—a place and plan for the transmission of letters at fixed rates, and open to all. James I. was monarch of Scotland, then of England, and to keep up the possibility of correspondence between his two realms, and to weld them into one, he authorized the commencement of the mail service of the present day. It soon became self-supporting, and in 1650 was farmed out for 25,000 dollars a year. Thirty-five years later, it was worth 325,000 dollars a year. Every year it grew and improved, till the Duke of Wellington could say it was the only post-office in Europe that did its work, and till Lord Macaulay could call it "a splendid triumph of civilization."

The American post-office is the child of the English, and equals its parent in the rapidity and safety with which letters are carried. But England receives a handsome profit from the carriage of letters at two cents each, while the United States loses five millions of dollars a year on a three-cent postage. The chief difference, or one of the chief differences, between the two is, that England receives pay for all the matter carried in the mail, while this country loses five millions a year under the franking privilege. In all other respects the postal rules of the two countries are alike.

Massachusetts was the first colony that established a post-office on this continent. As early as 1639 the following notice was posted up in one of the straggling streets of the little village of Boston:—

It is ordered that Richard Fairbank, his house in Boston, is the place appointed for all letters which are brought from beyond the seas or are to be sent thither; and he is allowed for every letter one penny, and must answer all miscarriages through his own neglect.

This constituted the first penny postage of the world.

Eighteen years later Virginia followed her sister colony by passing a law requiring each plantation to provide a messenger who should carry government dispatches; and it shows the currency then in use, that the penalty for failure was a hogshead of tobacco.

Boston and New York were the two first cities on the continent to be wedded by postal bonds. A monthly mail was established between them as early as 1672. The advertisement of this first mail transportation informs "those that bee disposed to send letters, to bring them to the Secretary's office, where, in a lockt box, they shall be preserved till the messenger calls for them; all persons paying the post before the box be sealed up." The two post-riders that then constituted the whole transportation force of the American continent set out from Boston and New York simultaneously, and, travelling the whole week, met at Saybrook, in Connecticut, the next Saturday night. Here they exchanged mails and congratulations, and, resting upon the Sabbath, spent the next week in returning to their homes. It was then considered very expeditious for a letter only to take fourteen days between New York and Boston.

A post-office was opened in Philadelphia in 1683; and in 1737 Benjamin Franklin was appointed postmaster, and thus gave notice of his appointment in his own paper, *The Pennsylvania Gazette*:—

Notice is hereby given, that the post-office at Philadelphia is now kept at B. Franklin's, in Market-street, and that Henry Pratt is appointed riding master for all stages between Philadelphia, Newport, Virginia, who sets out about the beginning of each month, and returns in twenty-four days, by whom gentlemen, merchants, and others may have their letters carefully conveyed.

Up to Franklin's time, the postmaster-general had been wont to refuse the mails to all newspapers except his own. Franklin was appointed deputy postmaster-general in 1753, and threw open the mails to all papers. He was the only head of the department who in person visited every post-office on the continent. He greatly increased the transportation of the mails. Once a week in summer, once a fortnight in winter, had the mails been carried between New York and Philadelphia. He had the mails carried three times a week between the two cities.

For forty years was Franklin employed in the post-office as postmaster, deputy postmaster-general, and postmaster-general; and it is not invidious to his successors to say that no man ever performed the duties better. His ledger still remains in the office of the sixth auditor, in the clear, legible, but slightly tremulous hand of the philosopher, then sixty-nine years old. Many other duties did Franklin perform; but the post-office was his profession, and occupied nearly all his life. When he entered upon the duties of his office, there may have been forty persons on this continent making the work of the post-office their profession. To-day there are between forty and fifty thousand. Nearly thirty-two thousand of them are postmasters; eight thousand more are contractors; and so large is the number of clerks, route agents, mail messengers, &c., that there are in the United States to-day more than one thousand persons who make the post-office a profession for one that lived by it when Franklin was first appointed.

PAPERS FOR BEGINNERS.—No. XXIII.

BY OVERY TAYLOR.

EUROPE.

France.

In 1860 fresh facilities for the transmission of printed matter were accorded to the public by the reduction of the rate for circulars to one centime for every five grammes. This led to the issue of the one centime stamp, olive-green, in November of that year, and at the same time the 80 c. made its appearance in rose, and the 5 c. in light green.

Up to this time no steps had been taken to adopt the English system of perforation, which had been in operation for several years, and had already found favour in other countries. In 1861, however, a Paris house, that of Messrs. Susse frères, pointedly indicated to the government the course to be taken, by setting up a perforating machine of its own. It was originally stated that Messrs. Susse merely used the machine to perforate the stamps which they sold over their own counter, but, according to Dr. Magnus, they also perforated the supplies of many of the ordinary stamp retailers, with whom the invention became popular, owing to the time it saved in separating the stamps. All the six values then current, viz., the 1 c., 5 c., 10 c., 20 c., 40 c., and 80 c., exist with the Susse perforations (which are very large and coarse), but specimens are now with difficulty obtained.

Shortly after Messrs. Susse's machine had commenced working, the government, according to some authorities, issued a certain number of sheets of the six values *line-pierced* (that is to say, pierced with a series of short slits), and the same were put on sale in two of the Parisian post-offices and in several of the departments, but were soon withdrawn, the patentee of the perforating machine having threatened to commence an action against the administration for illegal imitation of his process.* Negotiations were then entered into with him, and in 1862 the entire series made its appearance officially perforated. According to M. Moens, however, the line-pierced stamps were as much the fruit of private enterprise as the Susse series.†

The issue of the perforated stamps did not give rise to any noticeable change in colour, and it is worthy of passing observation, that this is the only occasion on which an entire French series has appeared simultaneously.

The reduction, already adverted to, in the rates for circulars and printed matter necessitated the issue of two fresh values, and advantage was taken of the opportunity thus afforded to create a fresh type. The emperor's successes in Italy and Mexico had given him the right to grace his brow with a wreath of laurels, and this he figuratively did on the new stamps, as well as on the new coinage. The two centimes red-brown, with laureated profile, made its appearance on the 1st January, 1863, and the 4 c. lavender, of the same type, on the following 12th of September. The execution of both stamps is faultless, and the portrait of the emperor a good one. In the design



* See *Le Timbre-Poste*, vol. v., p. 5.

† Maury says nothing decisive on the point, and Mahé simply chronicles the emission without comment.

utility was consulted even before elegance, a bold figure of value being placed in each of the lower angles, and the word *Français*, abbreviated in the previous emissions, is here written at full length.

These two stamps, the two and the four centimes, have continued in use almost down to the present time, and that without any substantial alteration, though certain differences in shade may be noticed. The 4 c. is found in a deep grey, and the 2 c. varies from light to dark; the design also on the later-printed supplies shows some traces of wear.

From 1863 we take a leap to 1867, noticing, however, in passing, the strange *on dit* published in the first volume of the Belgian journal, to the effect that it was in contemplation to issue a 20 centime adhesive with a microscopic view of Puebla in the centre, surmounted by a soaring eagle! It was indeed fortunate that this absurd project, if ever really entertained, was abandoned. Stamps may well be employed to illustrate memorable events which have long been embalmed in a nation's history, but it would be great temerity to render them souvenirs of contemporary doings, of which to-morrow's occurrence may totally change the value or significance. To resume: in 1867 the four values used for the prepayment of letters, viz., 10 c., 20 c., 40 c., and 80 c. were issued with laureated profile and with EMPIRE FRANCAIS in full; and a fifth value was added, the 30 centimes chocolate, intended for correspondence with Belgium and Switzerland, with which countries postal treaties guaranteeing lower rates had just been concluded. The colours of this series are bright and effective, excepting only that of the 10 centimes, which value (it must also be observed) is found in several shades, from pale to brownish cinnamon. The design is a fuller one than that of the previous type, and is all the handsomer for the broader borders and more legible inscriptions. The 30 centimes with ground of horizontal lines has been chronicled as a variety, but, as many (and I among the number) think, in error. It is true that the later printed specimens show this ground, but I believe it always existed and that it has only become visible from some change in the mode of impression or from the deterioration of the die. The seven values (2 c., 4 c., 10 c., 20 c., 30 c., 40 c., and 80 c.) made their appearance about the end of 1869 *unperforated*, but specimens are now scarce.



In November, 1869, appeared also the long expected five-franc stamp, of which an engraving is annexed. Great things were expected of the engraver, M. Barre, but although the execution was characterised by all his usual delicacy, the design itself—copied in the main from that of the bill-stamps—proved a great disappointment. As was justly observed, but for the word TIMBRE-POSTE the stamp might well have been taken for a revenue label. The colour of this truly valuable stamp is mauve; the figure 5 and letter F are said to be in violet-blue, but this I cannot perceive. That these signs were impressed *after* the rest of the stamp had been printed is evident, as the ground-work runs across them.



The list of imperial postage stamps proper closes with the 1 centime laureated, olive-green, which was issued in May, 1870, and is still in partial use. The *chiffres-taxe* and journal stamps remain to be treated of separately, and some notice will be necessary of the rejected envelope designs. To fill in these details, and retrace the history of the French post-office during and since the late war, will be my task in the next paper.

THE PLEASANT SHADE POST-OFFICE.

BY C. H. COSTER.

IN the course of my recent letters on the Petersburg stamp, I attempted to throw some light on the history of the very similar label issued by the Pleasant Shade post-office. Since then, I have made the subject one of special research, and aided by correspondence

furnished by Dr. Petrie, to whom my thanks are due, I am enabled to present the following history of the office in question. In the course of my investigations, I have found that the information furnished by a stupid official, and stated by him to consist of extracts from post-office directories—as to where Pleasant Shade existed, &c.—is by no means as accurate as could be desired. I therefore deem it better to take up the matter from the commencement, and I would say that I have taken pains to verify all the statements herein given, so that they may be relied upon as correct and accurate in every particular.

Pleasant Shade is situated in Greensville County (*not* Brunswick County), Virginia, not far from Hicksford, which is the county town. The post-office was first opened in or about 1859, with R. E. Davis as postmaster. On the breaking out of the war, it, in common with all the other offices in the Confederacy, was "suspended," and as such it appears in the post-office directories of that period. "After this cruel war was over," it remained closed until 1870, for in the directory of that year, I find it among the list of "Post-Offices established from August 1st, 1870, to January 1st, 1871." Since then it has been in active operation. It will be noticed that Mr. Davis, in his letter copied below, gives the date of the reopening as March, 1871. The discrepancy of a few months between this date and that given in the directory, can only be accounted for by supposing that, although the Washington authorities decided, in the latter part of 1870, to reopen the office, they did not put their decision into effect until March, 1871.

With respect to the stamp issued by Mr. Davis on the breaking out of the war, I append a letter from him addressed to Mr. Scott.

[Copy.]

Brunswick Co., Va.,
February 5, 1869.

Mr. J. W. Scott, New York City.

Dear Sir,—In answer to yours of recent date, in regard to postage stamps, &c., I beg to say that I was postmaster at Pleasant Shade before the war, but have no stamps on hand now.

Very respectfully, &c.,
(Signed), R. E. DAVIS.

The envelope enclosing the above is postmarked "Smoky Ordinary," Feb. 12. On reference to the map, I find that place in Brunswick County.

No doubts were entertained here as to the character of the stamp bearing Mr. Davis's name, until *The Philatelical Journal* for April last questioned very strongly the possibility of such a place as Pleasant Shade having ever existed. On receipt of that magazine, Dr. Petrie wrote to the postmaster at Hicksford, from whom he received the following reply.

[Copy.]

Hicksford, May 21, 1872.

Dr. J. A. Petrie.

Sir,—Your letter of inquiry after Pleasant Shade and its former postmaster, R. E. Davis, is received, and lies before me. In reply, I inform you that Pleasant Shade is a country store, with the post-office kept in it. It was closed during the war, but reopened in 1871, with Miss Eliza Mills as postmistress. R. E. Davis is living within a short distance of Pleasant Shade, has a family, and is farming in a small way.

Very respectfully yours,
(Signed), S. J. BROWNE, Postmaster.

This letter was apparently written by a lady.

Upon receipt of the above, Dr. Petrie put himself in communication with Mr. Davis, and in reply to a letter sent him, asking for full particulars as to the stamp, of which Dr. Petrie enclosed a *fac-simile*, cut from *The Stamp-Collector's Guide*, received a reply as under:—

[Copy.]

Pleasant Shade Post-office,
Greensville Co., Va.,
June 21st., 1872.

Dr. J. A. Petrie.

Dear Sir,—Yours of the 3rd inst.—making inquiries in regard to the postage stamp I issued and used at this office during the war, &c.—came to hand a few days ago, and I will answer all your questions as well as I can, under the circumstances, which I will have to do from memory altogether, as I have lost all of my post-office books and papers. I have read the magazine you sent also, and notice the pieces marked by you; and in reply to all of them I would say, whether Pleasant Shade was a *city* or "Hill" Shade, there certainly was a stamp issued expressly for that office during the war.

Now for your questions:

Pleasant Shade post-office was opened during 1859. I do not remember the month.

I was the *first* postmaster, and continued to the close of the war, I think, when the office was closed, and remained so until March, 1871, when it was reopened, and Miss Eliza Mills appointed postmistress.

I did issue a postage stamp while postmaster under the Confederate Government, but not like the one you enclose; my stamp was about the same as Petersburg stamp No. 1, mentioned and described on page 58 of *The Philatelical Journal* you sent me; only the colour of mine (the Pleasant Shade stamp) was *blue*.

I think I had several hundred printed. I do not remember the number exactly.

I had none but 5 c.

They were printed by Messrs. A. F. Crutchfield & Co., of Petersburg, Virginia, who edited *The Daily Express*. I have lost the bill, and do not remember what they cost.

I have not the die from which the stamps were printed. I have not any of the old stamps in my possession, and cannot get any; for it seems that every one has been destroyed. I have no Confederate stamps, and do not know where I could find any.

Hoping that this will answer your purposes, I beg to subscribe myself

Very truly yours obediently,
(Signed), R. E. DAVIS.

I may mention that Mr. Young, in his letter to me, said that the printer of the Pleasant Shade stamp was a Mr. Campbell, foreman to the proprietors of *The Daily Express*.

After considering the different sources from which the above information is collected, and yet how entirely it agrees in every particular, I think all collectors will agree with me, that there is no longer any reason for doubting the genuine character of the Pleasant Shade stamp.

CORRESPONDENCE.

ANOTHER VARIETY OF THE THREEPENCE NATAL.

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

SIR,—Your readers may like to know that a new variety of the 3d. Natal has just made its appearance. The stamp is a bright mauve colour, with POSTAGE printed on both sides in red ink. This makes the sixth variety of the threepenny.

By inserting this in the next number of your valuable magazine, you will oblige.

Yours faithfully,
PHILIP F. PAYN.

Durban, Natal, South Africa.

THE T. B. MORTON POSTAGE STAMPS.

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

DEAR SIR,—My silence ere this has probably caused some anxiety to philatelists, possessors of T. B. Morton & Co.'s stamps, who have read M. Moens' insinuations against the same. I should have written to you long since, had it not been for a sudden absence, which has kept me away for nearly a couple of months.

I was much surprised on reading, in *The Philatelical Journal* for April, that the editor of *Le Timbre-Poste* hoped to prove, in the following month's number, that all the authentic information furnished by me to *The Stamp-Collector's Magazine* and *The Philatelical Journal* was a pure invention of mine. Such a malevolent report has certainly no power to injure my reputation, and I am glad to see that during my absence you have already, in your June magazine, analysed M. Moens' chimerical documentary evidence. I need hardly add that I am ready to prove its exaggerated character at any time, by producing copies of all my correspondence with the editor of your Brussels contemporary, regarding the T. B. Morton & Co.'s stamps.

In the meantime I may as well call your attention to a fact which forms, I think, a most curious feature of this discussion, and which I leave to M. Moens to explain; that is, that while M. Moens closed the article above referred to with a warning to philatelists against emissions from Constantinople (*garde aux emissions de Constantinople*), he himself, in the month of July, accepts the amount of subscription to his paper in T. B. M. & Co.'s journal stamps of the last emission! These I purposely remitted to him in order to test his own belief in what he had written, and also in order to read for myself the condemnation of the most unquestionably authentic T. B. Morton & Co.'s stamps, *an entire series of which is to be found in the archives of Her Britannic Majesty's General Post Office, having been officially obtained from the company.*

Under these circumstances all further comment in their favour I consider useless; and, in conclusion, allow me to avow that I would not compliment the subscribers of *Le Timbre-Poste*, if all the philatelical news reported therein be of equal accuracy.

I remain, dear Sir,
Yours truly,
Constantinople. A. B. PANOPOULO.

ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS.

H. O.—We are obliged for your communication *re* the North German stamps.

G. H. H., Timperley.—A private opinion on the Mulready design is hardly a quotable thing.

B. T., Liverpool.—We cannot explain the scarcity of the one cent Nicaragua; that it is in circulation appears to be certain.

J. C., Moorestown, N. J.—We *cannot* explain the appearance of a St. John, New Brunswick, postmark on a Canadian stamp.

PERSEVERANZA, Notting Hill.—Your perforated Japanese is genuine. The issue of a perforated series was duly noticed in these columns a short time since.

N. S. TORR, Chester.—The stamps of the Dominion of Canada are now used in British Columbia; the emissions of the latter colony are consequently obsolete.

P. G. S., Oxford.—It is not probable that the accession to the throne of Sweden of the late king's brother will lead to the issue of a fresh series of either Swedish or Norwegian stamps.

E. H. L., Greenock.—Your Tasmanian stamp is one of the well-known series, and your specimen has no special value.—The 1½d. English stamp was issued last spring, and the emission was at once noticed in these pages.

H. S. J. H., Truro.—We have to thank this correspondent for sending us a paragraph from the *Western Morning News* treating of the Belgian stamps, but as the facts it contains are known to all collectors, its reproduction would not be useful.

X. P. RIENCE, Norwich.—The Roman stamps, we believe, are now obsolete. The French stamps are used in Monaco.—*The Canadian Philatelist* is published at Quebec.—All the values of the German series have appeared with the enlarged eagle.

NOVICE, Darlington.—Your stamps Nos 1, 4, 7, 8 and 13 to 19 are forgeries; the rest are genuine, your New Zealand twopence brown is not a changeling, but a new emission.—The Permanent Album does not contain space for revenue stamps; Lallier's does.