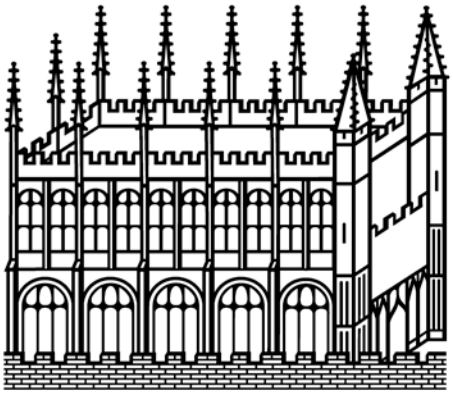


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W. J. H. K.

Per. 247928
25

F. A. Bellamy

1892.

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The Philatelist, vol x.

A copy of this volume was not in the Bodleian library 20 years ago, nor vol. IX.

A companion copy of vol. IX I sent some years ago to an old Austrian Judge of the Supreme Court & President of the Senate; I might eventually be able to get it back from him; if so, it shall come to the Bodleian. The set (vol I–X) will then be complete.

If vol X. is already in the library I should like this copy again

F. A. Bellamy

1912 July 21

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FRANCE.

THE

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AN

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FOR

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Vol. X.

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THE PHILATELIST.

RECENT AND UNDESCRIBED EMISSIONS.

JAPAN.

AT page 136, vol. ix., are quoted certain values printed from the current plates, but of altered hues. Additional to those there chronicled is the 20 sen vermilion-red, formerly lilac, a specimen of which has been kindly forwarded by a correspondent. The type very closely resembles its predecessor, but the size does not exceed that of the 1 sen of same date.

JAMAICA.

The description of the pair of novelties for this island chronicled last month runs thus: broad rectangles; Queen Victoria's laurelled head to left in beaded circle, JAMAICA POSTAGE above, value in words below, in colour on white; triangular spandrels. Red-brown, value 2 shillings. Similar, not identical head in beaded octagon, spandreled; like inscription in straight bands above and below. Lilac, value 5 shillings. Both stamps impressed in colour on white, and perforated. Watermarked CC. and crown.





ANTIOQUIA.

It is now nearly seven years since the first set of this state was described at one of the early meetings of the Philatelic Society. Three or four more have followed in quick succession, and another set must now be chronicled from the description given by M. Roussin. Rectangular; imperforate; coloured impression on white. CORREOS DE ANTIOQUIA above, COLOMBIA and arms below the words of value on a bandeau; numerals of value at each angle *reversed*. Black, 1 centavo.

Same inscription differently disposed; above and below same arms surmounted by nine stars; numerals at angles. Blue, 2½ c. Inscription and value on coloured bands above and below profile of Liberty in circle flanked by numerals. This ugly stamp does not bear the word COLOMBIA like the preceding, but has LIBERTAD in minute letters across the bandeau of the head. Light green, 5 c. The next is totally unlike any previous type of the States of Colombia. Three-quarter portrait of some individual with an enormous nose, in centre supported by flags; name above, value below; numerals at angles. Lilac, 10 c.

CUBA, &c.

Simultaneously with this magazine are expected to appear a set for the Spanish West Indies; type similar to that for the Philippines figured at page 112, vol. ix., except that the inscription ULTRAMAR 1876 replaces the name on the said stamps. The colours will correspond with those of the parent country.

URUGUAY.

Le Timbre-Poste describes post cards for this republic. Within a frame composed of double serpentine lines are found above, the words TARJETA CORRESPONDENCIA in a straight line; arms beneath; lower down CORRESPONDENCIA in a curve. There are two lines for the address, and a square marked out for the stamp. A notice below announces the side reserved for writing. In the reply cards, which are joined above, the curved word CORRESPONDENCIA is replaced by the words CONTESTATION PAGA. Mauve on yellowish or deep buff, olive (deep), and rose-grey, for simple correspondence. The same colour on pale olive and rose-grey, and deep buff for communication and reply.

RUSSIAN LOCALS.

Ananiev.—A slight change has taken place with regard to the stamp for this district described at page 151 of vol. ix. The circular inscription remains as before; but some of the words in the centre are abbreviated. Die printed, colour on white as before. Shades of blue, 5 kop.

Kazan.—The once unattainable (perfect) envelope of this district is now found in two sizes, of which the flap is differently cut. Manuscript inscription (two sorts) on the lower flap. Blue on greyish paper, 6 kop.

Maloarchangelsk.—We have been shown a successor to the miserably-printed almost indecipherable type first chosen for this place. It is circular, having the value within a circular inscription.

Tiraspol.—In the same collection we noticed a new emission for this place also. It appears to be an official stamp. Type as before; but the inscription reads "Stamp for official packets, gratis." Lithographed on white, red impression.

CANADA.

In the February number was reported the preparation of a design for two stamps for registered letters of the respective values of 2 and 4 cents. After the lapse of so many months we receive three by favour of a friendly collector; description as follows: narrow transverse rectangles impressed with coloured oblongs with straight sides and scalloped above and below; on white paper, perforated. CANADA REGISTERED

LETTER STAMP in centre. The second word in large, the others in small white capitals, on engine-turned ground, flanked by value in words perpendicularly up and down; numerals at upper angles. Vermilion, 2 cents; green, 5 c.; blue, 8 c. The 30 cents chronicled as forthcoming at page 34, vol. ix., on the faith of M. Roussin, is non-existent.

TASMANIA.

M. Moens describes a green twopenny from M. Diena's collection watermarked TAS, surcharged with the words LATE LETTER.

SWEDEN.

We have omitted noticing a post card for this kingdom described some time since in Messrs. Alfred Smith & Co.'s *Circular*. Framed; P.S. at upper left-hand corner; circle of points at right hand to indicate place for postmark. POST KORT in the middle above; dotted line below commenced by TILL, to hold the name of the office whither the card may be addressed. Black impression on white. A remarkable anomaly in this card, distinguishing it from all others yet known, is the fact that the communication is allowed to be begun on the address side! We imagine it to be for official purposes.

SPAIN.

Last month we acknowledged the reception of a 2 mils. de escudo Spanish, surcharged Y¼ like certain of the Cuban. In response to our query we have received two letters from correspondents. One summarily pooh-poohs it as a "fancy stamp," made by or for collectorial purposes. The other affords a novel and apparently satisfactory explanation, totally demolishing the universal acceptation by philatelists of the meaning of the surcharge as implying "*and* a quarter." He writes that, "in 1855-6 he was resident in Cuba, that the city post was then first established to convey letters from one part of Havana to another. This is called in Spanish *Correo Ynterior*, and the postage of a single letter was then, and may still be, a quarter of a real. There being no stamps of this denomination, some of the 2 reales were surcharged for this purpose, the letter Y standing for the word Ynterior, and the fraction ¼ for the postal value." We imagine this want of a certain value may have given rise to the production of the black ¼ real of 1867, which many have hesitated to accept as a verity. Our correspondent proceeds to remark that, "in view of the preceding facts the supply of the ¼ real stamps of Queen Isabella type running short, or the authorities objecting to use the effigy of her dethroned majesty, resort was had to the old device, and the 2 m. de esc. mural type, surcharged Y¼, did duty for city postal purposes." The writer consequently classes the stamp now in question among the Cubans. This presupposes an importation of the low values of the mother country, which would seem unnecessary, there being probably a supply of the mural issue Cuban proper at the time, one value of which might have been surcharged as formerly. We give the explanation, leaving philatelists to draw their own deductions.

Referring to the prepayment of post cards. The other correspondent writes that there must be a mistake in supposing that a 10 c. alone is sufficient, if the card comes viâ France. He instances, however,

some anomalies in the arrangements of the Spanish post, forwarding for inspection three post cards. One of them bears an impressed mauve 5 c. armorial type and a lilac 5 c. Alfonso type. It was addressed to London viâ Gibraltar, but the dates certify its passage through France. In this instance there was no additional charge, but another with impressed and adhesives 5 c., both of the Alfonso type, was charged for extra. Another of precisely the same description arrived without further charge! Truly the Spanish authorities are marvellous specimens of mismanagement.

FRANCE.

We have been favoured by Mr. F. G. Lott with a sight of the new French post card; size, 4¾ × 3⅜ ins. The border is similar to that of the card issued Jan. 15, 1873, for use in the provinces and Algeria. At top, CARTE POSTALE; after which, a full-stop; and underneath, a short stroke. Then four lines of instructions as follow:—"Prix pour la France et l'Algérie: 10 centimes pour la même ville ou la circonscription du même bureau; 15 centimes de bureau à bureau. Prix pour les Pays étrangers avec lesquels l'échange des cartes postales est autorisé: 15 ou 20 centimes suivant la destination." A short stroke underneath, then five lines for the address; at the beginning of the first line, M; on the fourth A, without an accent; on the last line, DEPARTEMENT OU PAYS; to the left of the card, reading upwards, in two lines: "L'adresse seule doît être mise de ce côté de la carte. L'autre côté es tréservé à la correspondance." To the right, an uninscribed space for one stamp, under which the following inscription in six lines, reading downwards: "Lorsque la carte est à destination d'une ville, indiquer très-exactement la rue et le numero de la maison. Quand elle est destinée pour une commune rurale, indiquer le nom du bureau de poste qui la dessert." Lastly, in the lower right-hand corner, outside the frame, in very small type: NOVEMBRE 1875." The card is of a pinkish tint, and was franked by two stamps of 10 centimes.

BRITISH GUIANA.

Except variations in hue, it is long since we had occasion to note changes in the fertile issues of this colony. It seems the admired sets fabricated by Messrs. Waterlow having become worn, need replacement. Wishing to exchange lithographic productions for engravings, the Crown Agents applied to Messrs. De La Rue, who, "*ça va sans dire*," recommended their hackneyed queen's head design, being cheaper by more than sixty guineas than any other. We are happy to congratulate the artistic world in general, and philatelists in particular, that the members of the government almost unanimously determined "to stick to the ship." The extra expense will be speedily met by collectors alone.

ST. THOMAS AND PRINCE ISLANDS.

M. Moens announces a 40 reis blue for these islands, type of the current set. It is presumably for international purposes.

LUXEMBURG.

The 10 centimes plate being worn out, stamps are expected from a new one; colour deep blue-lilac.

OUR FOREIGN CONTEMPORARIES.

THE Belgian postal magazine for November notices two pairs of probable forgeries that passed the post. They were Lombardo-Venetians of the first type. The circumstance is so interesting, that we transfer the account for the benefit of our readers. Dr. Magnus's article on stamped envelopes and post cards is resumed, and continues its valuable condensation of information. The rare Koorsedjah hand-impression is justly included under the former head by the learned writer. New issues and varieties fill the usual large space.

The December number, besides the usual notice of novelties, and that of the meeting of the French Society, contains two articles of peculiar interest and value, which we regret the limits of this magazine will not allow to be bodily transcribed. A full page is filled by the commencement of an explanation of the appearance of emissions of Buenos Ayres stamps proper from 1858 to 1862, during the periods of the separation of that province from the Argentine Confederation, into which it was eventually again immerged. The other article, much more lengthy, is an elaborate explanation of the terms *type* and *variety*, from the able pen of Dr. Magnus, in reply to a query of the worthy Secretary of our Society addressed to that of Paris. Those of our readers, desirous of perusing this (and it will well repay their trouble), must be referred to the original French, an abbreviated translation of which would not do justice to the learned writer.

Le Timbre-Fiscal for December complétes the first volume devoted exclusively to that particular branch of stamp collecting. The editor commences the number on hand with a lament at the unusual paucity of novelties. We could have assisted him with a list of the new legal stamps emitted for the use of Courts now merged into one name, "Judicature," whose values range from twopence to five pounds! These, it seems, are but provisional, during the preparation of a permanent set.

M. Roussin's magazine for November, after notices of novelties, gives the text of the decree which comes into operation on New Year's Day, including France in the International Postal Union. We learn thereby that 30 centimes is the prepayment for letter postage to those countries of Europe and Africa whither and whence the lower sums of 25 c., or 2½d., perform the same duty. What causes the greater expense of working the post-office in France than in any other country? Post cards, value 15 centimes, travel the same path. The allowed weight is raised to the 30 grammes or half ounce, long since adopted by other civilized nations. 50 gr., or more than 1½ oz., is the allowance for newspapers, patterns, &c., to the same places; obligatory prepayment, 5 centimes. The French authorities seem determined to maintain some distinction from other states in their postal arrangements. In accordance therewith, the prepayment for letters, post cards, and printed matter, &c., to the United States (and presumably Canada), is respectively 30 centimes, 15 c., and 5 c. Another exception, this time on the liberal side, which one would imagine likely to give rise to much trouble and confusion, is this: the postage from French towns on or near the frontiers of Spain, Belgium, or Switzerland, to either of those countries,

when the distance from the transmitting to the receiving post-office in a straight line does not exceed 30 kilomètres, or something less than 22 miles, is reduced to 20 centimes for a letter not exceeding 15 grammes, or a ¼ oz. in weight. Registered letters, post cards, printed matter, patterns, &c., will be subject to an additional charge of 50 centimes. This does away at once with the costly and absurd regulation of double postage, so long an incubus on French mercantile correspondence. The rules as to non-prepayment, &c., remain as before.

The December number, amongst its novelties, gives us descriptions and figures of the new Antioquias. The catalogue portion, having arrived at the Russian locals, is particularly resplendent with their representations, of which forty-three adorn its pages, and nine more of postals and fiscals.

The Leipzig magazine commences with an article on forgeries. It is high time something were done to nullify the effects of the infamous traffic therein, which seems brisk as ever. The "Spud Papers," commenced by Mr. Atlee, and so satisfactorily continued by Mr. Earée, are valuable assistants to the collecting tyro, and frequently to the more advanced amateur; but, unfortunately, every collector does not subscribe to *The Philatelist*. An article on French "enveloppes publicité" is continued by a gentleman hailing from Angers. One on the Persian postal arrangements follows; reviews, &c., complete the number.

The second volume of the Leipzig magazine is completed by the December number. The preface, title-page, and index, filling necessary portions, leaves little room for aught save the usual novelties. There is a good article on the Luxemburg essays; and two others of no immediate interest to English amateurs. The editor and publisher are to be congratulated on the success of their work.

The American Journal of Philately for October gives the first five pages to Mr. Overy Taylor; next comes C. H. C.'s continuation of the U.S. Letter Express envelopes, followed by a meagre notice of novelties, at the conclusion of which comes this most extraordinary paragraph: "Portuguese Indies.—Some time ago a number of bogus stamps, purporting to represent a new value 15 reis for use in these colonies extensively circulated throughout the country, have been by a streak of good fortune which occasionally comes to the help of criminals, the government of the Portuguese Indies, shortly afterwards prepared a stamp of this value (as we are informed by M. Moens whose statement we do not question), but unfortunately for the concoctor of the bogus stamps, the colour selected is carmine while he had printed his in green. This will enable our young friends to distinguish between the genuine and the false, unless the manufacturer changes the colour of his to that of the genuine stamps, which, in the light of present developements, he is not likely to do." This choice specimen of composition is concluded by another equally amusing remark:—"The editor of *The Philatelist* has got his ideas considerably mixed up in regard to these stamps, but as he often credits other papers with information they have taken from his own, it is not to be wondered at." The succeeding paper on the History of Spain as illustrated by her postage stamps, by Phi Beta Kappa, is, we presume, the prize essay. It is well

written, containing many sensible remarks on the connexion of postage stamps with history. Correspondence of a peculiar character concludes the number.

The November number continues the article on the Plimpton envelopes, and gives us other interesting matter; but one communication ought to give collectors more pleasure than all the matter lumped together,—we mean the notice of a raid on one of the infamous gangs of forgers. We sincerely congratulate philatelists on the circumstance, and hope the example of the American authorities will be followed by our own; and that none of the quirks and quibbles of the law will allow American or English swindlers to escape the penalty of their villainy.

PHILATELIC FORGERIES.

THE science of philately has suffered much at the hands of the makers and sellers of fac-similes; or, to speak plainly, of forgers. Stamp dealers of good business repute have, before now, been entangled in the meshes carefully prepared for them by unprincipled rascals. They have begun, often, by selling fac-similes, ostensibly as such—a practice which ought, from the temptations to which it leads, to be discouraged—and they have sunk deeper into the mire until they have been barefaced enough to palm off worthless imitations of rare specimens at very high prices. These swindlers have been over and over again abused by all respectable philatelic publications; and they have even been proceeded against in courts of law; and now, we are happy to say, their trade appears to have dwindled to abject nothingness. Hamburg, the dépôt of the manufacture of cheap champagne, cheap cigars, and cheap worthlessness of all sorts, was for a long time the residence of stamp-forgers, who flooded not only the continent, but England as well, with their miserable productions. America, too, the land of wooden hams and shoddy cloth, was also to blame; and the impudent attempts at imitation which owe their existence to the honest Yankee, must be seen to be appreciated. In our own country, it should be added, we have also our culprits; and we could even at the present moment name a villain in Glasgow who has secured to himself a comfortable competency by swindling little boys into the belief that what he sold them were indeed genuine postage stamps. His trading days are, however, numbered. He did too much, poor fellow, and he got into hot water; for one day, thinking he had caught a big fish, he forwarded, in blissful ignorance, a large quantity of his wares to a well-known collector, warranting them genuine and asking a good round price. The canny Scot was ill-at-ease in a day or two, when a solicitor wrote to inform him the matter would not be allowed to drop; and we can imagine the disgust with which he disgorged a considerable number of his ill-gotten "bawbees," at the close of the consequent legal proceedings. If any gentlemen of a similar nature are now at work, we strongly advise them to keep clear of us, for when we *do* catch a swindler, he will find that we have made most thorough and complete preparations for hanging him up by the heels, and coaxing the money from him at a considerably faster rate than that at which

he made it. To a wise man a word is more than enough; unfortunately most knaves are fools more or less, and so we think it necessary to speak with unwonted perspicuity.—*The Mercury.*

THE FALSE STAMPS OF LOMBARDY.

Looking over his correspondence, Mons. Ch. Diena has met with two letters addressed him from Milan on the 13th of April and 31st of May, 1858, from the same individual. They each bear a stamp of 15 and 30 centesimi of the 1850 type, which we consider false.

The reasons for so doing are as follow:—the forger has evidently engraved every stamp on his plate separately in his ignorance of any other method; in consequence, the four stamps on the letters in question form so many varieties. They are recognizable in this way: though separately engraved, the stamps of the same value have nearly the same defects. The 15 centesimi are a trifle smaller than the genuine. The crown is too round, and has small vertical lines. The KK-POST has an apostrophe instead of a hyphen. The L of STEMPEL and the oak-branches touch the frame. The shield has the dotted groundwork very irregular. The shield on the eagle's breast is separated in the middle by one small line instead of three. The lion looks more like a sort of snake. The numeral 15 has the upstroke of the 1, and the top of the 5 too strongly marked. The word CENTES is very irregular. The 30 c. is likewise too small. KK-POST has a full stop instead of a hyphen. The L of STEMPEL almost touches the frame. In one of the shields the dotting is too close; in the other it is too far apart. The shield on the eagle's breast is divided in the midst by one line in one of the 30 c. and by three indistinct ones in the other. The lion resembles that of the 15 c. The sword is balanced on the eagle's claw instead of being grasped. The 3 is too cramped and the 0 too large. The CENTES has not the regularity of the authentic stamp. This is the guiding word for tracing these falsities. The colours are correct.—*Le Timbre-Poste.*

THE NEWSPAPER STAMPS OF THE UNITED STATES.

OWING to the fact that many collectors will never, in all probability, be able to see the full set of newspaper stamps, much less obtain them, either in a cancelled or uncancelled condition, partly owing to the strictness of the law and partly to the high price of many of them, a thorough description of the stamps and their peculiar uses will not be amiss.

On the 1st of January, 1875, the new law regulating postage on newspapers came into effect. Previous to this law the newspaper publishers required no stamps, as they paid so much postage quarterly, which was indicated on the wrappers of the papers. Now, however, the case is different. The papers for subscribers living beyond the limits of the county in which the papers are published are made up in bulk in the publication office, carried to the Post-office, and there weighed. The postage is then reckoned on the whole package, the proper amount is handed to the Post-office clerk, who immediately gives the publisher a receipt, in the stub of which are affixed the stamps representing the postage, the rates being so arranged that no

more than five stamps can be used for any ordinary amount, and these stamps are then cancelled by punching a large hole through them. The stub, with its stamps are kept in the Post-office Department as vouchers for the postage paid. It will thus be seen that the stamps are not affixed to the papers or to the packages, and in no case pass through the mails.

These stamps are twenty-five in number; were prepared by the Continental Bank-Note Company of New York, and are among the most beautiful specimens ever issued by any government. No idea of their beauty can be obtained by examining the low values, which will readily find their way into collections. But if one could see the full set, in their delicate colours, the diversity of designs, and their perfect appropriateness, one would then have just cause to be proud of them.

We will now examine these stamps in the order of their values: 2 c., 3 c., 4 c., 6 c., 8 c., 9 c., 10 c., 12 c., 24 c., 36 c., 48 c., 60 c., 72 c., 84 c., 96 c., $1.92, $3, $6, $9, $12, $24, $36, $48, $60.

2 c. to 10 c. inclusive.—Emblematic figure of America looking to right. This is an Indian in full robes. The left hand rests on a shield



and holds a wreath; the right hand rests on a staff. The head of this figure, which may be male or female for aught there is to indicate it exactly, is adorned with an elaborate head-dress, consisting of a coronet of stars surmounted by an eagle's head and plumes. The vignette stands in an arched frame, with a background of sky and clouds. On either side of this frame are



slabs containing the inscriptions NEWSPAPERS, PERIODICALS, and the value. In the upper corners are large figures of value, the lower corners being ornamented with shields. The colour of all the values from 2 c. to 10 c. is *black*.

12 c. to 96 c. inclusive.—Vignette of Astraea, or Justice, in niche carved at top. The figure faces, holding in her right hand the balance, and resting with her left on a shield bearing the U. S. coat of arms. The figure is full-robed, mailed and girdled as to the upper part, and helmeted. Surmounting the helmet is an eagle with outstretched wings. Figures of value on shields in upper corners; value in sunken letters below, richly ornamented. Inscriptions in shaded capitals on lined ground. Colour, *pink*.

$1.92—Vignette of Ceres, Goddess of Agriculture, in niche. She holds in her left hand an ear of corn; her right, holding a wreath, rests against the knee. The figure faces to front, and is clad in full, flowing robes. Value in figures in upper corners; in letters in solid tablet below. Inscriptions in italic capitals on obelisk on either side, resting on lower slab containing U. S. POSTAGE in white shaded capitals. Colour, *deep rich brown*.

$3.—Goddess of Victory, in full robes, girdled with sword to left. Toga thrown over right shoulder. The right hand is stretched

forward, holding a wreath; the left, resting on shield. Figures of value in upper corners. Value below, in letters on either side of large figure 3. Inscriptions in solid labels on either side. U. S. POSTAGE above. Colour, *vermilion.*

$6.—Clio, Goddess of Poetry, in full robes. Figures of value in upper corners, surrounded by carved ornaments. Inscription and value in white shaded letters, on lined ground. Colour, *light blue.*

$9.—Minerva. The left hand is placed across her breast, holding a portion of her toga; the right, grasping a spear. Figures of value in upper corners; inscriptions to left and right, in shaded italics. Value in letters below, in scrolls; beneath is a large 9 in carved ornaments. Colour, *orange.*

$12.—Vesta. The left hand lifts her drapery; the right hand holds a burning lamp. Figures of value in upper corners in tablets. Value in letters, in beaded frame beneath. Inscription in solid italic letters. This is a very beautiful stamp, and the colour a rich *green.*

$24.—Goddess of Peace, a half-naked figure, leaning against a broken column. She holds in left hand an olive branch; while the right grasps three arrows. The value in words beneath, on solid tablet. Inscriptions in white shaded letters, and figures of value in ornamented curve, between which and the inscriptions is a large six-pointed star. Colour, *purple grey.*

$36.—The Patroness of Commerce, in full garments. She holds in her left hand the Caduceus,—the winged rod of Mercury; in her right, a miniature ship. Figures of value above; in ornamented capitals below. Inscriptions also in ornamented capitals. Colour, *light claret.*

$48.—Hebe, partly draped. The right hand holds a cup which she is offering to the eagle, around whose neck is thrown her left arm. She stands in a very easy position, with her legs crossed. Figures of value in shield, in upper corners; value in letters below, in carved ornaments. The letters U. S. in circles, between value and inscriptions, which are in carved labels. Colour, *chocolate.*

$60.—Vignette of Minnehaha, the Indian maiden of Longfellow's poem of the same name, in rectangular frame. She is robed from her waist downward. Her right arm is extended, while the left hangs by her side. The background is a landscape; trees and vines to the right, and wigwams to left in the distance. Value in figures, in shields in upper corners; in white letters on solid tablets, below. Inscriptions in white, in solid labels on either side. This is the most beautiful stamp of the series; the colour being a rich *purple.*

From the above meagre description of these stamps, some idea may be had of their beauty. All the vignettes, with the exception of those in the lowest values and that of Minnehaha, are taken from pictures of classic times, and are standing in niches. The finish and execution of the stamps are beautiful, and give promise that, in some things at least, the U. S. Post-office Department is sometimes willing to break loose from the restraint of false economy.—*J. Allan Mason & Co.'s Circular.*

UNADDRESSED LETTERS.—Last year upwards of 20,000 letters were posted without any address; one of these letters containing more than £2,000 in bank-notes.

THE FRENCH TIMBROLOGICAL SOCIETY.

A MEETING was held on the 4th of November, during which divers communications respecting stamps were read, new members accepted, and other business transacted. The Secretary read an article composed by him upon the emissions of Cashmere, written with his accustomed acumen, and which, we are happy to say, will be published in the next bulletin of the Society, and consequently fall into the hands of the members of the English Society. The next meeting was fixed for the 2nd of December, when the stamps of Luxemburg were chosen for dicussion.

THE PHILATELIC SOCIETY, LONDON.

THE third and fourth meetings of the season were held on the 4th and 18th ultimo respectively, the former at the residence of M. Raffalovich, Esq., the latter at Dr. Viner's.

Owing to the dense fog prevailing on the 4th of December, this meeting was thinly attended, and it was decided to postpone the study of the stamps of France. The Secretary read his proposed programme for the ensuing year, as well as letters on the subject from Lieut. E. B. Evans. After a lengthy discussion, all members present agreed upon the chief points, and it was resolved to bring the matter before a fuller meeting.

At the meeting of the 18th of December, Dr. Viner took the chair until the arrival of the Vice-Prēsident. The study of the stamps of France was resumed, and the Reference List continued and revised by comparing the work done at the previous meetings with the matchless collection exhibited by the Vice-President.

The following gentlemen were proposed as members and elected: W. P. Parry, Esq., and R. Lennox Macdonald, Esq., by the Secretary; the Rev. P. H. Newnham, by Lieut. E. B. Evans.

Senor de Ysasi exhibited the new Canadian stamps for registered letters, and the proofs of the forthcoming Cuba emission for 1876.

The meeting dissolved at 6 p.m., and the next fixed for the 8th of January, at 2 p.m. precisely, to be held at the residence of M. Raffalovich, Esq., 32, Inverness Road, Bayswater, W. Members are earnestly invited to attend this general meeting, which will be presided over by Sir Daniel Cooper, Bart.

The subject of study will be the stamps used in the French Colonies, and the post cards for France and Algeria; the Secretary will again bring forward the decisions approved of at the meeting of the 4th December.

GOOD NEWS FOR STAMP COLLECTORS.

AN article in the *Philadelphia Times*, after preambling that the collection of home and foreign postage stamps has of late years assumed considerable proportions, &c., proceeds to state that certain individuals have found it profitable to manufacture counterfeits, for the sole purpose of disposing of them to collectors, or to the stores where such things are vended. It seems that a law exists in the United

States to the effect, "That any person who shall forge or counterfeit postage stamps of any foreign government, shall be deemed guilty of felony; and on conviction thereof, shall be punished by imprisonment of not less than two nor more than ten years, at the discretion of the court."

In consequence of information laid, an office at 135, South Fifth Street, was entered, and forgeries purchased by a detective agent. Lithographic stones, perforating machine, and printing press, Petroni, and James Davidson, were all seized together, at 2,003, North Fourth Street. Counterfeits were found at 513, Vine Street, and a man named Wilson apprehended there. Petroni, who pleaded innocence of any intention to violate the law, was placed with Wilson under 2,500 dollars bail each; and Davidson, the smaller sum of 1,000 dollars.

Means for forging the impressions of Nicaragua, Greece, Guiana, Baden, Angola, Canada, Hanover, Roumania, Japan, Austria, and the Argentine Republic, were found. The swindlers, having carried on their nefarious trade on both sides of the water, if they escape justice in Philadelphia, by any technical quirk, will give their accusers opportunity of amending the indictment in New Jersey. We cordially hope they will get their deserts; and that similar proceedings will be instituted here, and in Switzerland and Germany.

ADVICE TO THOSE ABOUT TO COLLECT.

BY THE REV. R. BRISCO EAREE.

IT requires a long apprenticeship to philately before a man can give *good* advice to those about to collect; and I feel somewhat diffident in putting myself forward as an instructor of beginners, seeing that it was not until 1862 that I joined the ranks of the philatelic army. I am aware that there are very many amongst us whose connection with our favourite pursuit dates considerably further back than this; but as I have taken very great interest in all things in any way bearing on the subject, I venture to give my experience for whatever it may be worth.

And first of all, as to

The Beginner

himself. He must be patient and persevering, else he will soon get tired of collecting. He must not be afraid of a little trouble, else he will never *know* anything about philately. His stamps and album must never be touched, except with clean hands, otherwise they will soon become soiled and dingy. He must be without prejudice, yet not too ready to copy any idea unless he see that it is really a good one. And he must be suspicious of "great bargains," The dealers know as well as he does (and better) the proper market value of all stamps, so that the tempting bait of a "great bargain" generally means a "great swindle." I can assure the reader that I have paid pretty dearly for the experience which prompts this last piece of advice; and my forgery-book now contains many "stamps" which, at the expenditure of much schoolboy cash, once figured proudly amongst the genuine ones in my collection.

Now, when the beginner has got a handful of stamps, his first thought generally is

The Album.

In the great majority of cases, our first album is a present, so that we cannot be said to choose it ourselves. But I think the beginner cannot too soon accustom himself to do things properly,—and therefore I should suggest that he *begin* (as he is sure to end) with a blank album; i.e., one without ready-drawn spaces for the stamps. I do not deny that an album with the spaces for the stamps ready drawn and numbered, &c., is a great help to the beginner; but he will very soon find that he has not half enough spaces for all the varieties which will, sooner or later, come into his possession; and then these varieties must be altogether kept out, or else the album will look untidy, with emissions arranged out of their due order. There are many different sorts of albums, and it is no easy task to say which is the best. My own albums were made by Moens, of Brussels; they are made of a thick grey paper; one side only being used for the stamps, the other side covered with tissue-paper fastened at the edges only. By this means, the stamps do not touch each other, and the tissue-paper prevents their being too much flattened The leaves are fastened in by brass screws, passing through two eyelet-holes in the margin (which is jointed, and has tape beneath the paper) so that, in a few minutes, a leaf can be removed, or placed in a different part of the book. In mounting the stamps, I measure the spaces I intend to allow for the stamps, and put a faint pencil-dot where a stamp comes, so that all the stamps can be truly placed, without the *modus operandi* being seen. Another amateur, whose collection I have seen, arranges his stamps on loose sheets, which are to be bound when complete ;—the sheets being, meanwhile, kept in a sort of cabinet or box. His sheets are folio, and the stamps are mounted on them *lengthwise*, so that the books, when bound, will look like gigantic Lallier's albums. My own sheets are square. Before choosing his album, the beginner ought to see that the paper of which it is composed does not readily stain. If a spot of gum happens to touch my sheets, it leaves a mark which is very hard to take out. This is a great defect, and arises, I fancy, from the paper being altogether unsurfaced; so that I should recommend a slightly surfaced paper to be chosen.

Mounting.

It is my firm opinion that there is only *one* way of mounting stamps which is likely to give entire satisfaction. Unfortunately, it is a little troublesome, and therefore has not yet become universal. I will endeavour to explain it as clearly as possible. The stamp is hinged, by a piece of tissue paper, on to a piece of white foreign letter-paper (or other thin white paper), somewhat less than the stamp in size. Three tiny dots of gum are put at the back of this piece of paper, which is then placed in position in the album. The advantage of this plan of mounting is, that the stamp, being hinged, can readily be turned up for inspection of the watermark and other peculiarities ; and the date of issue and any other things worthy of notice can be written on the white paper to which it is hinged. Then again the stamp is very easily

moved when mounted in this manner, which is no small advantage. I do not hinge the stamp directly on to the white paper (which I will call the *back*, for the sake of clearness), because the paper is too thick. I do not use tissue-paper entirely for the back, because we cannot write on tissue-paper. Therefore I use both:—tissue-paper for the hinge, and foreign letter-paper for the back.

And now I will try to explain my *modus operandi* on the large scale. I cut the tissue-paper into strips of about ¾in. wide, and any length. Then I get my stamps; and (after removing any paper from the backs of them, mending them with tissue-paper, if torn, &c., &c.) I draw the gum-brush across the top of the stamps at the back, taking care not to gum more than the eighth of an inch in width. I then gum the stamps side-by-side along the edge of the strip of tissue-paper; and when I have thus filled up one edge, I proceed to fill the other edge in the same manner; for this width of tissue-paper serves for *two* hinges. When the gum is dry, I cut the tissue-paper in two, along the whole length, which leaves two strings of stamps, attached to each other by a very narrow strip of tissue-paper. Then I separate the stamps by cutting through the tissue-paper, which must be done a little obliquely, so that none of the tissue-paper may be seen when it is folded down to form the hinge. Then, taking my thin white paper for the backs, I cut it into strips a little narrower than the depth of the stamps, and gum the stamps on to the strips by their tissue-paper hinges. Then I cut the strip under each stamp slightly obliquely, so that it is not visible below the edges of the stamp. By thus doing a number at once, a large quantity can be mounted in a very short time. Now I got this method from Senor de Ysasi, so I don't pretend that it is my own idea. I used to mount my stamps by a large tissue-paper hinge only, but I found that the perforation, date of issue, watermark, &c., could not be written on the tissue-paper, because it always blotted. For mounting post cards, see my paper on that subject in last year's volume.

(To be continued).

NOTICES OF PHILATELIC PUBLICATIONS.

Handbuch für Postmarken-Sammler. By Dr. Alfred Moschkau. Leipzig: Louis Senf.

The above work, a clearly-printed volume of more than 200 pages, having been forwarded to the "Redaction" for "Recension," we acknowledge the same with thanks. The outer wrapper states it to form the third volume of the philatelic library. The title page, faced by a portrait of the editor, Dr. Moschkau, informs us that it is a Handbook for Postage-Stamp Collectors, being a Catalogue of all emissions from 1653 till December, 1875, including envelopes, post cards, post-office-order cards, envelopes, &c., and newsbands, by Dr. Alfred Moschkau; all prices marked of stamps obtainable from Louis Senf, of Leipzig; 2nd edition, with portrait and biography of the editor.

Like the Belgian catalogue, this is catalogue and price list combined; and as far as can be judged without examination of page upon page, line upon line, cannot but be thoroughly adapted for all German-understanding collectors. One can comprehend how it must have

galled them to be compelled to use a French one. The name of the editor, who, we understand from the biography, enlisted in the philatelic ranks so long since as 1860, is a sufficient guarantee of the general correctness and value of the book. Some of our old friends, —the illustrations which have run the round of all the magazines, English, French, German, and American,—help to adorn the work. The early date noted above, may astonish those who do not recollect the very early French envelope, which, strange to say, does not appear to be adopted by the French timbrological *savants!* The strictly alphabetical order, certainly the best for catalogues, though not for albums, is observed; thus doing away with all necessity for an index. The colonies, except those of Great Britain, which are too voluminous, follow the parent country, The dates of emission are conspicuously placed, which is a great boon for facility of reference. The one fault, inseparable from everything, in this instance, is the paper cover, which ought to have been of some substantial nature. With this exception, there is nothing but good to be said or written of this new volume.

POSTAL SCRAPS.

WATCHES PER BOOK POST.—In the chief office in London, a short time since, two gold watches were found, each enclosed in an unregistered book-packet, addressed to New Zealand; the leaves of the book having been cut so as to admit of the watches being enclosed. The packets were sent to the Returned-Letter Office, whence information was forwarded to the addresses, there being nothing to show who were the senders.

THE GROWTH OF THE MANCHESTER POST-OFFICE.—A post-office was first established in Manchester in 1722, and in 1790 it was stated as an extraordinary fact that Manchester paid in postages £11,000, being a larger amount than any other provincial town. In 1794 the whole business of the office was conducted by a post-mistress and two clerks. In 1832 the postages collected in Manchester amounted to £53,510; in 1834 to £60,621; and in 1835 to £64,373. According to Mr. Lewins, in *Her Majesty's Mails*, the average general postage at this period was estimated at 9½d. per letter. At that rate £64,373 would represent 1,626,266 letters; and assuming that about an equal number would pass through the office on which the postage was collected elsewhere, the annual 'turnover' of letters would be some 3,250,000, or under 63,000 per week. In 1864 the receipts from the sale of postage stamps, at this office, amounted to £89,193, in 1874 to £181,245; and it is estimated that in the present year, owing to the removal of the Inland Revenue Stamp Office, the receipts under this head will amount to no less than £260,000. In September, 1861, the number of letters delivered per week was 401,471, whilst in October, 1874, they amounted to 927,645 per week. The number of letters posted per week in October, 1861, was 485,784, and in October, 1874, 1,134,684. In 1861, 66 post-office clerks and 117 letter-carriers were employed, whilst in 1874, there were 133 clerks and 272 letter-carriers in the service, in addition to 330 telegraph clerks and messengers.

CORRESPONDENCE.

COLLECTORS AND DEALERS BEWARE OF HEINRICH BAUMER!

To the Editor of "THE PHILATELIST."

DEAR SIR,—An English dealer has kindly forwarded for my inspection some Zurich stamps, 4 and 6 rappen, Orts-Post, Poste-Locale, Winterthur, and a whole sheet of Rigi Coulm, all of which have turned out to be forgeries. The Zurich being very well executed, it is a pity the forger cannot be executed also. I cannot say for certain that

HEINRICH BAUMER

of Olten, Switzerland, is the forger of the above stamps, but the fact is certain that he sells forgeries; perhaps he gets them second-hand from

ENGELHARDT FOHL,

of Riesa, Saxony, whose character ought by this time to be well known to him. The Rigi Coulm greatly resemble the genuine, provided you look at the genuine from the back of the stamp. In the genuine the stem of the flower is turned to the left; in the forgery to the right.

Besides, the facial value of the genuine sheet (six horizontal rows of five stamps) is 2/6, and the wholesale price of the forgery 1/6 only.

To conclude, I recommend to the special notice of collectors and dealers Heinrich Baumer, hoping they will not forget at the same time his worthy *confrère* Engelhardt Fohl, the notorious forger of postage stamps whom I had great pleasure in exposing in *The Stamp-Collector's Magazine* for November, 1874.

H. A. DE JOANNIS.

London.

THE STAMP EXCHANGE.

NOTICE.

For the accommodation of those subscribers who may be desirous of exchanging their duplicate stamps, a portion of *The Philatelist* is set apart each month to facilitate exchanges.

RULES.

1. Advertisements must be accompanied by the cheque given with each number.
2. Advertisements to be addressed to "The Editor of *The Philatelist*, Royal Colonnade, Brighton," and received not later than the 18th of the month.
3. The full name and address of the writer must be sent with each advertisement.
4. IF AN ADVERTISEMENT EXCEEDS 20 WORDS A CHARGE OF 6D FOR EVERY ADDITIONAL 10 WORDS WILL BE MADE.
5. *The Stamp Exchange* is intended for the use of amateur collectors only; notices from dealers cannot therefore be inserted.

A. M. REIS, 21, Lord Street, Liverpool, has many very rare duplicates to exchange for others new to his collection.

H. FERRIERE, Napoli, per Pozzuoli, Italy, has many very rare duplicates, and wishes to exchange for other scarce stamps.

THOS. STEPHENSON, Albemarle Lodge, Wimbledon Park, Surrey, has still a large number of stamps for exchange. Please send duplicates.

C. NICHOLSON, Oaklea, Wimbledon Park, requests offers of exchange from all parts. Has a great number of duplicates to exchange.

H. CHARLES, 39, Highbury Quadrant, London, has many rare duplicates, including Monte Video, Argentine, &c., to exchange with other collectors.

LIEUT. EDWARD B. EVANS, R.A., Fort Picklecombe, Devonport, requires vol. i. and ii. of *The Stamp-Collector's Magazine*, and the first eight vols. of *The Philatelist*.

ATHOL C. H. JOHNSTONE, St. Moritz House, Brighton, will give one shilling each (in exchange) for clean copies of numbers 26, 50, and 74 of *The Philatelist*. Correspondence particularly requested. All letters to be prepaid.

THE EDITOR'S LETTER-BOX.

*** Correspondents sending specimens for inspection and return, are requested to enclose a stamped directed envelope,

V. G. Y., London.—Thanks for your letter on Spanish cards, &c., and for a sight of the novelties.

NEMO., Alexandria.—Thanks for specimens of the reversed yellow 2 piastres current Egyptians.

F. J. G., Brantford, and A. M., Montreal.—Accept our best thanks for your early information and specimens.

F. F., Porchester Gate, Hyde Park.—Many thanks for your ingenious explanation of the surcharged Cubans.

R. W. B., Finsbury Park.—Best acknowledgments for a sight of the orange 6 sen and the 20 sen changed in colour, which latter stamp, hitherto unchronicled, will be found noticed in the proper place.

A. J., Brighton.—Your blue stamps are Turkish newspaper fiscals, not postals. They are described at pages 71 and 80 of vol. ix.—Our three-halfpenny adhesive came out as an essay in 1858; but was not employed for postage until 1870. The same value appeared as an envelope essay at the same early date; but was not used for postage till 1872. The original colour was lilac-pink. The 1870 impression was pale pink; and at the end of 1874, the colour was changed to brown.

PHILATELIST, Birmingham.—Your 8 annas Indian on yellowish paper is of the 1858 issue. The other with elephant watermark appeared in 1866, and continues in use. The Hamburg locals cannot be called forgeries because they imitate nothing that ever existed. They are simply humbugs. The penny English is discoloured from age or accident. Your British Guiana is genuine. The newspaper Railway stamp is so likewise. The old letter covers are interesting as showing the charges for postage at their date. See reply to Nemo respecting the three-halfpenny stamp. The stamp with G. R. in fancy letters was used on deeds; a similar one with V. R. is now employed. They are affixed at the backs of the large blue embossed stamps of sundry values seen on leases, &c. The Nevis is unmistakeably forged. Our fourpenny on bluish paper is very much rarer than that on white. Your New Granada must be false: it is found with and without star after value, but yours has an extra star. Gum arabic will do very well if you are not too liberal with it.

THE SPUD PAPERS.—The publication of these papers will be resumed in our next number.

RECENT AND UNDESCRIBED EMISSIONS

NORWAY.

A correspondent kindly forwards a stamp, whose description is—small broad rectangle; within frame ornamented at the angles is inscribed, in five lines, the words,—SOM UBESORGET AABNET AF POST-DEPARTEMENTET. Black impression on pink paper, lithographed and perforated. It is evidently employed officially for returned letters; and, as our correspondent remarks, although devoid of monetary worth, has equal right of admission into philatelic albums with the Bavarian and other adhesives of like nature.

ANTIOQUIA.

The four very different types composing the last new issue of this component part of the Colombian States, chronicled last month, are here represented. Colours and values will be found at page 1.



FRANCE.

The acumen of one of our subscribers has detected a variety among the earliest emissions of the present republic which has marvellously escaped the observation even of the French Society! It was either contemporary with, or perhaps earlier than the Bordeaux impressions. Two or three values are known; but we have only the 20 c. on view. Like those of Bordeaux, it is lithographed, and has been proved to be a native of Tours. Used specimens are not uncommon; but we were fortunate enough to secure an unused pair, totally unaware of the treasure-trove. It is surprising this issue was not noticed earlier. At the merest glance the stamps are distinguishable from either of the types or sub-types of Bordeaux. The stamps greatly resemble the first of that city; but the shading in the neck consists of lines, not of dots. There is no shade beneath the eyes or other parts of the face; and the

lip and nostril show a slight but distinct variation. We have them in two or three tints of blue.

Since the 26th of last October, it has been lawful for any one in France to prepare inland post cards for transmission according to his own design, within the limits of size (4¾ × 3¼ in.) and weight (30 to 35 grains) prescribed by the French post-office. The front is to be printed according to a published model; any method of writing or printing may be adopted; any colour or material may be used. The franking is by an adhesive stamp. From the new year the regulation will include foreign post cards.

AUSTRIA.

We have seen used specimens of the current 15 kreuzer of this empire printed in a very rich red-brown colour.







BAVARIA.

On New Year's Day came out a long set of stamps for this kingdom corresponding with the types figured above. The first represents the following values: yellow-green, 3 pfennige; bluish green, 5 pf.; carmine, 10 pf.; ultramarine, 20 pf.; bistre, 25 pf.; red, 50 pf. The second serves for timbre-taxe issue: they are grey with red surcharge VOM EMPFANG ZAHLBAR, 3, 5, and 10 pf., respectively. The 1 mark, a reduced portrait of which forms the present design, has a companion.—2 marks, orange. The third cut figures the type of the envelope impression, 10 pf., carmine, and the newsband, 3 pf., yellowish green. This type serves also for the post card, which is much as before, with the new stamp impressed: 5 pf., bluish green. There is also a double card for reply. On perusing the description of these Bavarians, and comparing it with the reported emission for the German Empire chronicled in *Le Timbre-Poste*, we fancy there can be no doubt that some individual not well up in geography saw the proofs of them somewhere, and jumped to the conclusion that they must be for the Empire. The official Brunswick newspaper on the 13th of last November "took up the wondrous tale," and deceived the editorial magnates. In addition to this imbroglio, there seems still some misunderstanding respecting the Bavarian issue, because the *Circular* of Messrs. Alfred Smith & Co. gives a list of the new stamps for that kingdom with violet for the colour for the 5 pf. adhesive, for a single and double post card, and for an additional envelope! Also grey for the 50 pf.; and caps the confusion by figuring an exceedingly-tastefully devised stamp bearing a central head of the king as the new type! The same is figured at page 165 of last year's *Philatelist*.

The now superseded 1 kreuzer, 3 kr., and 7 kr., are found watermarked with undulating lines.

ROYAL MAIL STEAM PACKET COMPANY.

In *Le Timbre-Poste* is figured a stamp of the following description. Broad rectangle; flag bearing crown upon St. Andrew's cross on horizontally-lined ground within circular frame inscribed ROYAL MAIL STEAM PACKET COMPANY. Spandrels complete a square; leaving room below for the value in words, colour on white,—anomalous if issued by an English government, being 10 *cents*. Carmine-pink on white; perforated.

SPAIN.

A new emission bearing Alfonso's head, like the current one, is reported to be in process of print in London.

WURTEMBURG.

Some envelopes of the respective values of 5 and 10 pfennige will be shortly out, formed of paper watermarked with an arabesque pattern and post horn in a band. The post cards will be changed in hue from bluish to buff. The money-order cards are likewise modified. The name-inscription is arched in lieu of being in a straight line. A double hyphen takes place of the single one, and M... PF. added in blue on the first line. Blue; 20 pf.

ST. VINCENT.

A late mail has brought over the shilling value of a dark claret, and a dark green sixpenny; both watermarked with a star. The perforations of the former are much larger than those of the latter.

PERSIA.

It is announced that the Persian Government, in order to carry out its newly-established postal service, which has already been placed under the direction of two Austrian officials, has now decided to effect a junction with the Russian postal system at Tabreez, near the frontier, where a Russian official will be placed in charge. In this case, the stamps referred to at page 34 of last year's volume, which we understand are affixed to letters by the authorities, and not obtainable by the public, may become common like other stamps. We give an engraving of one of the values chronicled in last year's *Philatelist*.



NEW SOUTH WALES.

We have been favoured by the President of the Philatelic Society, with the sight of a pair of proofs of a new emission for this colony, to supersede the perennial large square type so long representing the shilling value in shades of red and pink. It is a rectangle of the most usual size; bearing Her Majesty's coroneted head to left within inscribed frame arched above and below. Name at top; value in words at bottom; POSTAGE in capitals on either side. Spandrels delarued. The colour is light bluish green. The proof necessarily gives no idea of watermark or perforation. The current threepenny green now bears N. S. W. and crown.

To another correspondent we are indebted for calling attention to a variety which has marvellously escaped the lynx-like eyes of Dr.

Magnus, Mr. Pemberton, and even M. de Joannis, the worthy Secretary of the Philatelic Society. This allusion is to the large-sized violet sixpenny of 1861-71. The later impressions have the queen's head strikingly different from those earlier issued, which resemble the shilling, eightpenny, and fivepenny of similar type. The difference is evident at the slightest examination; the nose, mouth, and expression vary so much. Both varieties are so common that our readers can easily verify this from their own collections, and be surprised they never made the discovery themselves.

RUSSIAN LOCALS.

Bronnitzi.—At page 151 of last year's *Philatelist* is chronicled a slightly modified type for envelopes. The same alteration now exists for this district's adhesives.

Elizavetgrad.—M. Moens describes three new values emitted for this place of similar type with that of the 5 kop. previously and still in use. Black on white, 2 kop. Larger, name misspelt; red on mauve, 10 kop. A trifle smaller than the preceding; name spelt correctly. Deep blue on white, 20 kop. The four values are thus accounted for:—the original 5 kop. for general correspondence; the 2 kop. for postal (official) notices: the 20 kop. for petitions to the justices of peace, which require the additional 10 c. if accompanied by documents.

Perm.—Its stamps are now printed on sheets of eight, in two horizontal lines, each row of four forming so many varieties. No stop after the word CEP. The paper is of an azure tint.

Rostov-on-Don.—The original type has been repaired or remade. The letters are generally larger; the corner figures longer; the inner circle has but one line, and the bit of ornamentation above has disappeared. The sheets now consist of twenty impressions in four vertical lines. Lithographed on white in pale and bright blue.

Voltschansk.—Extinct envelopes for this place are noted at page 123 of last year's volume, and some then known varieties at page 151. The indefatigable editor of *Le Timbre-Poste*, having become possessed of all the resuscitated stock, gives a lengthy list of the whole, forming no fewer than 34 varieties! They are so numerous in consequence of being of two different sizes; on plain and on laid paper; faced internally with various colours; and the impressed stamp being on the right, on the left, or on the flap of the envelope.

JAPAN.

M. Roussin announces the probability of a new emission in consequence of a treaty with the American company undertaking its postal service, and M. Moens notes many changes recently made in the current stamps. The reduced size of the existing 20 sen is as noticed last month; the same alteration has been made as regards the 10 s. and 30 s. The former is now ultramarine, the latter is found both pale and bright violet. M. Roussin quotes specimens of the former 10 s. of a dark bluish green. The 2 s. is slightly altered; the branches of chrysanthemum and paulownia being now united by a kind of ribbon. Ever since February, 1874, the inscription on the envelopes has been changed. It was formerly like that on the adhesives, and bore the

equivalent for "postage stamp;" by an alteration of the third character it now means "post envelope." There are only four values,—1, 2, 4, and 6 sen.

A post card unimpressed by stamp is reported also by M. Moens; and he figures the type used for newsbands. It is of the same broad oval shape as the well-known coin of the empire; bearing the conventional chrysanthemum and branches, enclosing inscription "Band for newspapers, value 2 rin 5 mons" (¼ sen). It is impressed to the right, on Japanese paper. The colour is red. This description does not apply to the newsband described at page 152 of last year's *Philatelist*, both from used and unused specimens. In that case, the stamp was square like the adhesive and envelope types.

CANADA.

A description of the elegant stamp here depicted and its two companions appearing in last month's number, no further remarks are needed.



FINLAND.

M. Moens announces an orange 5 penni of the new type, and the colour of the 20 p. changed to ultramarine. The Helsingfors card is slightly modified: the word NO being larger, and followed by a large full stop. Its colour is pale, full, and dark green. The 10, 20, and 25 p. stamps of the Tavastehus and Tammerfors Steamboat Company exist no longer in an active way, in consequence of the liquidation of the concern. The stamps of the Helsingfors and Bobaco Company were issued on the 25th of February last year. Their value is 25 and 50 p. Their employment is for packets and baskets. We have just met with a rare variety of the 1866 Helsingfors, green and vermilion, pierced in serpentine on a green line.

HOLLAND.

A correspondent has obliged us with a sight of the new international envelope for this kingdom. It is of the usual letter size; white paper, having no seal impression or watermark. The stamp impressed on the right resembles in every respect the adhesive of like value, 12½ cents; and is of the same ineffective colour, a pale grey, duller even than its prototype. The postmark is BREDA, date JANUARY 22/76.

MEXICO.

In addition to the values of the *Porte de Mer* locals chronicled and figured at page 149 of last year's volume, are a 2, 60, and 75 centavos.

BAHAMAS.

A bright vermilion penny watermarked cc and crown is announced.

THE RETURNED-LETTER OFFICE.—Respecting returned unaddressed and misdirected letters, the Post-office Report for last year says,—"The number of letters received in the Returned-Letter Office was more than 4,400,000; being about one in every 220 of the total number of letters. As respects more than three-fourths of these it was found possible either to re-issue them or to return them to the writers."

GOOD NEWS FOR STAMP COLLECTORS.

UNDER this heading appeared last month an account of the apprehension of a certain G. Patroni and others for forging postage stamps. We regret to say that, evidently in consequence of the incorrect wording of the indictment, the gang was let off.

A very garbled statement of the matter in *The American Journal of Philately* gives a contrary view. It is headed "Convicted of Selling Counterfeit Foreign Stamps," followed in capitals by "Two Years in State Prison." This has deceived two of the foreign magazines already, and probably all who have not been favoured like ourselves with a correct account of the extraordinary and amusing proceedings, which afford a strange idea of the official knowledge of equity, geography, and polity in the United States.

The actual fraud of the accused was that of obtaining money under false pretences; whereas the indictment against them was that of attempting to defraud the governments of Nicaragua, Egypt, British Guiana, Angola, and St. Thomas and Prince Islands.

Nicaragua was first taken in hand. A young dealer owned to purchasing a dozen of the 1 centavo stamps for 30 cents. This admission was fatal; because selling 12 cents worth of stamps for 30 cents evidenced no intention to cheat the Nicaraguan government.

Egypt stood next in the arraignment; but the judge decided that, as the stamps of Egypt bore certain hieroglyphics which neither himself nor the jury could read, and consequently could not distinguish the false from the true, that charge must be abandoned!

Similar good luck befel the prisoners in the case of British Guiana, for the astounding reason "that the government of British Guiana, it being a colony, was not recognisable in that Court, which knew no such government, it being a part of England only; and he should as soon think of recognising the officer of an English county, or the mayor or alderman, or governor of London!" Our informant adds that this was a fine point; but good law, until reversed by the Supreme Court.

Angola followed suit; but the judge owned his ignorance of such a locality, and that both the place and its stamps must be proved to exist before he could allow it on the record! The attorney for the prosecution had no witnesses who could prove of their own knowledge anything about it; and hearsay evidence and books were inadmissible in a criminal court; and all books but stamp books were silent as to the stamps of Angola. The Portuguese government could have been communicated with, but documentary evidence was not allowed; and as Patroni had pleaded, no adjournment could take place without his permission!

St. Thomas and Prince Islands were likewise dismissed; for had even the existence of these and the preceding place been admitted, as colonies they fell under the same category as British Guiana, being alike devoid of a recognisable government!

Mr. Scott, of New York, states that he swore that he had been in the stamp business since 1860, and that the stamps purchased from Patroni were printed from the lithographic stones in court. He added that the

stamp business extended to all parts of the civilized world, and estimated the number of collectors in the United States at 200,000, whose collections varied in value from five to fifty thousand dollars each!

For the defence, Mr. S. Allan Taylor attested that he kept counterfeit stamps, and had done so for years; that their sale was common; that he was still in the business, and had received from Patroni similar counterfeits to those in court! The counsel for the prosecution was staggered at this, as well he might, and elicited from the witness on cross-examination that he made his living by making, keeping, and selling forged stamps!

After all this judicial farce, the judge charged the jury, and said these the stamps of Nicaragua *might* have been used to defraud the government; and that although there was no evidence to prove criminal intent, it was still illegal to make them. The jury took three hours' consideration, and handed in a sealed verdict of guilty, with recommendation to mercy. The prosecuting attorney, thereupon, declined to move for a sentence, and Patroni was discharged. One of his companions being under accusation of some other iniquity was not tried; and the engraver of the falsities was let off on pleading his ignorance of their intent to deceive.

The judge, though unwilling to pronounce sentence, approved of the verdict, because if the prisoner was acquitted, other individuals might forge the stamps of England, France, and Germany (which he actually condescended to consider governments), and defraud them, citing the result of this trial as a precedent were the verdict otherwise.

We hope some measures will be taken on this side the Atlantic to stop the infamous trade in forgeries, which has done so much harm to philately, and disgusted many a collector into giving up his album. Our informant caps his account by the remark that the said Patroni is a very gentlemanly man—very likely—so was Wainwright—so also was Thomasen—so most probably are Engelhardt Fohl of Riesa, Heinrich Baumer of Olten, and others of the same nefarious type.

THE PHILATELIC SOCIETY, LONDON.

THE fifth and sixth meetings of the season were held on the 8th and 15th of January respectively, at the residence of M. Raffalovich, Esq., 32, Inverness Road, Bayswater, W. The President in the chair. At the former meeting, the Chiffre-Taxe and some of the Colonial stamps of France were studied. M. Raffalovich pointed out that an emission of lithographed postage stamps had taken place at Tours, previous to the emission known as "Bordeaux." The distinguishing feature of these two sets will be found in the Society's Reference List. Full sets of both emissions were exhibited.

Lieut. E. B. Evans showed some beautiful proofs of a new process for illustrating postage stamps, which were greatly admired by all present.

Mr. F. G. Lott exhibited the used French international post card described in *The Philatelist* for January. That post card was posted on the 1st of January, at 8.30 a.m., at the Gare du Nord post-office, and is probably one of the first that left Paris. This interesting meeting,

which was very numerously attended by both town and country members, broke up at 5 p.m.

At the meeting of January 15, the study of the stamps and post cards of France was brought to a conclusion. M. Raffalovich pointed out that there are two sets of perforations in all official perforated issues, viz., one 13½, the other 14, and that both sets exist on two thicknesses of paper. The same gentleman directed the attention of the members to the fact that, the 15 centime imperforate 1871 Republic, used in the Colonies, existed lithographed as well as engraved; all the used lithographed specimens were postmarked M Q E. It remains an open question, whether this value was prepared in Martinique or in France, and whether the 25 c. is also to be found lithographed. The Society will feel greatly obliged if any collector who possesses the lithographed 15 c. with a different postmark, and the lithographed 25 c., will communicate the same to the Secretary, enclosing a copy for exhibition at the first meeting in February.

The next meeting was fixed for the 29th of January, at 2 p.m., at the residence of Dr. Viner, 34, Denbigh Street, Pimlico; the subject of study to be the stamps of the Dominion of Canada, including Canada proper, New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, Prince Edward Island, British Columbia, and Vancouver Island. At the following meetings, the society will study, *seriatim*, Newfoundland, British Honduras, the West Indies, and British Guiana.

ADVICE TO THOSE ABOUT TO COLLECT.

BY THE REV. R. BRISCO EAREE.

(Concluded from page 14).

Gum and Brush.

I GENERALLY use the best gum-arabic, dissolved in cold water. Before the water is put upon it, it should be examined, and all impurities removed, together with all very dark lumps of gum. The gum, as you buy it, should be as nearly white as it is possible to get it. Some people use the starch with which photographers mount their pictures, but I have never tried this. I have seen the dissolved india-rubber used, but the colour is too dark. If the gum gets sour, there is only one thing to be done, and that is, to throw it away; as it will be sure to injure the colours of the stamps, if it is allowed to become sour. The brush should be small and soft. Let me try to impress it upon the reader that he cannot use too little gum; and the less he uses, the nicer his stamps will look. With regard to the fact that sour gum will change the colour of many stamps, I would point out that most of the *bleuté* stamps owe their peculiarity to sour gum. I know that this is the case, because I have succeeded in altogether removing the *bleuté* appearance by means of liquid ammonia, which neutralizes the acid in the gum.

Choice of Specimens.

This, I suppose, may be considered debatable ground. Of course I recommend my own practice; which is, to choose a very dark, a very light, and a medium shade of every stamp. Those who content them-

selves with one shade lose many interesting varieties. Let us take any common stamp,—say the 20 c. France, blue, imperforate. Now I see in my collection a very pale sky-blue copy, another of a medium shade of dull blue, and a rich dark indigo, approaching almost to black. I should be very sorry to have to take out any of the three. However, I leave this matter to the individual taste of beginners, reminding them that, sooner or later, they will be sure to come across two or three shades of every attainable stamp; and therefore I would decidedly advise that, in mounting, there should invariably be left spaces for at least two shades of every stamp. Torn, or very much obliterated stamps, do not look well, and had better not be put into the album at all. I never put in any damaged ones myself, unless they happen to be extremely rare; but a stamp that is torn can often be patched up with a little piece of tissue-paper.

Removing Backs of Stamps.

I have tried many ways of removing the pieces of paper from the backs of stamps. Sometimes I have steamed them; but this very frequently spoils them, so I cannot recommend it. The simplest way is to float the stamp, face upwards, in a glass of cold water, and then, if you are careful, the face need not be wetted at all. If the face *must* be wetted, then be careful not to rub the face whilst it is wet, and it will not take much harm. Of course there are some stamps (present issue for Russia, for instance) which will not stand the water at all; and with these the utmost care must be used to avoid wetting the face. The original gum should be always carefully preserved. In some cases, as in 1st issue for Portugal, it is about the *only* difference between the originals and the reprints.

Trimming Stamps.

This should always be avoided as much as possible. If the top edge of an unperforated stamp happens to be very crookedly cut, then a judicious application of the scissors is advantageous, but of course, in case of perforations, these must never be cut off. When I began collecting, I spoilt hundreds of stamps by trimming them, making perforated and unperforated both alike! In unperforated stamps, the widest possible margin should be preserved.

Examining Watermarks.

Very often the watermark on a stamp is not at all easy to see; but by looking alternately at the back of the stamp, and then *through* it, the watermark can generally be made out. Occasionally, the gum is so thick as to hide it entirely. Then, if the centre of the back be slightly moistened, and gently scraped with a knife, it will become visible. I should only recommend this plan when the watermark cannot be seen otherwise.

Counting Perforations.

Messrs. Stafford Smith and Co. have published an "Odontometer," which will be found useful for this purpose, but there is another little instrument (invented, I believe, by Dr. Magnus) which deserves mention. Take a visiting-card, and gum in the centre of it a strip of

black paper about ¼ in. in depth, and exactly 2 centimetres in length. When a stamp is laid upon the black paper the denticulations can be very easily counted. As I write for the beginner, I would remind him that it is not the *whole* of the perforations in a stamp which are counted, but merely those included in a space of two centimetres. I know that there is some confusion in the minds of beginners as to this two-centimetre gauge, so this explanation may not be thrown away.

Envelopes.

These are rather a bother. Let me recommend the beginner to accept none but entire specimens. My own feeling on the subject is so strong that I would not give threepence per dozen for the rarest cut envelopes. It must be remembered that half of the obsolete cut envelopes are reprints, and are cut so as to remove the witnesses against their originality in the shape of pattern, size, gum, &c. I keep my envelopes in boxes, in a dry place, and wait patiently for the system for mounting them,—which, I hear, is to come to us from across the Atlantic very shortly. Used and unused envelopes must not be placed together, else the unused ones will be soiled;—this applies to post cards also; and, in a less degree, to adhesives kept loose. Damp must be carefully guarded against, otherwise the flaps will stick down, and the envelopes be spoilt.

Loose Adhesives.

Until these are mounted, I find it the best plan to keep them in envelopes labelled with the name of the country, and put them away in cigar-boxes. By this means they are kept clean, and they can soon be found when wanted. This method also keeps them flat, which is a desideratum. Stamps kept quite loose always curl up at the edges, especially unused ones, but they cannot do so, when put away carefully in envelopes.

Forgeries.

These are the *bête-noire* of the beginner, who must make up his mind to be swindled now and then. Perhaps I shall not be thought very egotistical in recommending a perusal of the "Spud Papers" in this magazine, in which a goodly number of vermin will be found, dissected for the benefit of young collectors. Dr. Magnus's essay on the various modes of printing stamps, will be found very useful as an aid to the detection of forgeries (vide *Philatelist*, vol. vii., p. 80); for the beginner will please remember that almost all forgeries are lithographs, whereas comparatively very few genuine stamps are printed in this manner,—and Dr. Magnus's essay shows very clearly how the three methods of *taille-douce, épargne,* and lithograph printing are to be distinguished from each other. With regard to the purchase of stamps:—let this be only from well-known dealers, who have a character to lose, and who will never sell a forgery knowingly.

Reprints.

I think the dealers are not sufficiently candid on this point, because some of the most respectable ones have offered me reprints without naming them as such. The less the tyro has to do with reprints the better,—though Réunion, Bergedorf (1s tissue), and some few others, may

be accepted in default of the originals. My own plan is to accept the reprints *as* such, and to leave spaces for the originals, trusting that they may turn up some day. Let the beginner not be too ready to purchase unused obsolete stamps for originals, as there is scarcely a country in Europe whose earlier stamps have not been reprinted; and the same may be said of many other countries *not* in Europe; notably the United States, British Guiana, &c. Mr. Overy Taylor's "Papers for Beginners" in *The Stamp-Collector's Magazine*, and my own monographs on the stamps of Portugal, Sweden, &c., may be of use as regards reprints.

Essays and Proofs.

The beginner must use his own judgment as to his acceptance or non-acceptance of these. For my own part I care very little about them, and retain very few. At best their value is but dubious, and if any come into my hands I generally get rid of them. It is simply disgusting to see the lists of very doubtful essays, offered at a preposterous price, in any amount of different colours; and I fancy that many of the so-called "proofs" are merely proofs of the dishonesty of some petty under-officials. I have said that the beginner should be without prejudice; so, if I write more on this subject, the reader will think that I should apply that piece of advice to myself.

Arrangement of Specimens.

I think the countries should be arranged on the alphabetico-geographical plan, which seems to me to be much the best. For instance, take Europe, and arrange all the European countries and States in alphabetical order; then take Asia, and so on. And with regard to the stamps themselves, let them be arranged beginning with the earliest issue, and let each issue be arranged according to face value, beginning at the lowest value. I think this plan will be found satisfactory in the end. At any rate, whatever system of arrangement be chosen, let the whole album be arranged upon that system, so as to secure uniformity.

Conclusion.

I hope, in conclusion, that the beginner will not be alarmed at the wide extent of his future studies, for he will find them grow upon him by degrees. I firmly believe that stamp collecting is most useful in many ways; for it improves most marvellously one's knowledge of contemporary history, of geography, of political changes, of the coinages of the various countries, and even, in some slight measure, of languages. Some time ago, for instance, I was enabled to construct a table of most of the Chinese and Japanese numerals, entirely by a study of the stamps. And from stamps alone the presence or absence of the decimal system of coinage, the dates of the sovereigns since 1840 or so, and many other useful facts can easily be gathered. I am sure that the money expended on albums and catalogues, &c., cannot be said to be wasted; and there are few hobbies which are so entirely devoid of evil, so entirely harmless, as our own especial pursuit. If these few remarks of mine have decided anyone to begin a collection, my object in writing them will be quite attained; but by way of final warning, I would remind all beginners (and this is really a piece of good advice)

that they will never do much good in this, or any other pursuit, unless they possess those two very necessary virtues, PATIENCE and PERSEVERANCE.

THE FRENCH TIMBROLOGICAL SOCIETY.

AT the meeting of the 2nd of December, after preliminary business, the Secretary submitted a reply to the question proposed by M. de Joannis—What is a *type?* or a *variety?* After a deep discussion, the Society voted that "Considering the intimate relations subsisting between philately and numismatics, the Society is of opinion that all terms used in the latter science which are applicable to stamps, ought to be understood and applied in the same manner."

Under these admissions the word *type* must be taken to comprehend any design whatever represented on a stamp; and *variety* must be the term employed for all differences met with relative to the design, legend, colour, impression, &c.

The term *sub-type* was subsequently adopted for special indication of any variety of design arising from a repair or renewal of the die.

After a discussion on the Cashmere impressions, in which that with three bars was pronounced to be a ½ anna, the first being a crescent, the sign of 1 anna, the two others being quarters. Further discussion on these interesting issues was adjourned. The stamps of Luxemburg and Denmark were to be the subject of the January meeting.

The application of the two terms above mentioned would seem not precisely what is understood thereby among English philatelists. If not mistaken, we imagine the sheets of New Caledonia, Nevis, certain Japanese, and Russian locals,—Tichvin, Perm, &c., for instance,—are taken by us to constitute one type and many varieties of detail. The seals of Newfoundland, the vermilion and mauve Hong Kongs, the blue candareens of Shanghai, &c., show varieties in colour of the same type. Difference of watermark or perforation on a similar impression also constitute a variety as generally conceived here. But we would submit that a mere difference in legend or design, decided to be such by the French Society can scarcely fall under the category of a variety, otherwise our own English twopenny would be but a variety of the penny; all the stamps of Sarawak, except the first, would be varieties of each other; so likewise would be those of Hong Kong, the several emissions of Shanghai, those of Japan (bird type excepted), of St. Vincent, Barbados, Trinidad, the first French Republics, &c. So much for the legend. If diversity in the same design constitutes a variety, the current Italians, some of the Belgians, all the emissions of Lagos, the Gold Coast, Sierra Leone (except the 6d.), the current Straits Settlements and Ceylon, and in short, almost all the productions of Messrs. De La Rue are mere varieties of one another! This anomaly might be easily removed by employing the word *variation* in these latter cases, and *variety* as usually conceived in England.

NEWSPAPERS sent to this country from the United States and from Canada frequently contain enclosures liable to the letter-rate postage; and in six months of last year more than 14,000 newspapers were found to have such enclosures secreted within them.

OUR FOREIGN CONTEMPORARIES.

THE Belgium magazine of January is rife with illustrations and descriptions. It seems that many of its correspondents have had grave doubts respecting a reported emission for the German Empire; and the editor refers to an apparently authoritative authority. We imagine the true explanation is that given in the present number of this magazine. A long, elaborate, and interesting article on the Japanese stamps, which is alone worth the price of the publication, is continued by Dr. Magnus. We have also the conclusion of M. Wonner's interesting letter on the stamps of Buenos Ayres.

Very few amateurs in this country have yet taken up the study of fiscals; and a very cursory glance at the twenty-five numbers of which the *Timbre Fiscal* now consists, viz., two volumes, and the commencement of this year's, would scare any but millionaires from the pursuit, were it not that stamps of this sort are usually in sets with all values of the same type, so that a collection of low values only, would generally serve for illustration.

L'Ami des Timbres bristles with representations of Russian locals and the later novelties. We have noted elsewhere its adoption of Scott's garbled statement of the "Good News for Collectors" affair.

The Leipzig *Illustrirtes Briefmarken Journal*, in addition to its accustomed features, affords an interesting account of pigeon-post history, illustrated with portraits of celebrated post birds, and a pigeon held by the tail in one hand, and wing extended by another; a third preparing to stamp the letter transmitted; and a quill labelled 103 and SOSIETE PERISTERAPHILE COURTRAI.

The American Journal of Philately gives a translation of M. De Bosredon's paper on stamps viewed from an historical stand-point, read before the French Society. A few postal novelties, more than two pages devoted to revenue stamps, the trial-account alluded to more than once in this number, and the Hanoverian stamps by Mr. Overy Taylor, (whom the editor or printer persistently mis-names Ovary), with the Index and Title-page of the ninth volume, fill the concluding number for last year.

TELEGRAPH STAMPS.

WURTEMBURG.

SINCE New Year's Day the charge for telegrams being 20 pfennige and 5 pf. per word, two new adhesives have been issued of similar type with the existing set. The values are 5 and 10 pf; the 80 pf. when exhausted will not be renewed.

GREAT BRITAIN.

The Postmaster-General announces the issue of distinctive telegraph stamps for the payment of telegraph messages—foreign as well as inland—and which must be used instead of postage stamps. The telegraph stamps will be of the value of 1d., 3d., 1s., and 5s. respectively. Message forms, embossed with a stamp of the value of 1s., will also be issued, either singly or in packets of 20. Telegraph stamps will not, like postage stamps, be repurchased from the public, and if used for payment of postage the letters will be treated as unpaid.

UNITED STATES.

Supplementary to the account of the Complimentary Western Union Telegraph Company's stamps described in last year's volume, we are enabled, by favour of the same obliging correspondent, to state that their colour for 1875 was bluish green, in three shades varying from pale to deep; the surcharge being vermilion. The present year's colour is bright vermilion, with full blue surcharge. He forwards also one of the books wherein they are affixed which shows the stamps to have tin-foil laid between every sheet of four, presumably on the conserving principle.

POSTAL SCRAPS.

THE NUMBER OF NEWSPAPERS AND BOOK-PACKETS posted in the United Kingdom during the year 1874 amounted to 259,000,000, being an increase of 2 per cent. as compared with the preceding year.

CURIOSITIES OF POSTAGE.—Among the articles posted last year contrary to the regulations of the department, and sent to the Returned-Letter Office, were a horned frog alive, a stag-beetle alive, white mice alive, snails alive, an owl, a kingfisher, a rat, carving knives and forks, gun-cotton, and cartridges.

PRINCE BISMARCK AND CHEAP POSTAGE.—A private letter from Berlin, which is printed in the Boston *Advertiser*, gives Bismarck credit for at least the idea of international postal reform. Some years ago, according to the correspondent, he desired to reduce the international postage to a penny, two cents, or ten centimes all over the civilized world.

THE NEW FRENCH POSTAGE STAMPS.—The manufacture of postage stamps, at present carried out by private contract at the Paris mint, will shortly be undertaken by the Bank of France, the new arrangement being made for two years, with a provision for its renewal if the result is satisfactory. The post-office gains considerably by the change. The arrangement came into force on the 1st inst., and the new stamps will be sent out at the end of the month.—*The Printers' Register.*

THE BERNE POSTAL CONGRESS.—On the 26th ult. the Committee of the Congress proposed that the entry of the British Indian Empire and the French Colonies into the Postal Union should be agreed to, and that the postage should be fixed at 50 c. for letters weighing 15 grammes; this rate to come into force on the 1st July, 1876. It also proposed that the question of the entry of other colonies into the Union should be deferred until the meeting of the next Congress. These proposals were agreed to, the ratification of the entry of the colonies being reserved.

PUBLIC CARELESSNESS.—A registered letter from Switzerland was found, some time since, open in the chief office, London. The contents, which had become exposed owing to the flimsiness of the envelope, consisted of cheques for upwards of £200, and of bank-notes to the value of more than £500. A registered letter, containing Turkish bonds with coupons payable to bearer, worth more than £4,000, intended for a firm in the city of London, was lately misdirected to a street in the West-End, where it was delivered. On enquiry being made for the packet, it was found that the bonds had been mistaken for foreign lottery tickets of no value, and had been put aside for the children of the family to play with.

POSTAL STATISTICS.—Statistics, relative to the use made of the Post-office in the principal countries of the world, show that Switzerland occupies the first place, with 31 letters annually per inhabitant. England comes next, with 20½; then the United States, with 19. France only ranks ninth. With respect to telegraphic communications, Switzerland also takes the lead with 81 messages per 100 inhabitants. Next follow, England 54; Holland 51; Belgium 47; the United States 32; Germany 31. France has the tenth place in the thirteen chief States; Russia the last, with 1 telegram only per 100 inhabitants.

THE ONE-CENT CONFEDERATE STAMP.—It is extremely doubtful whether the one-cent stamp was ever actually in use. Of the first supply of same sent out by Messrs. De La Rue & Co., one portion was lost by the shipwreck of the vessel, and the other portion was sent to St. Thomas for transhipment, and kept there until the war was over. A second batch was sent out, and lost with the vessel which carried it; a third consignment reached the Confederacy in safety, but only just before its fall; and the unused specimens which have become so common no doubt come from the stock seized at Richmond, or left unclaimed at St. Thomas. The five cents is found on surfaced and unsurfaced paper, and a few

sheets are asserted to have been officially perforated as a trial.—*Dr. Gray's Illustrated Catalogue.*

GLADSTONE ON THE POSTAL SYSTEM OF THE PRESENT DAY.—I cannot tell you what I think of the benefits of that system of postage, of all the accelerated communication which we now enjoy. I am sure that you all cherish it. In former times, to write a letter to a distant relative was a thing that a labouring man of this country could not think of. It cost him to send a letter from London to Edinburgh 15½d.; and if there was an enclosure in it, if it consisted of two pieces of paper instead of one, then it cost him more than half-a-crown. How would you like to carry on intercourse with the absent friends and members of your family under these conditions? The enormous mass, the millions and hundreds of millions of letters that pass to and from all the post-offices of this country show that the people appreciate this great boon.—*Gladstone's Speech at Hawarden.*

CORRESPONDENCE.

THE LOCAL STAMPS OF BELOZERSK AND MARIUPOL.



BELOZERSK.



MARIUPOL.

To the Editor of "THE PHILATELIST."

DEAR SIR,—The following extract from *Incidents of Travel in Greece, Turkey, Russia, and Poland*, ch. xix., p. 76, seems to give the reason why the CROSS and CRESCENT appear on the stamps of Belozersk and Mariupol.

The steeples in Novogorod bear the cross, unaccompanied by the crescent, the proud token, showing that the Tartars, in all their invasions, never conquered it, while in the reconquered cities the steeples all exhibit the crescent surmounted by the cross.

In the 13th century, the Mongolians penetrated westward as far as Novogorod, reduced the Tzars and their subjects under their sway, and kept them in bondage for nearly three hundred years; until their great deliverer, Joan Vasiltivitch, roused the energies of the natives to cast off the Tartar yoke, and led the Russians on to subdue their powerful oppressors. The reconquered cities, as a memorial of their deliverance, surmounted the crescent of the Mahometans by the cross of the Christians.

Yours truly,

Derby. C. STROOBANT.

THE CUBAN Y¼ SURCHARGE.

To the Editor of "THE PHILATELIST."

DEAR SIR,—I thank you for your complimentary remarks respecting my last communication about the Spanish 2 mil. de escudo with the surcharge Y¼. Your only objection to my theory is that this presupposes an importation of the low values of the mother country, which would seem unnecessary, there being probably a supply of the mural issue, Cuban proper, at the time, one value of which might have been surcharged as formerly.

Your objection, however, would fall to the ground on considering what is a well known fact, that the stamps of the Spanish colonies are manufactured and supplied by the mother country, and the surcharge in question would not therefore necessarily presuppose an importation of stamps into the colony.

But my explanation is after all but a conjecture, and the novelty which has given rise to this discussion may well be, as your other correspondent terms it, a "fancy stamp," made for collectorial purposes. My object in penning these lines is not principally to carry any further this comparatively unimportant matter, but to make some observations suggested by your saying that my note would totally demolish the universal acceptation by philatelists of the meaning of the surcharge as implying "and a quarter." Having but recently joined the army of philatelists, I was unaware, when I wrote, that such was the received acceptation. If it is, I can assure you that it is a most erroneous one, and I believe, myself entitled to speak with some authority on the subject, for the reasons stated in my previous letter. The explanation of the surcharge is none other than the one I have given you, as is well known to every resident of Cuba, and the one which appears to be universally received in Europe is simply absurd. There is not, and never has been, to my knowledge, any rate of postage in Cuba requiring a 2¼ real stamp. The postage, at the time I speak of, was ¼ real for the interior of a city, ½ real from one place to another in the island, and 1 real to Spain. Postal service with other countries was carried on by foreign steamers, and letters forwarded by them could not be prepaid.

Besides, if the idea of the surcharge was to convert a 2 real into a 2¼ real stamp, the surcharge would have been 2¼, not *y*¼, a curious and unusual ellipse indeed. Even then, if the letter Y was made to stand for the conjunction *and*, a small, not a capital letter, would have been used.

As you justly remark, my statement is borne out by the appearance shortly afterwards (in 1864, I think) of a ¼ real stamp to supply the deficiency which was felt, a stamp which may be accepted without hesitation as a verity.

I beg you will excuse my trespassing on your time and space to this length, but I am induced to do so by the belief that the subject is important as marking the period of a postal reform, and will therefore be entertained with interest by your readers. Should this be the case I am happy to have been enabled to aid in establishing the truth.

I am, dear sir,
Yours obediently,
London. F. FESSER.

THE STAMP EXCHANGE.

NOTICE.

For the accommodation of those subscribers who may be desirous of exchanging their duplicate stamps, a portion of *The Philatelist* is set apart each month to facilitate exchanges.

RULES.

1. Advertisements must be accompanied by the cheque given with each number.
2. Advertisements to be addressed to "The Editor of *The Philatelist*, Royal Colonnade, Brighton," and received not later than the 18th of the month.
3. The full name and address of the writer must be sent with each advertisement.
4. IF AN ADVERTISEMENT EXCEEDS 20 WORDS A CHARGE OF 6D FOR EVERY ADDITIONAL 10 WORDS WILL BE MADE.
5. *The Stamp Exchange* is intended for the use of amateur collectors only; notices from dealers cannot therefore be inserted.

M. STRONG, Alexandria, Egypt, requires vol. i. and Nos. 96 and 97 of vol. ix. of *The Stamp-Collector's Magazine.*

ATHOL C. H. JOHNSTONE, St. Moritz House, Brighton, has for exchange about 6,000 used English Stamps; offers requested.

FREDERICK E. A. CAVELL, Saxmundham, Suffolk, has vol. viii. of *The Philatelist* to exchange for Books. Wants an album for post cards.

A. C. THOMPSON, Cambridge House, Sandgate, wishes to exchange for used stamps bank-notes of different countries, also a large selection of unused stamps. Requests offers.

THE EDITOR'S LETTER-BOX.

*** Correspondents sending specimens for inspection and return, are requested to enclose a stamped directed envelope.

J. W. W., City.—The blue 40 c. of Amadeo is mentioned at page 81 of last year's *Philatelist.*

E. W. W., Leighton Buzzard.—Best acknowledgments for your politely forwarding the U. S. complimentary book of telegraph stamps.

J. C., Sunderland.—Your hitherto undescribed Norwegian is thankfully acknowledged, and chronicled in the proper place; also the new Dutch envelope.

A. C. H. T., Brighton.—The stamp placed in collections as an emission of the Falkland Islands, is merely a postmark.—Chiffre-taxe stamps of the 1870 type were issued in Italy in 1874, values 5 and 10 lire. The same values exist in the official set of 1875.

J. M. F., Glasgow.—The catalogue and supplement of Moens have never been, nor are likely to be translated into English. His postage-stamp album and *Illustrations* were Englished by Dr. Viner, but no other of his works.—You must apply to Messrs. Grant & Co., Torquay, for information respecting the *Philatelical Catalogue.*—Accept our best thanks for the newspaper cutting.

IOTA, Bury St. Edmund's.—Your Brazilian is forged: the Guatemala is a wretched imitation of a falsity: the Cashmere is genuine. The Würtemburg envelope impressions are very frequently found faulty from careless manipulation. Our collection contains many values in the same condition. The paper being thin receives the impression of the die on the back of the envelope, and gets coloured from that previously stamped if still remaining moist.

W. M. S., Oporto.—From lack of the proper paper, or the printer's carelessness, some Queensland stamps are found watermarked N. S. W. The violet 4d. of South Australia ought to be star-watermarked. Yours is almost, not quite, indecipherable. Read Mr. Earée on the subject in the present number. The eight, instead of nine, stars condemns the New Granada, notwithstanding the fictitious postmark. The Bolivian appears properly so. Your 5 gr. Saxony greenish blue is a decided variety. The Greek, with King George's head, is an essay. Thanks for calling attention to the head-variation in the New South Wales large sixpenny. Your Oldenburg, Austrian newspaper, and green Argentine stamps, are forged. All the rest seem genuine, except the New Granada noted above.

RECENT AND UNDESCRIBED EMISSIONS

UNITED STATES.

A CORRESPONDENT obliges us with the information that a 3 cent envelope will be used during the Centennial Exhibition which is described in the *New York Times* as follows :—A mail-boy riding; a shield; U.S. above, value below, embossed. Telegraph wires and poles form the groundwork.

JAPAN.

The oval cut represents the stamp on the Japanese wrapper described last month at page 21. The second



portrays one of the current higher values, the dimensions of which have been for some months reduced to a size at uniformity with the rest of the set, as noticed last month. The colour of the 20 sen is rose, according to a contemporary; but the same value was chronicled of a different hue at page 1 of this volume from ocular inspection. The supposed newsband described at page 152 of last year's volume serves indeed as a wrapper, but not a postal one.



A correspondent has received a 4 sen green Japanese, without any plate-letter at the junction of the branches, concluding it to be a return to the original die.

RUSSIAN LOCALS.

Oustsysolsk.—There has been a chronological error respecting the second and third emissions of the stamps of this place. Those which were described at page 180 of the volume for 1874 to be the second emission are really the third. Those represented at page 79 of last year's volume as being the third are the second.

Tschern.—The 3 kopecks black is now printed on plain wove paper.

Tver.—One of the earliest known of these interesting locals was the round impression of this district. After the slight modification noted at page 45 last year, it is permanently suppressed in favour of a rather narrow rectangular stamp, bearing on a bright vermilion scroll the imperial crown on a throne stool in the upper half; name, designation, and value on a yellow scroll in the lower. The whole on a back-

ground of slightly-waved perpendicular black lines, within a frame composed of a thick and a thin line on white paper, imperforate. Vermilion, yellow, and black on white; 2 kop.

DUTCH INDIES.

M. Moens chronicles a new value for these colonies of the current type, viz., 2 cents, chocolate. He possesses them both in a perforate and imperforate state.

NEW SOUTH WALES.

The impressed stamp, and a sufficient portion of the frame to give an idea of the whole of the post card chronicled at page 166 of last year's volume, are here depicted. Though probably most of our readers are provided with the reality by this time, it may be added to the description given before, that the words POST CARD are above; underneath which are, THE ADDRESS ONLY TO BE WRITTEN ON THIS SIDE.



With respect to the apparent variety of the large sixpenny adhesive of this colony noticed last month, we have the authority of Sir Daniel Cooper for declaring that there never existed but one single type for that value; that this type was never altered or modified in any way during the whole time of its employment; and that the variety, which is strikingly evident in extreme cases, is caused merely from the thickness or thinness of the colouring matter used in the process of printing.

FRANCE.

We are reminded of the omission to state that all the values of the Republican type printed at Bordeaux have their corresponding equivalents among the emissions of Tours.

Le Timbre-Poste states that the international cards of both values are found with 10-75 added at the left-hand lower angle. Therein is also described another card issued on New Year's Day, on which, besides the usual inscription, is notified the price for France and Algeria, and that for foreign countries allowing an interchange of cards. It is added that these are sold at the offices unimpressed, the stamps to be affixed according to need, viz., 10 c. or 15 c. for France and Algeria; 15 c. or 20 c. for abroad. This rule appears on the face of the card it is true; but we have received one from Paris franked by a 10 c. and a 5 c. stamp only! It is on buff paper, not rose tinted as described in *Le Timbre-Poste*. Our specimen is dated December, 1875.

TURKEY.

The new emission for Turkey, which is reported for issue in the spring, will be of the same type as before; but the black inscription is much more complicated, and so full as almost to obliterate the oval ornamentation underneath it. Arabic numerals and Roman letters are likewise printed in the centre as a surcharge: PRE standing for the abbreviation of piastre, and PRES for its plural. There will be no 1 p. or 25 p. in the new set, which runs as follows: ¼ p., mauve; ½ p., pale green; 1¼ p., pale pink (the international); 2 p., light yellow-brown; 5 p., ultramarine.

CABUL.

M. Moens chronicles a 2 shahis black of the last emission but one, which had not been hitherto detected. It is dated 1291 (1873-4).

LUXEMBURG.

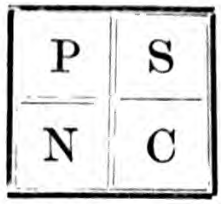
The same describes a 5 c. lilac post card on bluish paper; and notes the speedy appearance of a pair of new ones: 10 c. for Belgium, and 12½ c. for the rest of the International Union.

WURTEMBURG.

Le Timbre-Poste states that the Stuttgard local envelope used by the German arquebusiers has had its value changed from 1 kreuzer; that value being crossed off by a lilac bar, and a 5 pfennige adhesive of the current type struck on the opposite corner. The card is pink.

PERU.

The stamp, of which the annexed cut is an approximate representation, has been resuscitated by Mons. Mahé. The original was presented by the late Mons. Lallier, in whose album it formerly figured, to the present possessor. The four letters are the initials of Pacific Steam Navigation Company. It is a zylograph, hand-printed in thick blue colouring on bluish paper, like the similarly-coloured 1 real blue of the well-known issue of the Company above mentioned. This is all that is known of the stamp, and further information is courted.



A correspondent gives information of the present currency of the resuscitated old 1 dinero green embossed adhesive.

VICTORIA.

Since the 1st of December has been issued for this colony a stamp of new design much prettier than the superseded one. A bust of the Queen, very much nearer a correct semblance than any we remember on stamps, excepting only the widow type of Newfoundland and Canada, lies on a closely-lined ground of horizontal lines within an oval frame inscribed with name and value separated right and left by a neat ornament. Spandrels neatly ornamented; partially obscured above by filled-in circles; below, by the value in white ones. Broad rectangle, perforated like its predecessor. Coloured impression on white paper, pea-green, 1 penny.

SWITZERLAND.

The 10 c. card of this republic has been, like the lower value, mulcted of the words *in*, *à*, and *a*, and bears now the same meagre appearance as its companion.

HOLLAND.

Last month was described one of the new international post cards of this kingdom. Another must be now added, 5 cents, ultramarine on white. An additional charge is made for the envelopes there as well as here, and some other places. M. Moens announces a change of type in the lower values. He describes an essay thereof; but as there is no positive certainty of its adoption, we forbear transcribing the description. The current post cards are on deep buff.

PORTUGAL.

We have just received from an obliging correspondent specimens of two new values for this kingdom which have been made expressly for the single and double postage between that country and Brazil. The colours and values are: 150 reis, azure; 300 r., lilac-mauve. The hue of the current 25 r. is much deeper than before.

AZORES.

The same two values are found surcharged in the usual way for the use of these islands.

MADEIRA.

They exist also for this island similarly manipulated, and the 15 r. also, as we naturally concluded when noting its appearance for the preceding islands in last year's *Philatelist*.

SERVIA.

The perforating machine of this principality now does duty for the black adhesive which has been hitherto known in an unperforated state only.

FINLAND.

M. Moens acknowledges the communication of an envelope from M. Treichel of the 1860 date with a 10 kopeck stamp impressed on white laid paper, with a 20 k. black stamp of 1850 on the flap. It passed the post at Viborg on the 25th of a month in 1861, as testified by the post-mark. What is remarkable in this envelope is that the type is that of 1860, but with 7 stars only, not 8 like all those yet signalized; and that the 1850 stamp is not of the known type! The differences are: shield composed regularly of 24 lines above and below, instead of 24 and 26; a larger crown, the ball not so high; the stars do not occupy the same place in the shield; on the right, the upper one extends over four in lieu of three lines; the middle one touches the line which forms the shield on the right, and the lower touches it beneath; the shield also is a trifle larger. The numerals 2 of the inscription are more open; the letters K have the lower leg more slanting; the letters O are narrower. The punctuation is lozenge-shaped.

SPANISH WEST INDIES.

The current set are similar to those for the Philippine Islands, one of which is figured at page 112 of last year's volume; the sole difference is that the word FILIPINAS is replaced by ULTRAMAR 1876. Values and colours as follow: 12½ centimos de peseta, pale green; 25 c. de p., lilac; 50 c. de p., blue; 1 peseta, black.

SIERRA LEONE.

By favour of a correspondent who kindly forwards a specimen, a new value must be chronicled for this colony of similar type with the majority of the current set. Light brown, ½d.

THE POSTAL UNION.—The next meeting of the Postal Congress is fixed to take place in London in the June of the present year.

THE PERSIAN POSTAL SYSTEM.—The new postal system, organized on the European model, is now in full working order. There is a regular courier service between Djoulfa, Tauris, and Teheran.

OUR FOREIGN CONTEMPORARIES.

THE Belgian magazine of last month concludes the interesting and apparently exhaustive article on the postal adhesives of Japan. By inadvertence it was attributed to the able pen of Dr. Magnus, but is really the production of the editor himself. It is illustrated most copiously with the various types employed; and prints, moreover, the four dozen characters of the Japanese alphabet with their corresponding names. The portion devoted to new issues is filled, and among them figures again the Persian stamp with a full assurance of the actual existence of the set. Like the rest of his *confrères* who have been deceived by the intentionally ambiguous account of the matter in *The American Journal*, M. Moens has fallen into the error of believing that the Philadelpho-Italian swindler was *sentenced* as well as convicted.

The Parisian magazine of M. Mahé, after an interregnum, gives us no fewer than four numbers for examination. They are filled with descriptions and portraits of the postal and fiscal novelties of the time, as well as some philatelic articles; notably one on the 6 cents envelope of the United States, the second emission in 1857. This has been considered by Dr. Magnus and other authorities to be an essay only; but M. Mahé's paper goes far to prove its strictly postal nature. An uncut specimen exists in the fine collection of M. de Ferrari, which M. Moens pronounced a re-impression; but M. Mahé's arguments combat that supposition. The New Year's number is valuable from an able article from the pen of M. de F. on the Cashmere stamps. Readers must be referred to the magazine for its perusal, because a mere *résumé* would be useless. A strange-looking resuscitation, whose genuine character would appear guaranteed, will be found chronicled in the fit place. The proceedings of the French Society are also quoted elsewhere. The frontispiece of last year's volume is graced (or disgraced) by a representation of the hideous new French type.

The American Journal of Philately spells Mr. Overy Taylor's name rightly this time in its continuation of that gentleman's paper on the Hanoverian envelopes. A notification of another swindle by another apparently gentlemanly man; notices of novelties, among which are the newest Antioquias, which the editor is inclined to doubt; revenue stamps; the translation of M. de Bosredon's paper read before the French Society; the old anecdote of Mulready's boyhood; and the description of a possible set of stamps for the use of the Samoa islands, are the other features of the number for the New Year.

The Leipzig magazine contains its accustomed amount of information; and we have to record the appearance of another postage-stamp journal in the German language, the *Wiener Illustrirte Briefmarken-Zeitung*. This hails from Vienna, so that the rival empires of north and south are now both represented in philately. The numbers for January and February are on view. The former gives us the portrait and biography of a fine-looking spectacled gentleman, Dr. E. Herrmann, imperial counsellor, and henceforward to be celebrated most deservedly in the philatelic world as the inventor of post cards. The second number shows us the portly form and benevolent countenance of W. F. von Kolbensteiner, the Postmaster-General of Austria. Novelties and

their illustrations, with the usual amount of postal articles, correspondence, replies to queries, and advertisements, fill the pages of this new aspirant for honours.

TELEGRAPH STAMPS.

BAVARIA.

THE value of the telegraph stamps of this kingdom, in accordance with the monetary denominations lately adopted under the lead of the German Empire, have been necessarily altered. The type remains as before; there are now—10 pfennige, ultramarine; 20 pf., lilac.

HOLLAND.

Telegraphic emissions are expected to be very shortly issued for this kingdom.

CUBA.

M. Moens announces telegraph stamps for the current year of the adhesive postal type, with the word CORREOS of the sides replaced by CUBA TEL^{S} 1876 or TELEGRAFOS 1876—1 peseta, green; 2 p., blue; 4 p., pink.

GREAT BRITAIN.

The description of our new Telegraph adhesives noted last month is as follows:—transverse rectangle, $1\frac{2}{10}$ by 1 inch, measuring the impression; about $\frac{1}{10}$ more each way from perforation to perforation; Queen's head to left in circle; foliate ornamentation completes an oblong. Above TELEGRAPHS, below value in words, colour on white: ornamentation at sides. In white on square blocks at upper corners the numeral 1; at lower, A.F., B.F., &c.: Rather coarsely die-printed on white glazed machine-made paper, watermarked with Maltese cross. Carmine-pink, 5 shillings.

Transverse rectangle, $\frac{9}{10}$ by $\frac{7}{10}$ of an inch: same head within oval frame flattened above and below, inscribed as above: ornamentation at sides, same ornamentation partially hid by frame above and below. Numerals and letters as the last. Pea-green, one shilling; rose watermark.

Form and size of the preceding: same head in circle, within transverse oval peaked at the sides: inscription, numerals, and letters as before: ornamented spandrels. Carmine-pink, three pence. Rose watermark.

Same size: head within circular frame inscribed like the others with destination and value; but the plate-numerals are placed in the frame, and in number 1 look like hyphens between TELEGRAPHS and value! This peculiarity will be soon exhausted, No. 2 having come out simultaneously. Plate-letters below, as the rest. Spandrels neatly ornamented. Light brown, one penny. Watermarked with a trefoil.

Telegraph form.—In addition to these is a new telegraph form. It contains elaborate instructions and scale of charges, being printed on both sides. A brace defines the twenty spaces for words allowed for a shilling; an additional five are allowed for 1/3 and so marked; and five more, also marked, 1/6. The impressed stamp is quite novel for this value, being circular like the fourpenny envelope stamp. Embossed

head to left in white on coloured ground, within circular frame, inscribed like the adhesives. Date as usual in our envelopes, embossed in white, within small circles—18—9—75=September 18th, 1875. So they have been long ready if not issued. Bright green, one shilling.

THE FRENCH TIMBROLOGICAL SOCIETY.

THE monthly sitting was held under the presidency of M. le Baron de Rothschild on the 13th of January. After preliminary discussion, and the admission of new members, the Secretary produced two numbers of *The American Journal of Philately* containing the account of the arrest and trial of the counterfeiters, whose supposed sentence was an object of congratulation for the members. He also called attention to the plagiary of M. de Bosredon's article without permission, and the protest of the Society against this liberty was recorded. Much will the American journalist care for that! The proposed catalogue of Luxemburg stamps was discussed. M. de Ferrari considered the 10 centimes on bluish paper to be an essay. Post-office-order cards and forms were pronounced worthy of collecting only when furnished with impressed stamps, and M. Schmidt de Wilde was invited to show what he had prepared on the subject.

M. de Carreton set forth his intention of preparing a catalogue to comprise the stamps of Denmark. The Society decided that every catalogue ought to be provided with a list of monetary denominations, and their corresponding values, placed at the head of each country before the enumeration of its stamps. Service-stamps were to be placed in chronological order among those of the same kind; and franked envelopes were sentenced to relegation.

The next sitting was to be devoted to the examination of the private-office stamps of Denmark, and her tributary possessions—Iceland, the Danish West Indies. After this were to follow the emissions of Schleswig-Holstein, Heligoland, and the Netherlands. M. Bernheim showed some Spanish essays and others.

THE SPUD PAPERS; OR, NOTES ON PHILATELIC WEEDS.

BY THE REV. R. BRISCO EAREE.

LIV.

Spain.

(CARLIST INSURRECTION.)

1873: 1 REAL, BLUE. 1874: 16 MARAVEDIS, ROSE.

I HAVE the pleasure of presenting to our readers this month the counterfeits of the blue and the rose stamps of His (would-be) Majesty, Don Carlos. The blue forgery is rather well done, but the rose is very poor. However, as the stamps are not particularly rare, I dare say most of our readers will be able to judge for themselves as to the goodness or badness of the imitations. As a rule, I think Messrs. Spiro succeed pretty well when they have only lithographs to deal with; and, if they would take the advice of one who does his best to pick holes in their

productions, they would content themselves with imitating lithographs only;—and let *épargne* and *taille-douce* alone. I always notice that when I can say a forgery is a pretty good imitation, the original is almost certain to be a lithograph.

1873: 1 REAL, BLUE.

Genuine.—Lithographed, on thick, white, *glacé* paper, no watermark, ungummed. The hair of the effigy is parted in the centre of the forehead. The point of the nose is shaded with dots. There is a good space of white between the eyebrows, and a faint white outline may be seen all round the beard, which is caused by the horizontal lines of shading in the background not being drawn *quite* up to the beard. The point where the neck is cut off in front is at some little distance from the edge of the containing oval. The horizontal lines of shading break off before they reach the edge on either side, so that there is a narrow rim of white all round the inside of the outline of the oval. The end of the moustache is long, and droops down, and then curls up again. (This requires to be closely examined, before it can be seen). The outline of the oval touches the frame at the middle of the left-hand side.

Forged.—Lithographed, on thinnish, ordinary paper, ungummed. The hair is not parted at all. The point of the nose is not shaded. There are two little dots near the outer corner of the eyebrow; and if a



vertical line be drawn down from those dots, it will almost pass through two larger dots, one on the upper edge of the whisker, and the other on the lower edge. None of these dots are found in the original. The eyebrows almost meet, there being but the very faintest separation between them. There is no white outline round the beard; and the beard itself is much more like a beard than in the genuine. The point of the neck in front is very near the edge of the containing oval. The horizontal lines of shading almost cut into the outline of the oval in front of the forehead and in front of the beard. The end of the moustache is quite short, and scarcely comes beyond the corner of the mouth. The outline of the oval does not touch the frame anywhere.

Postmarks.—There is a great variety of postmarks in the genuine stamps. Out of eight stamps now before me, two are postmarked with the diamond of dots with a solid diamond in the centre, so familiar on the 1870 stamps; the third is simply pen-marked; the fourth is pen-marked, and has, in addition, a large circular date-stamp struck in blue, from VIZCAYA; the fifth is also pen-marked, and has a five-pointed star struck in blue; the sixth has this star without pen-mark; the seventh has a small circular date-stamp, struck in black, bearing ESPANA and part of the name of a town; the eighth has seven short parallel bars, forming a long rectangle, as long as the width of the stamps.

The forgeries are postmarked with a large rectangle of dots (square dots, not round like the genuine). This rectangle is almost exactly the size of the stamps.

1874: 16 MARAVEDIS, ROSE.

Genuine.—Lithographed, on thin, slightly-surfaced paper, backed with a white gum. There is a *tilde* over the N of ANO and of CATALUNA. The stop after CORREOS is circular. The 1 of 16 comes both higher and lower than the 6, and the monetary denomination is $M^{S}.V^{N}.$. The hair behind the ears down to the back of the neck is cut quite short. The lines forming the network are wavy, and the meshes are therefore somewhat oval in shape. The lines of shading on the ends of the upper scroll are much thicker and somewhat shorter on the right side than on the left. The shading on the forehead is light. The moustache droops very little. The beard is easily distinguished from the shading on the neck. The whiskers join the hair. The outline of the frame is very jagged.

Forged.—Lithographed, on paper slightly stouter than that of the forged 1 real; ungummed. ANO and CATALUNA without accents. The stop after CORREOS is a short hyphen. The 6 of 16 is higher than the 1, and the 1 is lower than the 6. The N of V^{N} is merely a blotch; I suppose the forgers did not know what it was. All the hair is long, and looks marvellously like a wig. It seems all to spring from the back of the head. The lines forming the network are straight, and the meshes are diamonds. The lines of shading on the upper scroll are very much longer on the right side than on the left. The front of the forehead is heavily shaded, and the neck is so absurdly dark in front that it looks like part of the beard. The whisker also appears to be pointed, from the same cause. There is a small division between the hair and the whisker. The moustache droops a good deal. There is a mark like a large comma just above the middle of the eyebrow, which is altogether absent in the genuine. The outline of the frame is well done.



Postmarks.—I have not seen any postmarked specimens of the genuine stamps, but the forgeries are obliterated with a large rectangle of square dots, like the forged 1 real.

Both forgeries are printed in sheets, of 25, 5 × 5. The colour of the rose stamp is a fair imitation of that of the genuine, though of a more chalky hue. The blue stamp is rather of a greenish cast, and is a more delicate colour than the genuine.

THE STAMPS OF VENEZUELA.

BY THE REV. R. BRISCO EAREE.

THE viceroyalty of New Granada and the Caraccas formerly belonged to Spain; but about the year 1820, the inhabitants of this province threw off the Spanish yoke, after a struggle of ten years, and succeeded in establishing their independence. The province was afterwards divided into three parts (all well known to philatelists), namely, Colombia, Ecuador, and Venezuela. These three republics were, however, united by a federal compact, somewhat after the manner of the United States of North America, though scarcely so closely allied as the different states of the

last-named republic. This may be stale news to many of our readers, but I mention it for the sake of those who may not be quite so well-informed. Of these three republics, the one with which this present article is concerned is Venezuela; and I think that its stamps are not devoid of interest, though I fear that I may not be able to give very much new information about them.

Stamps were not issued in Venezuela until 1859, so it will be seen that nearly a score of years elapsed, after their invention and adoption in England, before this distant republic followed suit. And I think this need not be wondered at, considering that even the great European powers allowed us to try the experiment for ten years before they imitated our example. Then again, it must be remembered that Venezuela was but a young republic in 1840, and the wheels of the government machine were not likely to work very smoothly at first, so that the rulers had many things more serious than postage stamps with which to occupy their thoughts. Therefore, all things being considered, the fact that the Venezuelans did not issue postage stamps until 1859, can hardly, in their case, be construed as a mark of want of civilization.

The first stamps issued by this state were distinguished for their small size. They rank next to the stamps of Bolivar and the ¼ schilling Mecklenburg-Schwerin, &c., in point of dimension, or rather, of want of dimension. Possibly this may have been from modesty; and perhaps the rulers thought that a small republic ought to have small stamps, though I confess that this is not at all a likely supposition. Who ever saw a small man who did not think a very great deal of himself? The reason, therefore, for the diminutive proportions of these stamps must remain, for the present, a problem unsolved.

FIRST ISSUE, 1859.



I need not enter into the details of the design of these stamps, as the accompanying illustration renders anything of the sort superfluous; so we will proceed at once to the description of the various values, colours, &c.

Medio Real.

Pale chalky lemon | Golden-orange, v.
Pale dull yellow-ochre | Orange-vermilion, v.
Vermilion, v.

Un Real.

Greenish blue, v. | Bright chalky blue, v.
Sky-blue, v. | Indigo

Dos Reales.

Pinkish vermilion, v.
Rosy vermilion, v.
Brick-red, v.
Indian red, with very slight shade of purple, v.

The earlier issues of this set are on slightly yellowish paper. They are much better executed than the later ones, which are most wretched lithographs, and dreadfully smudged. I fancy there have been several transfers made, as some of the later ones show a double line of border on each side, which is not found in the earlier impressions.

Postmarks.—The earliest postmark is a large numeral, which covers nearly the whole of the stamp. The next is in three lines of print, without any frame. The third is a double circle, with name and date, as in the Hanoverian stamps.

SECOND ISSUE, AUGUST 7, 1861.



The stamps of this issue, as will be seen from our illustration, are square, and much larger than those just described. They are lithographed, and there is a separate design for each value. The horse, in the lower part of the shield, is represented with its head to the left, instead of to the right, as in the first issue. The value is expressed in *centavos* instead of *reales*.

Cuarto Centavo.

Chalky yellow-green, v. | Prussian green
Bright yellow-green, v. | Chalky bluish green, v.

Medio Centavo.

Brownish lavender, v.
" " with very slight reddish shade, v.
" " with very slight shade of lilac, v.

Un Centavo.

Brownish lavender, v. | Lilac-brown, v.

All these stamps are ungummed, on white wove paper. The darker shades of the *medio centavo* are almost exactly the same colour as the lighter shades of the *un centavo*.

Postmarks.—The only postmarked specimens of this issue which I have seen, bear the large numeral, stamped in blue or black. Postmarked copies are not at all common, owing to the short time this issue was current.

THIRD ISSUE, NOVEMBER, 1863.



The stamps of this series purport to be issued by the Venezuela Federation (FEDERACION VENEZOLANA), and bear seven stars and an eagle instead of the arms of Venezuela proper. They are very badly lithographed on thickish white wove paper, and are found both gummed and ungummed. A few decent impressions may occasionally be met with; but the majority of them look as though they had been printed by an apprentice, in the first week of his service!

Medio Centavo.

Pink, v. | Rose, v.
Vermilion-rose, v.

Un Centavo.

Greenish grey, v. | Neutral tint, v.
Neutral tint, with shade of yellow.

Medio Real.

1st type, value in *thin* letters; VENEZOLANA in large thin letters.

Golden orange, v. | Reddish orange, v.
Yellow-ochre, v. | Chalky orange

2nd type, value in *thick* letters; VENEZOLANA in small thick letters.

Chalky orange | Orange-bistre, v.
Dull reddish ochre, v.

Un Real.

Sky-blue | Dull chalky blue, v.
Dull blue, almost indigo.

Dos Reales.

Sap-green, v. | Bluish green
Chalky emerald-green, v. | Yellow-green, v.
Prussian green.

I have had great difficulty in finding names to give a proper idea of some of the shades of the stamps just described. The *dos reales* especially is to be found in almost every conceivable shade of green.

The *medio real* seems to be the only one which has more than one type.

Postmarks.—Double circle, with name and date; occasionally obliterated with date in pen-and-ink.

FOURTH ISSUE, 1866.



The stamps of this issue bear the original coat-of-arms, with horse to right, as in the first issue. The inscription is different, and runs CORREO DE LOS EE. UU. DE VENEZA, denoting another political change. Lithographed as before.

Medio Centavo.

Very yellow apple-green, v.

Un Centavo.

Prussian green, v. | Blue-green, v.

Dos Centavos.

Green. (Issued end of 1874).

Medio Real.

Brownish pink, v. | Lilac-rose, v.
Ditto, with shade of lilac, v. | Brownish red, v.
Brown-violet, v.

Un Real.

Vermilion, v. | Carmine-vermilion, v.
Dull chalky vermilion-red.

Dos Reales.

Chrome-yellow, v. | Bright yellow-ochre.

The *medio real* is found on both thin and thick paper. Those on thick paper are always of a more or less lilac shade, and were issued some time in 1870.

The 2 *c.* green is chronicled by M. Moens, who says that it is the same type as the others. I have not seen it yet. The date of issue is some time towards the end of 1874.

Surcharge.—I copy the following from *The Philatelist*, vol. viii., p. 151, "A curious surcharge is found on the current stamp, consisting of two lines of minute black lettering, the first of which is made up of

repetitions of the word CONTRASENAS (countersign) and the second of repetitions of the words ESTAMPILLAS DE CORREOS (postage stamp), though sometimes the position of the two lines is reversed. These lines cross the stamp near the middle, and are distant about a third of an inch from each other. We hope soon to learn the true motive for this surcharge, which conjecture sets down as having been adopted with a view to stop the currency of forged or stolen stamps."

I note that Salvador has taken to issuing stamps with a somewhat similar surcharge, and as there is little fear of any forgeries of these beautifully-engraved stamps ever becoming dangerous, I think it more probable that the disease called "kleptomania" has found its way into South America!

Postmarks.—The commonest postmark on this issue is the double circle, with name and date. I have found one stamp bearing F. V^{A} ADMON DE CORREOS, LA GUAIRA (Federacion Venezolana, Administracion, &c.). I have also seen an octagon, filled with small dots, and a circle filled with still smaller dots,—but the double circle is, as I have said, the most common. The date in all is only the month,—the year is never given. According to M. Moens, these stamps have been occasionally used perforated *en scie* by private enterprise,—but I have never seen any perforated copies, and the stamps, as issued by the Post-office, are imperforate.

Official Stamps.—The foreign office has its own frank-stamp, which merits description. It is a large upright oval containing the arms, very much in the style of the first issue. Below the motto are two dates,—19 DE ABRIL, 1810, and 5 DE JULIO, 1811. The legend runs,—EE. UU. DE VENEZUELA, MINIST^{O} DE RELACIONES EXTERIORES. It is printed in orange-vermilion, gummed, and punched out.

Forgeries.—All the issues have been extensively imitated. For description of these forgeries, the reader is referred to the "Spud Papers" in *The Philatelist*, vol. vi., pp. 9 and 116.

Escuelas.—The accompanying illustration represents the lowest value of a set of stamps which, at first, considerably exercised the minds of collectors. It was suggested that these stamps were used in the schools, to teach the young idea of Venezuela all the business of letter-writing, &c., but they are now known to be government fiscals,—and, as such, have no business in this monograph. They are now, like the postals, ornamented (?) with the two lines of surcharge.



And now I fancy our readers will not be sorry that this paper has come to an end. They may find it tedious to wade through the descriptions of minute differences of shade, &c.; but I would remind them that it is much more tedious to have to wade through hundreds of stamps, in order to *write* these descriptions: and whether my readers are tired or not, I frankly confess that *I* am.

I must here express my thanks to Mr. Pemberton and Messrs. Alfred Smith and Co. for kindly allowing me access to their respective collections of Venezuela stamps; and I shall be glad if any brother philatelists will communicate to me any varieties which they may possess, beyond those already mentioned.

THE PHILATELIC SOCIETY, LONDON.

THE seventh meeting of the season was held on the 29th of January, at 2 p.m., at the residence of Dr. Viner, 34, Denbigh Street, Pimlico. The President in the chair.

The Secretary's proposal, that England and her colonies should form the subjects of study during 1876, having been agreed to, the Reference List of the Stamps of Canada, published in the September number of *The Philatelist* for 1874, was revised and corrected up to date.

Senor de Ysasi exhibited three blocks of the 1 real blue Luzon 1854 y 55, each block consisting of 20 stamps, in five horizontal rows of four stamps in the row; a whole sheet contains probably 80 stamps, representing as many varieties.

The meeting broke up at 5.30 p.m., the next being fixed for the 12th of February, to be held at the same time and place.

This meeting, the eighth of the season, was presided over by the President. The stamps of New Brunswick and Nova Scotia were studied, and the Reference List drawn up. M. Parry pointed out that, in the New Brunswick issue for 1857, the words NEW BRUNSWICK are in roman type in all three values; THREE PENCE also in roman type; but SIX PENCE and ONE SHILLING in block type. In the 6d. stamp, the words POSTAGE and SIX PENCE show a line of colour down the centre of each letter. In the Nova Scotia issue of 1857, NOVA SCOTIA is in block type, the value and POSTAGE being in roman on the 3d., and in block on the 6d. and 1s., with a line of colour down the centre of the letters in the 6d. only.

M. Raffalovich exhibited a 15 centime French Republic, lithographed, and perforated 13½. This seems to prove that the stone was prepared in France, and not in Martinique, as was suggested. Probably the 15 c. lithographed and imperforate was prepared, and sheets printed for special use in the colonies, whilst the other plates were being engraved. As soon as the engraved 15 c. came into use, the remaining sheets of the imperforate lithographed 15 c. were perforated and used up *in France*, the specimens in the possession of M. M. Raffalovich and Parry bearing the usual French postmark. Whether any other values exist lithographed remains an open question. The meeting dissolved at 5 p.m.

The ninth meeting of the season was held on the 26th of February, at 2 p.m., at the residence of the Secretary, 272, Cornwall Road. The President in the chair.

The stamps of Prince Edward Island, British Columbia, and Vancouver Island, formed the subject of study. After the Reference List had been drawn up, the Secretary read the correspondence, comprising:

(1) A letter from Mr. Campbell, in which he gives fresh information respecting the "Tours" emission.

(2) A letter from Lieut. Evans concerning the publication of the Society's Reference Lists. It was agreed that the first section of the Society's Catalogue should comprise: France, Spain, Portugal, and their respective colonies. The Secretary was requested to proceed at once with the publication of the same.

A vote of thanks was proposed and accorded to both the above esteemed correspondents.

M. Raffalovich exhibited the new 20 kop. for Russia.

The meeting broke up at 5 p.m., and the next was fixed for the 11th of March, at 2 p.m., at the residence of Dr. Viner, 34, Denbigh Street, Pimlico. Subject of study: Newfoundland, British Honduras, Antigua, Bahamas, and Bermuda.

POSTAL SCRAPS.

THE FOREIGN POST-OFFICES IN TURKEY.—The Porte has informed the French Government that the Foreign Post-offices in Turkey will cease their functions from the 1st of March, when the international postal service will come into force.

POSTAL CHEQUES.—It will be heard with general satisfaction that the Post-office authorities and the Government have the improvement of the Money-Order system under careful consideration, and, from a reply given in Parliament by Lord John Manners, it would appear that there are prospects of postal cheques taking the place of the present somewhat inconvenient procedure. The Cheque Bank has been found a great boon in this respect, and all those who occasionally wish to forward small sums to persons at a distance will welcome a change in the direction indicated.

POSTAL PERSEVERANCE.—A letter was posted at Scarborough on Jan. 15th, directed, in a peculiarly illegible angular style, to "The Dramatic Society, Neath, Scotland." The envelope bears the following marks:—"Try Beith." "Not for Beith." "Try Perth." "No such Society in Perth." "Try Bath." "Not for Bath." "Try Meath, Ireland." "Not known." "Try Heath Cottages, Elgin." "Not for Heath." "Try Leith." "Not known." "Try Neath, *viâ* Gloucester." The latter proved correct, and the letter was duly delivered, on the 21st of Jan., at its proper destination.

THE NEW CALEDONIAN STAMP was the work of a member of the New Caledonian garrison, Serjeant Triquéra, who etched them with a point of a pin. The sheet consisted of fifty stamps, each one separately drawn, and consequently differing from all the rest. Their employment was stopped by the Parisian post-office as soon as it heard of their being in use; and, curiously enough, the information was incidentally conveyed by a well-known stamp collector, M. Berger Levrault, in the course of a conversation he had with the head of the postage-stamp department at Paris, in 1861. Original copies are very scarce, but the stones from which they were printed having been preserved by the military engraver's relatives (he himself being dead), reprints of the entire sheet have been obtained, and are comparatively inexpensive.—*Dr. Gray's Illustrated Catalogue.*

THE STAMP EXCHANGE.

NOTICE.

For the accommodation of those subscribers who may be desirous of exchanging their duplicate stamps, a portion of *The Philatelist* is set apart each month to facilitate exchanges.

RULES.

1. Advertisements must be accompanied by the cheque given with each number.
2. Advertisements to be addressed to "The Editor of *The Philatelist*, Royal Colonnade, Brighton," and received not later than the 18th of the month.
3. The full name and address of the writer must be sent with each advertisement.
4. IF AN ADVERTISEMENT EXCEEDS 20 WORDS A CHARGE OF 6D FOR EVERY ADDITIONAL 10 WORDS WILL BE MADE.
5. *The Stamp Exchange* is intended for the use of amateur collectors only; notices from dealers cannot therefore be inserted.

WHAT offers for a post-card album, new, 240 pages; cash or exchange.—A. H. TYLER, Bury St. Edmund's.

M. STRONG, Alexandria, Egypt, requires vol. i. and Nos. 96 and 97 of vol. ix. of *The Stamp-Collector's Magazine.*

E. H. GARDNER, Hempsted, Gloucester, has a quantity of used English and rare foreign stamps to exchange for others.

W. FOWKES, Swaithe, Barnsley, wants vols i., iii., iv., v., vi., vii., xi., and xii. of *The Stamp-Collector's Magazine*, bound or unbound.

ATHOL C. H. JOHNSTONE, St. Moritz House, Brighton, wishes to exchange vol. v. of *The American Journal of Philately.* In good condition.

C. W. IRWIN, American Express Office, Toronto, Canada, has rare Canadian law and bill stamps, which he would like to exchange with other collectors.

A. C. THOMPSON, Cambridge House, Sandgate, wishes to exchange for used stamps bank-notes of different countries, also a large selection of unused stamps. Requests offers.

THE EDITOR'S LETTER-BOX.

*** Correspondents sending specimens for inspection and return, are requested to enclose a stamped directed envelope.

B. H., Guernsey.—Your Cashmere and Indians are genuine. The Egyptians are of the 1866 set.

S. de W., Rue de Provence.—We have been much occupied lately; but will write to you shortly.

E. B. E., Devonport, and E. H. J., Lima.—Your communications are acknowledged elsewhere.

S. K., Russia.—Your communication and contents are received with thanks: a reply will shortly be forwarded.

C. W. K., Ipswich.—We had already received the two new Portuguese values when your card arrived. Thanks, nevertheless.

M. le Dr. L. à Neuilly.—Le Philateliste était beaucoup en retard le mois passé. Il n'y aura pas tant de delai à l'avenir. Touchant vos demandes, *on* vous repondra.

A. T., Sandgate.—Your stamps are all genuine except the Mexicans, which are villanous imitations. The Norwegian is a chemical changeling.

H. D. D., South Belgravia.—The change of colour in the 2 cents adhesive and envelope of the United States was noted in last December's number. We do not remember replying to you last month.

A. C. H. J., Brighton.—The new ten cents Royal Mail which you politely forward looks like a reality, and appears too carefully designed and executed to be a sham. The other stamp is a 1 piastre Egyptian of the first set.

J. B., Manchester.—The Berne local is noticed above. The value in the St. Christopher was printed separately after the other part. The other stamps are genuine. The Reunions are so exceedingly rare that yours is not likely to be good.

E. A. T., Croydon.—The reply to your query was crowded out last month. You will find your Haiti stamp commented on at page 65 of *The Philatelist* for 1869, and page 40 of the same for 1870. Since that period nothing further has been ascertained respecting it, and both light and dark varieties seem scouted by collectors.

C. A. W., Great Malvern.—Your Bermuda is a forgery; likewise the Nova Scotia sixpenny. The forger has forgotten to reverse one of the roses which ought to be placed stem to stem; otherwise it would deceive any but experts. All the other stamps are genuine. The New South Wales is a very fine specimen. "All that's bright must fade," especially the scarlet Newfoundlands.

G. R. A., Beverley.—The signature of your frank is illegible. If you can get an almanack of so backward a date, you may easily detect the name of the member. Except by the postmark, there is no means of distinguishing the stamps which served for both Sardinia and Italy. Your dark 40 c. is dated 1863, and is of course an Italian proper. The pale 40 c. is apparently 1856, and consequently a Sardinian. The 15 c. value was never employed in Sardinia. Your Antioquia and Colombia are genuine. The Venezuela is an unmistakable forgery.

J. W. W., London.—Your Spanish 12 c. is a proof, essay, or fancy stamp of the 1865 issue; the French is a specimen of Susse's private perforation; the South Australian yellow, with black surcharge, is a regular emission; those with the blue surcharge are of a deeper hue; SAGGIO on the Italian stamps is equivalent to SPECIMEN. The blue 3 cents envelope impression of the United States is chemically changed from the normal green. Thanks for a sight of the Sierra Leone. The Sydney view will not pass. The rest appear genuine.

A. C. H. J., Brighton.—You ask why the German stamp is impressed the wrong way. Why is anything done wrong? From carelessness or stupidity. Non-subscribers may not compete for prizes. The Hanoverians are spelt with double N for the same reason that the stamps of Würtemburg show double T: that being the spelling of the country. The first Norwegian came out in 1854. Your post-office U. S. is perfectly good. Specimen stamps are admitted by some collectors; rejected by others. All your other stamps are equally genuine. The lilac Spanish is proved by the punched-out hole to have been used as a telegraph stamp.

W. M. S., Portugal.—The stamp marked ZALOT is Polish, not Russian. It has been long extinct. The yellow Swiss is a Berne fiscal. Having been at times employed for postage, many collectors admit it into their albums. The black is also a fiscal, for Geneva. Proofs and essays were more generally collected some ten years since than at present. At that time such stamps as your Hanoverian fancy reprints were eagerly sought for. They are now disregarded by the majority of collectors. The two perforated Bremens are fiscals; so is the 3 grote: the other is a forgery. The Mexican is a genuine lithographed Maximilian. The U. S. is a chemical changeling. The three others are forgeries. Thanks for your envoy. Used or unused cards are equally accepted by collectors.

RECENT AND UNDESCRIBED EMISSIONS

NEW SOUTH WALES.

A REPRESENTATION of the new shilling stamp for this colony, described in our February number, is here given. The perforations being added for effect, are not to be taken for accurate; neither can the watermark be given, as it may be remembered the description was taken from a proof. An American contemporary quotes *our* authority for the report of a new set of stamps for New South Wales "to take place of the large squares now in use, and probably of the same values, viz., 5 and 8 pence, 1 and 5 shillings." Where could he have seen this myth.



ST. VINCENT.

The higher values of this island, with altered colours, lately chronicled, are before us, received together with specimens of the lower denominations. We find the whole are on thicker paper than before; the yellow fourpenny still remains unwatermarked.

CAPE OF GOOD HOPE.

A new value for this colony lies before us. The type is like that of the current penny. Black on thin white paper, watermarked crown and c.c. The colour is really iron-grey, being printed in pale black ink.

UNITED STATES.

A correspondent forwards a specimen of the new 2 cents vermilion envelope, the stamp of which is impressed on a fawn coloured laid paper, with the information that it was in use for one week only in Chicago.

SHANGHAI.

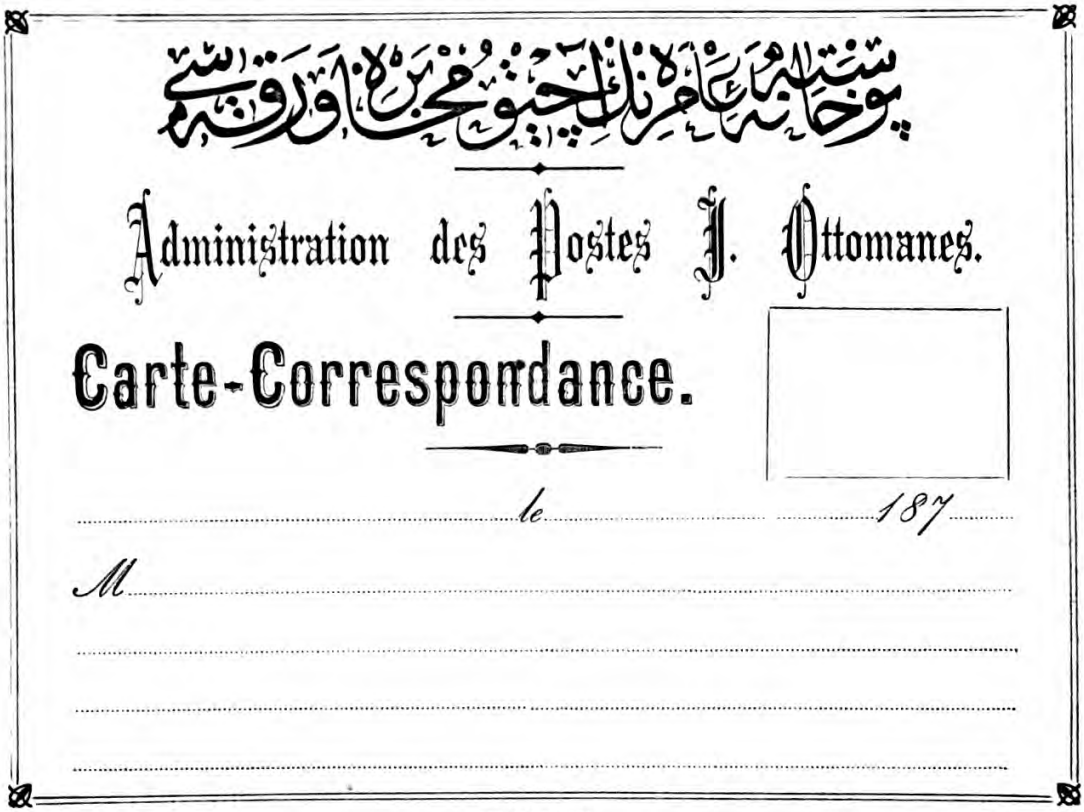
We have been favoured by a collector with the sight of a new set for this distant colony, including a value hitherto unemployed there. The type is precisely similar to that of the latest issue, of which a pair were chronicled at page 110 of last year's volume, printed on tinted paper. The same two values and colours will be found in the recent series; but the whole are on thick white paper. Orange-yellow, 1 candareen; carmine-pink, 3 c.; green, 6 c.; blue, 9 c. (the new value); brown, 12 c.

CANADA.

The new olive international 5 cents is now issued in the same reduced size that distinguishes most of the current set.

SARAWAK.

Our last batch from this place contained the 12 cents red on laid paper. The other values remain as before.



TURKEY.

The above is an approximate representation of an unstamped card in present use in Constantinople. As will be seen, it bears a Turkish inscription above; beneath this runs ADMINISTRATION DES POSTES J. OTTOMANES; under this CARTE-CORRESPONDANCE, and a compartment to hold the 20 paras green adhesive. Below again are five dotted lines; on the top one...LE...187, on the next, M.

BOLIVIA.

At page 150 of last year's volume will be found a description of the then expected new set for this republic. It was taken from proofs seen by Mr. Casey. *Le Timbre-Poste* for last month figures one of the actual emissions. The curvilinear band and lower half of the design tallies with Mr. C's notice; but the upper portion is totally different. A small oval shield bearing mountain, llama, &c., fronts a background of arms, and is topped by a spread eagle. The values and colours were correctly given.

BAVARIA.

The same magazine gives a curious instance of post-official ignorance. The chief post-office of Munich ignored the existence of a 3 pfennige

doubled card for reply, although several correspondents had stated their possession of the same, and M. Treichel had actually forwarded a specimen! The incorrect description and figure of the announced Bavarians were copied into this magazine, and presumably the Bath circular also, from Dr. Moschau's Leipzig journal. Apologies for inadvertence.

DUTCH INDIES.

The said M. Treichel has communicated a stamp which is figured in *Le Timbre-Poste;* and further information thereon requested. It is a broad rectangle; imperforate; a large capital G enclosing the numeral 1 lies upon a dark octagon defined by curves upon a rectangular ground horizontally lined. The frame is inscribed NEDERL. INDIE MATSCH P. S.; white stars at the angles. The inscription signifies "Dutch India *rebut* mail-boat." One gulden, intense blue.

RUSSIAN LOCALS.

Tver.—Below we give a representation of the new stamp for this district, fully described in our last number.



Elizavetgrad.—M. Moens has ascertained that, in the complete sheets of the 10 and 20 kopeck stamps of this district, the same errors exist which formed the consequently rare varieties of the block Capes, viz., the penny blue and fourpenny carmine. In the same manner a 20 kop. is found in the 10 kop. sheet of the Elizavetgrad stamps, and *vice-versâ*. The later values are now, 2 kop., more or less intense black on white; 10 kop., bright or pale red on mauve tint, and the same (by error) on white (also by error), blue on white; 20 kop., pale or deep blue on white, and the same value (by error) red amongst the 10 kop. stamps. All the latter show another character in place of the R in ELIZAVETGRAD.

Shadrinsk.—The hideous stamp of this place has again changed colour, probably, from the mere whim or inadvertence of the printer, being now slate-blue.

Tchern.—The impression is no longer on quadrilled, but on plain white paper,

Werchnie-Dnieprovsk.—The 4 kop. which came out blue in 1875 is now a rich mauve.

FINLAND.

With regard to the varying type of the 20 kop. described last month, M. Moens has ascertained it to be no other than the re-impression which had not been previously remarked to show such differences. He adds that so long since as 1864, M. Herpin announced in M. Maury's magazine that there existed two dies of the 20 kop. There are, consequently, three types, viz., two of the original besides the reprint.

M. Raffalovich has received the pair of new Finland envelopes. The type is precisely similar to that of the current adhesive set. Ultramarine, 20 kop.; carmine, 32 kop. Usual letter size.

CHILI.

M. Treichel has ferreted out a mauve 5 centavos Chilian envelope on plain white paper, large sized.

GREAT BRITAIN.

The fourpenny has followed suit with the shilling and other values; the plate-letters at the angles being now in colour on white blocks, instead of the contrary. It is no improvement to the appearance of the stamp, which is of a much paler red than before. The small numerals are 15. A collector lately showed us specimens of our dated newsbands which were made for the official use of the Vaccination Society. There may possibly be more; but the following were all he met with: 11.12.71, 22.1.72, 6.3.72, 7.3.72, 11.3.72, 12.3.72, 13.3.72, 16.3.72. It must be remembered that the normal date is 1.10.70.

The appended extract from *The Daily News* proves what we have frequently remarked, that a vast preponderance of the letter-writing public have no idea of the existence of the many high values of our English envelopes; the trouble and comparative difficulty of obtaining them rendering them virtually unattainable.

The telegraph cards are, however, now abandoned; but if Lord JOHN MANNERS is anxious to endow the public with a useful innovation with which his own name can be associated, we would suggest this country should not lag behind other countries in its postal facilities. In no other country is the issue of stamped envelopes limited to those of a single value, and at least an envelope representing the single inland and another the single external rate of postage can be had, at little or no increase of cost, in every other country from Norway to Italy. We have now an international postage rate both for letters and newspapers; it would seem to the least inventive mind an obvious advantage to have envelopes and newspaper wrappers suited to this most useful innovation.

PHILIPPINE ISLANDS.

We have received a communication from M. de Ysasi calling attention to our description of the new set for the Philippines at page 112 of last year's volume. The values are there given as 25 c. de p., &c., and readers would naturally suppose pesetas to be meant, possibly ignoring the word PESO on the cut. This would be a grave misunderstanding, because the values are really in centimos de peso, five of the former being equivalent to one of the latter! The old denomination, 1 real plata fuerte equals the modern 12½ centimos de peso; the 25 c. de p., being consequently its double, viz., 2 reales p. f. M. de Ysasi has been given to understand that a stamp of 4 cuartos value will be emitted, but most probably facially marked in cent. de peso. He notes also the clerical error in the Bath *Monthly Circular*, which the publishers have rectified in the April number, viz., the mis-heading of the Cuba set as Philippines. He adds that the only stamp yet in use in those islands in the January of the present year was the 12 c. de peso (not 12½ c. as chronicled). The illustration in last year's volume was from a proof on dark green paper. With respect to the surcharged 2 m. de escudo, about which information was requested in our January number, M. de Ysasi is decidedly of opinion that the Y¼ was printed from fancy or mischief. He believes having met with a Spanish post card similarly surcharged, the idea of which is ridiculous.

URUGUAY.

M. Moens announces the reception of the correspondence cards of this republic in new tints. The single card is pale buff, and foxy buff; the double is pale, yellowish, or foxy buff, and deep gray. He has also received another printed lilac on white, with arms in the centre of the

upper portion; frame neatly composed of open dots within small curves. Beneath the arms, CARTA TARJETA; lower down, SENOR D; below this a Spanish notice in two lines.

INDIA.

We are informed that a pair of values, as yet unemployed in the Indian empire, are shortly to be issued from Messrs. De La Rue's *atelièr*. They are to be of larger size than the current set; they will have Her Majesty's profile (perhaps with an Imperial crown), and will be inscribed EAST INDIA POSTAGE, and the value in colour on a white band. Pale brown, 6 annas; chocolate-brown, 12 a.

M. Roussin notes the 8 annas of the current emission on plain paper; also the ½ a. blue, surcharged with G. P. S. in black italic capitals.

GRENADA.

We saw recently, in a collection, three stamps of the new shilling type of this island, printed in yellow, with the surcharge of a crown and the value in green. They may probably be fiscals. They were of the respective values,—one penny, three half-pence, and two pence.

HOLLAND.

A printer's error of last month necessitates correction. In place of *post cards*, must be understood *envelopes*.

COLOMBIAN STATES.

M. Roussin has seen a 10 centavos of the second emission of New Granada (date 1860) printed green instead of yellow!

A REFERENCE LIST OF THE STAMPS OF THE FRENCH COLONIES.

BY ANCORA.

THE colonial stamps of France, as their name implies, are not confined to any particular locality, but are current throughout all the French dependencies, with the exception of Algiers.

In many albums a place is assigned to them under the heading "Martinique;" a piece of absurdity which is on a par with that of speaking of the Dutch East Indian emissions as those of Java; seeing that they are used in French Guiana, Bourbon, Cochin China, the East Indian Settlements of Pondicherry, Chernandergore, &c., as well as in the smaller West Indian Islands of Marie Galante, Les Saintes, Desiderada, and St. Martin.

I.—The first, or Eagle series, which was printed at Paris, at the Hôtel des Monnaies, was issued in 1860 when the 1, 5, 10, and 40 centimes made their appearance, followed in 1865 by the 20 and 80 c. The execution of these stamps is generally very clear, but some copies show the lines behind the eagle very faintly.

Forgeries.—Very coarse horizontal lines, easily recognised, as the bottom of the eagle does not touch the circle at the sides.

Obliterations are the same as on the subsequent issues. The most common cancellation is that known as the gridiron, with the initial

letter or abbreviation of the colony; a small proportion of the stamps are obliterated with a date stamp.

1860-65.—*Crown over Eagle in beaded circle.* COLONIES DE L'EMPIRE FRANCAIS. *Value below. Col. imp., square. Imperf.*

(a)—Thin paper.

1	centime.	Bronze-green
10	,,	Cinnamon.

(b)—Thick paper.

1	centime.	Olive-green.
		Bronze-green.
5	,,	Pale yellow-green.
10	,,	Pale brown.
20	,,	Dull blue.
40	,,	Pale orange, v. to dark.
80	,,	Pale rose.

(c)—Ordinary paper.

1	centime.	Deep bronze-green, v. to light.
		Olive-green, v.
		Olive.
5	,,	Emerald green, v. in intensity.
		Pea green.
		Bluish ,,
		Chrome green.
		Pale yellow-green.
		Green, v. to very dark.
10	,,	Cinnamon-brown, v.
		Dark nut.
		Chestnut.
		Yellow-ochre.
20	,,	Indigo.
		Pale cold blue, v. to rather warmer tints.
		Dull blue.
		Dirty blue.
		Bright new blue.
40	,,	Orange-vermilion, v. to deep rich shades.
		Vermilion.
		Yellowish orange, v. to very pale.
80	,,	Carmine.
		Pale rose, v. to very dark.
		Pinkish rose.

NOTE.—A 1 c., m. perf. 12 has been mentioned, but I have never met with a copy. * It is generally regarded as a private dentelation. The same may be said of the 40 and 80 c. which exist *percés en arc.*

II.—End of 1871. Same as French laureated series, but *unperforated.*

1	centime.	Bronze-green, v. light to dark.
5	,,	Green, unlaureated.
	,,	Dull green ,,

* It was a Boston pleasantry.—ED.

30 centimes. Chocolate-brown.
Dark cinnamon, v.
80 ,, Rose, v. to deep tints.
Dull rose.

Republic (engraved).

10 centimes. Cinnamon-brown, v.
Nut-brown, v.
20 ,, Dull blue, v.
Pale ,, v. to dark.
40 ,, Orange, v. pale to dark.
Orange-red.
Yellow.
Vermilion.

III.—October, 1872. Republican stamps, unperf.
5 centimes. Bluish green.
Deep ,, v. to very pale.
Emerald, v.
Pale ,, (white pp.)
,, horizontal lines imperfect.
15 ,, Pale cinnamon.
Yellow-ochre, v.
Cold brown.
Brown, v. to dark rich shades.
Nut-brown.
25 ,, Dirty blue.
Light blue, v. to dark.
Bright ditto.

IV.—1873. As III.
1 centime. Bronze-green, v.
Light ditto horizontal lines imperfect.
30 centimes. Chocolate-brown, v.
80 ,, Dull rose, v. to warm tints.

NOTE.—Some of the Republican stamps are very badly printed.

THE FRENCH TIMBROLOGICAL SOCIETY.

THE second bulletin of this Society has appeared, evidencing the great interest in and careful attention paid to the furtherance of philately by the talented members.

Full accounts are given of the proceedings of the monthly meetings of June, October, November, and December. Then follow communications; among others, the reply by the Secretary to the enquiry of our own Secretary requesting an explanation of what is understood in France by type or variety. This must be carefully read to be appreciated.

But the grand feature of the work is the valuable report of the Secretary on the Cashmere emissions, to which no fewer than fifteen pages are devoted. So far as we understand the subject, it is as exhaustive as possible under the natural difficulties arising from the great difficulty of obtaining reliable official information anywhere, especially

in the distant regions whence the Cashmerians emanate. The learned author has for some time studied the languages (for there is more than one forming the inscriptions on the stamps) of the legends. This labour has enabled him to decipher dates, values, &c., with such accuracy as could not possibly be otherwise attained.

After this follows the Report of the President, satisfactory both in a fiscal and every other point of view. Circumstances not allowing the meetings to be held in the late place of assembly, another hospitably gratuitous invitation has been made to and accepted by the Society.

Twenty-one questions on philatelic subjects are addressed, and replies earnestly courted. Could they all be satisfactorily met, philately would be one of the most perfect of sciences.

A copiously-illustrated catalogue of the Belgian issues, both of the general post and telegraphic offices, takes up four pages of this excellently-got-up work, which is completed by a list of the original and associate members.

THE SPUD PAPERS; OR, NOTES ON PHILATELIC WEEDS.

BY THE REV. R. BRISCO EAREE.

LV.

Spain.

(CARLIST INSURRECTION).

1874: ½ REAL, ROSE.

IF Don Carlos really resembles the portraits on the two types of the ½ *real* stamps, I don't at all wonder that well-disposed Spaniards should resist his claims to their allegiance; for these portraits are simply hideous; and, as represented on these stamps, he would, for ugliness, be a fitting consort for Queen Isabella, as represented on the Philippines of 1854.

I don't know which type is the earlier, but the one which I will call Type I. has the rays round the medallion very faint; the lines of shading behind the head very close together; the scrolls touch the framework both at top and bottom, and the portrait is that of a fat, bull-necked man. In Type II. the scrolls are narrower, and do not touch the framework; the rays are well defined; the lines of shading behind the head are faint and wide apart; the beard is longer, and the face is thinner. The one which the forgers have imitated is this latter stamp, which I have called Type II., and which I will now proceed to describe.

Genuine.—Lithographed, on thinnish white wove paper, which shows very distinctly the texture of the canvas or wire-gauze on which it was formed. This paper is similar to that of the Brazilian stamps (Roman numerals), or to that of our own newspaper wrappers. In the portrait, the blank space on the under jaw, above where the beard grows, is of a pointed form, the point being above the figure of value. Behind the head there are 28 horizontal lines of shading, if counted down the right-hand side, and 30 if counted down the left-hand side of the head. There are 77 oblique rays round the medallion, and there are two of

these rays between the point of each fleur-de-lis and the end of the scroll above it. If the little oblique line which divides the figures of the fraction ½ were continued upwards, it would pass considerably to the right of the face. I think these tests will be sufficient, though there are many other minute points of difference.

Forged.—Lithographed, on rather stout ordinary white wove paper. The blank space on the under jaw, above where the beard grows, is semicircular. Behind the head there are 32 lines of shading, counted from the right, and 33 counted from the left. There are 88 oblique rays round the medallion. These rays, both in genuine and forged, must be counted from the outside (*i.e.*, where they touch the framework), for some of the rays only go from the outline of the oval to the outline of the scrolls. There is only one clear ray between the point of the fleur-de-lis on each side, and the end of the scroll above it. A continuation of the oblique line in the fraction would cut through the beard, and touch the point of the nose. The colour of the genuine stamps is a pale rose, whilst that of the forgeries is a deep red, almost carmine. The genuine stamps are gummed; the forgeries are not.



1874: I REAL, LILAC.

Genuine.—Very well lithographed, on white wove paper, gummed. The nose is rather blunt, the *tilde* over the N of ESPANA is very distinct; the top of the F of FRANQUEO is below the level of the other letters; the shading behind the scrolls is composed of vertical wavy lines, fine, but distinct. The whole of the ear is lightly shaded, and there is a line or wrinkle from the corner of the nose to the corner of the mouth. The unshaded part of the neck runs up almost to the tip of the ear. This is a handsome stamp, and well printed; indeed, at first I thought it was engraved. Unfortunately, the forgers have succeeded in producing a very creditable imitation, and our readers must content themselves with these few tests which I have been able to discover. All the more important details of the original have been very closely copied, line for line.

Forged.—Lithographed, on yellowish-white paper, ungummed. The nose ends in a very sharp point; and the profile reminds me very much of that of the King of the Belgians on the current stamps. The *tilde* over the N of ESPANA looks more like a thickening of the outline of the scroll than anything else, and it does not stand out separate from the outline of the scroll as the genuine does. The top of the F of FRANQUEO is above the level of the other letters. The shading behind the scroll is partly solid, though some of the lines can be seen in the right top corner. However, these lines are straight. The rim of the ear is quite white, and there is no wrinkle or line on the face. There is a white dot on the under lip, and another on the side of the chin, below the corner of the moustache. These are not seen in the originals. The white, unshaded part of the neck does not come near the ear; it only comes about as high as the level of the mouth.



Postmarks.—I have not seen either of these stamps postmarked, but the forgeries are obliterated with a large rectangle of square dots.

Gum.—The gum on the originals is perfectly white; the forgeries are ungummed. Both originals and forgeries are unperforated. If the reader will kindly compare this forged 1 *real* with a genuine copy, he will see why I have found it so difficult to give good instant tests.

OUR FOREIGN CONTEMPORARIES.

THE Belgian magazine has nearly four pages of recent issues; followed by a communication from a Russian collector, announcing his possession of certain unchronicled essays of his country. They consist of envelopes, of which one bears a Mercury's head to left on an engine-turned groundwork, impressed on the right of the envelope. The value is 10 kopecks; black, blue, or pink on plain yellowish tinted paper. A second is similar in colour, &c., but the Mercury is replaced by a double-headed eagle. A third resembles the type adopted in 1868, but is of larger size; value 30 kop., brown, deep blue, or carmine-pink. There are also some very similar to the current type, the values being 10 kop., pale brown; 20 kop., dull blue; and 30 kop., pale pink, —all on plain white paper. The valuable paper of Dr. Magnus on the Japanese stamps is continued; followed by a notice on the Livonian emissions, confirming the fact of the temporary use of the early round blue adhesive, and instancing the circumstance of the employment of the old oblong packenmarke impression cut into triangulars to do duty for its half value, 2 kopecks. A resumé of the dates of issue follows, which we transcribe for the benefit of our readers:

1862. Oblong impression, pink.
,, ? Round ,, blue.
1863. Oval, centre green, red and green.
1864. Griffin centre, red and green.
1865. Type of 1863, vermilion and carmine.
1871. Festooned oval, carmine and green.
1872. Armed hand, red and green.
1875. The same, with value indicated, 2 kop.

Packet Stamps.

1863. Oblong impression, green.
1871. ,, yellow-green.

L'Ami des Timbres notes a few varieties, &c., which will be found mentioned in their proper place. Closing a long list of postals and fiscals, is a letter from the gentleman who adopts the pseudonym of Diogenes, adducing his possession of proofs to substantiate his translation of an inscription upon a Russian fiscal, which had been misread by others. His interpretation read—Stamp for permission to sell tobacco by retail—against this very unlikely legend, Stamp for permission to smoke tobacco for sale!

The Leipzig *Illustrirtes Briefmarken Journal* figures the stamp and part of the frame of an Italian official post card which is stated to have been employed for some months. The device of the stamp is that of the oblong official current adhesives; the frame a neat sort of chain

pattern. There are two values: 10 centesimi, red; 15 c., green. A representation of the watermark on the new envelopes of Wurtemburg is also given. It is an elegant arabesque pattern, between three pairs of horizontal lines above and below. They are described at page 19 of this volume.

The American Journal of Philately continues the long but useful article on the Plympton envelopes. We imagine the writer's No. 612, 2 cents, on Manila coloured paper, to be the envelope described elsewhere from the specimen forwarded by a correspondent. Descriptions of revenue stamps follow; then Mr. Overy Taylor on the Heligoland stamps, headed by some rhymes of our own on the colour of that island, which we presume the editor attributes to that gentleman, although they never appeared in *The Stamp-Collector's Magazine.*

Then comes the continuation of M. de Bosredon's paper, of which more anon. New stamps, correspondence, and clippings succeed; but the cream of the number comes in Answers to Correspondents (real or fictitious?) The first reply evidences the editor's soreness at our remarks on his unfair account of the trial of the Italian forger; and he writes of "the convenient forgetfulness in regard to the closing scene." Does the editor imply that Patroni *was* actually sentenced? He garbled his statement in such a way, that all the Continental magazines concluded such to be the case; and yet, another American journal says that "gentlemanly swindler" has left New York, and gone to South America! We should very much like to see a newspaper account of the transaction. The next reply speaks of the "left-handed" complaint of M. de Bosredon on the cribbing of his article; and actually has the impudence to avow that the editor is inclined to "think that that gentleman simply wished to call the attention of his friends to the fact that he considered his article worth reprinting."

The March number of the Philadelphia *Philatelic Monthly* touches also upon our account of the Patroni business. From these editors' remarks it would seem we had some sympathy with that gentleman! By no means—we are only sorry he was not convicted; and can but regret the mismanagement which resulted in his acquittal. It is rather hard to be called over the coals by that forger's friends and enemies too—we have received a long epistle from one of the former, highly indignant at the raid made by ourselves and others against the fac-simile fraternity.

The first number of the second volume of *The Coin and Stamp Journal*, published in Kansas city, gives rather more than half its space to the former department. The latter affords a transfer of Mr. Earée's correct paper on the Zurich forgeries, and M. Moens' incorrect notice of a supposed new set of stamps for Germany. It confirms the report of a Centennial envelope which is reported to become a real work of art, and a memorial of the Centennial.

A SACRED RELIC.—A Louisville paper tells of an impecunious tramp thereaway who offered a cancelled postage stamp for sale at a high price, as a sacred relic, declaring that it was from one of St. Paul's letters to the Corinthians.—*Durbin's Philatelic Monthly.*

CANADA AND THE INTERNATIONAL POSTAL UNION.—Application has been made by Canada for admission to the International Postal Union arrangements, including the exchange of post cards, printed matter, &c.

TELEGRAPH STAMPS.

BAVARIA.

M. MOENS gives the complete set of current telegraph stamps for this kingdom as follows:—pale ultramarine, 10 pfennige; lilac, 20 pf.; carmine, 25 pf.; bright ultramarine, 40 pf.; yellow-green, 80 pf.; yellow, 1 mark; pale brown, 2 m.; orange, 4 m.; silver, 10 m.; gold, 20 m. They are watermarked with pairs of undulating lines forming small ovals.

UNITED STATES.

From M. Roussin comes a stamp printed in green on plain white paper, perforated. In the centre is a broad oval, left blank for a numeral to be officially surcharged in blue. Above, in a curve, is CAL. STATE (? California) below TELEGRAPH. White ornamentation scattered about on the coloured ground; written words at the bottom.

THE PHILATELIC SOCIETY, LONDON.

THE tenth meeting of the season was held on the 11th of March, at Dr. Viner's, 34, Denbigh Street, Pimlico. The President in the chair.

The stamps of Newfoundland and British Honduras were studied, and the list compiled.

The Secretary read a letter from Dr. Magnus, respecting the so-called "Tours emission" and the 15 centimes lithographed colonies, mentioned in the March number of *The Philatelist*, and also respecting two varieties of the 5 franc French. The contents of the letter were left for consideration until the next meeting.

On the occasion of the approaching departure of the President for Australia, the Secretary, in the name of the Society, expressed the regret of all the members at losing, though only for a time, one who has taken so constant an interest in the welfare of the Society since its foundation in 1869; thanked him for his unremitting kindness to all; and wished him a safe journey out and home. The President having thanked the members for their good wishes, the meeting broke up at 5 p m.

The eleventh meeting of the Society was held on the 25th of March, at the residence of Mr. Raffalovich, 32, Inverness Road, Bayswater, W. Dr. Viner in the chair.

The stamps of Antigua, Bahamas, and Bermuda formed the subject of study.

The Chairman having requested the Secretary to read Dr. Magnus' letter again, the members unanimously regretted and condemned the tone of the letter generally, as being particularly offensive to one of their number, and emphatically denied the charges therein set forth, which were as follow:—

The learned writer accuses Mr. Raffalovich:—(1) Of having mystified the Philatelic Society of London. (2) Of having derived his information with regard to the "Tours emission" from a worthless publication. (3) Of having taken advantage of the ignorance (*sic*) of the members, to attribute to himself the honour of the discovery.

The Secretary was desired to answer the letter in suitable terms.

Respecting the so-called "Tours emission," it was decided to postpone the discussion on this subject for the present.

Dr. Magnus having denied the existence of the 15 centimes lithographed colonies, specimens have been submitted to Messrs. Maclure, senior and junior, of the well-known firm of Maclure & Macdonald, lithographers to Her Majesty, who declare the same to be lithographed, the learned doctor's statement to the contrary notwithstanding. The Secretary exhibited again two specimens of the 5 franc French, in which the figures 5 materially differ in size, shape, and position. One of them is 4 m.m. high, and looks a provisional rough figure, rounder in the lower limb, and with the head pointing upwards; in the other the figure is 4¼ m.m. high, well shaped, and the head horizontal; this proves that each figure is from a different die. Dr. Magnus attributes these differences (the position excepted) to a defect of printing only.

Mr. Raffalovich exhibited the new Finnish envelopes, issued on the 16th of March, the new Helsingfors post card, and a 5 centimes French, current issue, lithographed. Mr. Parry showed English newspaper-wrappers, type of October 1, 1870, bearing eight different dates. The above are fully described elsewhere.

The next meeting was fixed for April 1st, at Dr. Viner's, 34, Denbigh Street, Pimlico; the stamps of Barbados to form the subject of study.

POSTAL SCRAPS.

CHEAP POSTAGE FOR FRANCE.—It is proposed to reduce the postage in France to a penny for letters and a halfpenny for cards.

REDUCTION OF POSTAGE TO INDIA.—Lord John Manners lately informed the House of Commons that India having been admitted into the postal union, would have the benefit of the decreased postal rate on the 1st of July. Letters *viâ* Southampton would be reduced from 9d. to 6d.; *viâ* Brindisi from 1s. to 8d.; newspapers *viâ* Brindisi from 3d. to 2d.; and book-packages from 4d. to 3d.

NOT USED TO KINDNESS.—"Is this the post-office?" inquired a stranger the other day, as he approached the stamp-clerk's window.

"It is," was the reply.

"And you have stamps here?"

"Yes, sir."

"Will you be so kind as to please sell me one?"

"I will."

"I'm very sorry to have to bother you," continued the stranger while the clerk was tearing off the stamp, "but I want to send a letter out, and I hope you will excuse me."

"That's all right," replied the clerk.

"Yes I believe it is all right," replied the stranger. "I'm a thousand times obliged for your courtesy, and now I want to beg one more favour. Can I mail this letter here?"

"Why, of course."

"Can I? Here give me your hand, young man! Iv'e lived around and about for over forty years, and I've seen hard times. I ain't used to this sort of kindness, and it goes right to my heart!"

It couldn't be said that he was drunk. —*Detroit Free Press.*

CURIOSITIES OF THE POST-OFFICE.—One of the most interesting features of the New York Post-office is to be found in the Searchers' and Dead-Letter Department, where there is a curious museum. In looking through this strange collection of unconsidered trifles, *The New York Herald* representative found the following:—

Item—One silverplated door lock, with keys, highly finished, with postage prepaid religiously, and —— no address.

Item—One package of ostrich feathers, marked "Hayes & Gibbons, 592, North Front Street, New York." It is needless to say there is no such address.

Item—One dress pattern (cut), marked in the following legible manner:—"Miss Leonora, No. 112, M., New, New York." The carriers are still looking for this young lady—among the *opera bouffe* performers.

Item—A homœopathic medicine chest (filled), inside address, "P. W. Dana." The editor of a certain daily newspaper has been applied to in vain. Sulphur predominates in the miniature chest.

Item—Iron stove cover.

Item—Skein of woollen yarn, enclosing a cheap set of jewelry.

Item—Bag of seed.

Item—Tin box, enclosing a ravaging Western grasshopper.

Item—Leather gaiter shoe tops. No respectable shoemaker will acknowledge to have manufactured the same.

POSTAL REFORM.—In order to facilitate the transaction of business, and at the same time to suit the convenience of the public, the following regulations, among others, will come into force at an early date:

Answers to Inquiries.

Answers to inquiries will in future be given at all offices, at a charge of 7d. per dozen. (N.B.—*Civil* answers may be had, if required, at 8d. a dozen).

Registered Letters.

In registering letters it will be necessary to state the value of the contents, and double the value will be charged as a registration fee. Should a registered letter fail to reach its destination, application must at once be made to the Postmaster-General. In this application an accurate description must be given of the official to whom the letter was entrusted, stating his or her height, colour of hair and eyes, age and weight (in the case of lady clerks the two last requirements need not be complied with). Upon the receipt of this communication, the Postmaster-General will at once consign it to the waste-paper basket, applicant will receive a polite note of acknowledgment, and the matter will then drop.

Change.

The public are requested to provide themselves with the exact sums payable on letters, parcels, &c., as, in order to save time, facilitate business, and evince becoming courtesy of manners, no change will in future be given at her Majesty's post-offices.—*Funny Folks.*

CORRESPONDENCE.

THE LATER ISSUES OF QUEENSLAND

To the Editor of "THE PHILATELIST."

Dear Sir,—I shall be much obliged if you will allow me, through the medium of your magazine, to make a few observations on the subject of the last two issues of Queensland.

In Mr. Pemberton's *Handbook*, dated March, 1874, I find as follows:—

1866.—*Wmk. truncated star and portions of legend*, QUEENSLAND POSTAGE STAMPS, *perf.* 1d., orange-red; 2d., blue; 3d., (1872), pale brown.
1869.—*Wmk. crown over* Q; *perf.* 1d., orange; 2d., blue; 6d., yellow-green; 1s., claret (1873).

In the sixth edition of Dr. Gray's *Illustrated Catalogue*, the last part of which appeared about the end of 1874, I find:—

III.—Wmkd. with the words QUEENSLAND POSTAGE STAMPS four times repeated on entire sheet; perf.
1866.—1d., orange; 2d., blue.
IV.—Entire sheet wmkd. in two lines with the word QUEENSLAND (in single-lined roman capitals), alternated by rows of stars smaller than those of subtype 1; perf.
1868.—1d., orange; 2d., blue.
1872.—3d., greenish brown; yellowish-brown.
V.—Wmk. Q. and crown; perf., 1869. 1d., orange; 2d., blue; 6d., green, light green.

By this it appears that Mr. Pemberton entirely ignores the issue of 1866 as distinct from that of 1868; and from some paragraphs in last year's volume of *The Philatelist* it seems to me that your own ideas, if you will excuse my saying so, are not altogether clear on the subject.

I have in my collection, and can therefore vouch for, the following:—

Dr. Gray's III.—1d. and 2d.

These show portions of letters decidedly larger than those found on the next issue, and moreover show no signs of stars, whereas I have never yet seen a specimen of Dr. Gray's IV. that does not show the small or truncated star with or without portions of letters; I cannot say whether any other values of this issue exist, I find a 4d. grey noticed in the fifth edition of Dr. Gray, but, as it is omitted in the sixth edition, I presume it was found not to exist; this issue appears to be somewhat scarcer than the others, perhaps owing to its not having been sufficiently recognised as distinct from the next one, I only remember having seen one specimen besides the two in my own collection.

Of the next issue, Dr. Gray's IV., I have, 1d., 2d., 3d., 6d., 1s. All my specimens, except the 3d., show portions of letters as well as stars; I have never seen a whole sheet or any considerable portion of one, and therefore cannot say in what manner the rows of stars and words are distributed on the sheets, or what the words may be, but a large majority of the stamps I have examined, and therefore, I infer, of the stamps on the sheet, show only the star; I find however on several of my specimens the letters and stars mixed up in a curious manner, a star sometimes appearing in the middle of a letter and their respective outlines crossing one another, as if the stars were evenly distributed over the sheet and

the wires forming the letters inserted afterwards, irrespective of the stars.

Of the Q and crown issue I have the 1d., 2d., and 6d.

With regard to date of issue of these, I can only give the following information:—

In March, 1875, I received a parcel of used Queensland stamps from a correspondent in London, who had collected them at his office; they consisted, for the most part of specimens, of the various values of Dr. Gray's IV., 1d., 2d., and 3d.; there were a few specimens of the 1s. (claret, according to Pemberton) and one or two of the 6d., at that time unchronicled; I sent two unsevered specimens of the shilling to Mr. Overy Taylor, who described them in the April number of Alfred Smith & Co.'s *Circular*.

Besides those of Dr. Gray's IV., there were some specimens of the 2d. and 6d. Q and crown; almost all the 6d. I got at that time were Q and crown, but there were not so many specimens altogether of that issue as of the former one.

In May, 1875, I had an opportunity of seeing Mr. Pemberton, and I showed him both the 6d. and 1s., with small star and letters; the former was new to him, but the latter he said he believed to be the 1s. claret, erroneously chronicled in his *Handbook* as being on the Q and crown; he said he did not think that the 1s. had appeared on the Q and crown paper.

Later in the year I purchased from a dealer a mixed lot of Queensland; the majority of which were of the Q and crown issue. There was a fair proportion of the small star and letters, but again very few of the 6d. I forget whether there were any 1s. or not, but they were hardly to be expected in any number in a lot obtained under these circumstances; the 6d. Q and crown were plentiful enough.

In September, 1875, I obtained some more Queensland from my friend in London, undoubtedly recently obtained, and the great majority this time proved to be of the Q and crown issue.

From the above facts I draw the following inferences:—

Presuming that the dates given by Dr. Gray and Mr. Pemberton are correct as far as they go, we have:—

Dr. Gray's III.—1866. 1d., 2d.
,, ,, IV.—1868. 1d., 2d.
,, ,, V.—1869. 1d., 2d., 6d.

In 1872, according to Dr. Gray, the paper of IV. was again employed, for the 3d., and in 1873, according to Mr. Pemberton, for the 1s., and no doubt some time between 1869 and 1875, this paper must have been employed for the 1d., 2d., and 6d., since all the 1d., and most of the 2d., which I received in March, 1875, were on this paper.

The Q and crown paper seems then to have been resumed, probably for the 6d. first, as I received very few of the 6d. on the paper wmkd. with the truncated star and letters, then for the 2d., and then for the 1d., as in May, 1875, Mr. Pemberton gave me a specimen of the 1d. which I had not possessed previously on the Q and crown paper; lastly this paper seems to have been employed for the first edition of the 4d. yellow, chronicled in July, 1875, soon after which the truncated star paper must have been again resuscitated, for in November, 1875, the 4d. yellow, on that paper is announced, but what other values may have been printed on that paper on this last occasion I cannot say.

It appears therefore that one or two fresh issues might be added to the list of this somewhat troublesome country, as follows:—

Taking Dr. Gray as our foundation—

IV.—wmk. words and small stars. 1868. 1d., 2d.
V.—wmk. Q and crown. 1869. 1d., 2d., 6d.
VI.—wmk. as IV. Date? 1d., 2d., 3d. (1872), 6d., 1s. (1873).
VII.—wmk. as V. Date? 1d., 2d., 6d., 4d., yellow (1875).
VIII.—wmk. as IV. 4d., yellow (1875).

With many apologies for this very lengthy epistle.

I remain,
Yours very truly,
Devonport. CHETH.

P.S.—Since writing the above, I have received another small parcel of Queensland stamps, 58 in all, 48 being on the "Q and crown" paper, and only 10 on the "small star and words," from which it seems evident that the fresh supplies are printed on the former paper.

There are, however, seven specimens of the 1s., the only 1s. amongst the lot, and all these are on the "small star. &c.," paper, but they are of a very different colour to any of that value that I have had before, being of a bright mauve, closely resembling the 1 mark Bavarian, whereas the specimens I received before were of a dull reddish indescribable tint, termed by Mr. Pemberton—"claret," and resembling no other stamp that I can find.

I found also two new varieties on the "Q and crown" paper, namely, 3d. brown, and 1d. of a pinkish red, distinctly differing from the orange-red of all the specimens I had previously seen.

THE STAMP EXCHANGE.

NOTICE.

For the accommodation of those subscribers who may be desirous of exchanging their duplicate stamps, a portion of *The Philatelist* is set apart each month to facilitate exchanges.

RULES.

1. Advertisements must be accompanied by the cheque given with each number.
2. Advertisements to be addressed to "The Editor of *The Philatelist*, Royal Colonnade, Brighton," and received not later than the 18th of the month.
3. The full name and address of the writer must be sent with each advertisement.
4. IF AN ADVERTISEMENT EXCEEDS 20 WORDS A CHARGE OF 6D FOR EVERY ADDITIONAL 10 WORDS WILL BE MADE.
5. *The Stamp Exchange* is intended for the use of amateur collectors only; notices from dealers cannot therefore be inserted.

JAS. FINDLAY, 7, West Princes Street, Glasgow, has for exchange vols. v., vi., vii., and viii. of *The Philatelist*.

WANTED, Nos. 26, 43, 48, 51, 52, 53, 54, 71, and 74 of *The Philatelist*.—Stanley Thomson, Southport.

ATHOL C. H. JOHNSTONE, St. Moritz House, Brighton, has for exchange a Royal Mail stamp, unused. Offers requested.

B. G. BENTHAM, 5, Star Hill Terrace, Rochester, wants exchange in stamps for *The Stamp-Collector's Magazine* (Nos. 60-89) unbound. Offers requested.

JOHN THOMPSON, 15, Hanover Street, Long Acre, London.—I have got a large quantity of rare foreign stamps, which I want to exchange with other collectors in England or abroad.

THE EDITOR'S LETTER-BOX.

*** Correspondents sending specimens for inspection and return, are requested to enclose a stamped directed envelope.

A. E. M., Montreal.—Accept our best thanks for the newspaper cuttings.

T. W. C., Port Elizabeth.—Our best thanks are due to you for your early information.

A. P. L., Westminster.—Thanks for your suggestion; we will take it into consideration.

H. A. H., India.—Your letter and contents are received with thanks, and will be shortly answered.

B. H., Guernsey.—Your American Letter Mail Co., and Chicago beehive stamps, are quite genuine originals.

V. de. Y.—Many thanks for your communication, the substance of which will be found in another part of this number.

J. N. M.—We have remarked elsewhere on your communication respecting the English envelopes. The higher values are indubitable postals, not essays.

A. C. H. J., Brighton.—Your stamps seem all right. The Dutch is possibly a proof. The type is that of 1867; the normal colour of the value is blue.

L. W. D., Philadelphia; O. B. H., Canterbury, and others.—The Prize Cheques for the February and succeeding numbers will be found on page iii. of the advertisement sheet.

G. R. A., Beverley.—The vendor of the forgeries on your sheet has a gratis advertisement, which we trust will afford him the success he merits. Your Italian is also forged; the two others are fiscals.

A. T., Sandgate.—Your genuine original Italian envelopes, cut although they are, are certainly worth 15/. the set, much more than some reprints of the same which were lately offered us at £6 are worth that exorbitant price.

B. G. B., Rochester.—We have never seen a penny Natal surcharged across the stamp in thin capitals; nor the others about which you query; nor in fact, any other than you yourself have noted. For the numerous varieties of Japanese, you had better refer to *Le Timbre-Poste* wherein the information thereon is exhaustive. The P.P. Turkish are locals.

C. W. K., Ipswich.—Thanks for the sight of novelties, which are mentioned in place. Your surcharged Italian has no appearance of having been officially manipulated. It is evidently done by hand; and were the value really intended to be altered, the OTTANTA would have been cancelled by a black line. Your Guadalajara is genuine. Your Pony Expresses are duffers. In the first place, the values 1, 2, 3, and 4 dollars never existed in blue; neither were there 2 and 3 dols. in black, nor 4 dols. red. The latter values exist in black and green; but yours fail in the test of the line made by the slipping of the engraver's tool.

H. F., Pozzuoli.—It is the 6 cents envelope of 1861 that is low priced. That of 1857, which you will see noticed in the article on Foreign Contemporaries last month, is almost unattainable at any price. It may exist in American catalogues nominally, without any reality. We presume the Guadalajara stamps are rarer in America than in England. Veritable Confederate impressions such as you mention, are well worth £5 each. Your stamp from Jujuy is noticed at page 58 of the Brussels magazine. It is mentioned also at page 153 of last year's *Philatelist*, in the same place where the kindred stamp of Cordoba is chronicled and figured If they are genuine entities in actual present use, they cannot either of them be at all rare.

RECENT AND UNDESCRIBED EMISSIONS.

GREECE.

WE have been favoured by a correspondent with proof specimens of the new Greek internationals. The type is that of the previous issue. Whether they will be perforated or not, cannot be judged from the proofs, which are beautifully executed, the 30 lepta being like the early Parisian set. They are: 30 lepta, yellow-brown, and 60 l., dark green; both being on tinted paper. Our obliging informant describes the forthcoming post card. It bears head of Mercury on the right, in circle; ELLAS (of course, in Greek characters) above, monetary denomination, flanked by numerals of value, below. The inscription CARTE CORRESPONDANCE and L'ADRESSE SEULE, &c., are both in Greek and French. The card is framed with a simple Greek pattern. Bright ultramarine on white card, 15 lepta.



BOLIVIA.

This cut is a portrait of one of the new Bolivian set chronicled at page 50 of this and page 150 of last year's volume.

GERMAN EMPIRE.

A new returned-letter stamp for the Empire is described. It is a large broad oval, with festooned edges. Embossed in white, on a rich azure ground, is the Imperial double eagle, fronted by shield, and surmounted by crown. In a semicircle above is the German equivalent for "To seek the sender;" below, in four straight lines "Officially opened by the Imperial Post Direction." Then the word "Berlin" in a curve. We possess its congener in all respects but the substitution of "Hamburg" for the capital.

SPAIN.

M. Moens signalizes a postmarked 4 cuartos of the arms type of 1854, bright carmine on buff (? dirty) paper. Also the emission of new stamps on the 1st of April.

FINLAND.

The same authority mentions two sets of railway stamps in use since the 1st of January. Both are of the same type; but one is inscribed in Finnish, the other in Russ. Numeral of value in the centre of a double ornamental oval: red, 25 penni; and 7 kopecks. The same in

plain oval, ultramarine, 1 mark; and 28 kopecks. They are impressed in colour on white.

FIJI ISLANDS.

The set in present use are on thick white unwatermarked paper, surcharged with Her Majesty's monogram in black. The threepenny value does duty for *twopence;* those words being printed under the V. R. Colours as before. A new type being announced, this emission is merely provisional.

BELGIUM.

At the last meeting of the Philatelic Society was shown, by a mem ber, a post card precisely similar to the black one, but printed in green.

NEW SOUTH WALES.

The post card lately emitted for the use of this colony has already a companion or successor very similar, but of smaller dimensions. The letters of the inscription are also less. Bright pink on white cardboard, not thick paper like the other.

SPANISH WEST INDIES.

The Belgian magazine warns collectors against a new attempt at deception. The 2 reales of 1855 and succeeding year are comparatively common; not so when surcharged Y¼. The "gentlemanly" falsifiers have provided themselves with a stock of those stamped by the postal authorities with black bars, and added thereto the rare surcharge. But the cheatery is easily detected, because it has been in most cases printed *upon* the bars; and in all cases the letter spreads too much at top.

CASHMERE.

The same announces the discovery of a specimen of the ½ anna of 1866 (1923) impressed in black on laid paper. It is the second variety of the red half anna, of which a block of four is known, the third being 1 anna in value.

MAURITIUS.

The Indian rupee will be shortly, if not already done, introduced into currency in this island, and consequently an entirely new set must be prepared for use. A provisional set may be expected, having the new denominations surcharged in the same way which was employed for the first set in the Straits Settlements.

NEW ZEALAND.

The current lilac penny and pink twopenny have been recently detected printed on the paper formerly in use which bears the original star watermark. The others of the current set will probably turn up.

RUSSIAN LOCALS.

Aleksandria (in the province of Cherson) gives a smaller substitute for the large round issue of 1874. It is a lithographed impression in colour on plain white paper: circular, bearing in centre the Russian equivalent for "Price, 10 silver kopecks," in coloured letters on white, within circular frame inscribed in white on colour, "Rural postage stamp for the District of Aleksandria." Blue, 10 kopecks.

Arsamass (in the government of Nijny Novgorod) has had its stamps remodelled. Corner numerals larger; star of the oval removed above; the last four letters of the long name omitted; the letters A replaced by a; and one of the two pyramids provided with some points on the right. Colour and value as before; 5 kop., blue.

Bielozersk (in the government of Novgorod) is discovered to have had an emission between 1871 and 1872 on common white paper; that of the former date being on yellowish.

Bogorodsk (in the government of Moscow.) M. Moens has met with a 5 kop. red-violet hue, the design of which is a reminder of the 1871-2 types; the vertical lines and punctation of the arms being closer.

Charkov now affords us a timbre-taxe azure without any black surcharge.

Jeletz (in Orel) now prints its stamps in bright violet on plain thick yellowish paper.

Malmyche (in Viatka) changes the oblong for a rectangular shape. Value as before on central white escutcheon; numerals at angles; "Rural post of Malmyche district," on a patterned ground, encompassing the shield. Lithographed, black on plain yellowish paper, 2 kop.

Shadrinsk (in Perm) makes up in quantity for the meagre quality of its issues. Its hideous type, already existing in three or four hues, now arrives of a red-lilac tinge.

CAPE OF GOOD HOPE.

We are reminded by a correspondent of an unaccountable omission in last month's number. Chronicling the newly-emitted stamp of this colony, the value "one halfpenny" slipped out of the compositor's hand.

HELIGOLAND.

On the 1st of May appear a couple of additional values for this island. From what reason does not appear; but the type this time is totally altered. Whether the designer finds himself unable to ring any more changes on the framework of Her Majesty's head, or whether the thin end of the wedge has been inserted, and the withdrawal of the Queen's head from the stamps, portends a like retirement from the sovereignty of the island we cannot tell; but so it is. The new comers bear an escutcheon in the national colours, surmounted by a crown in the centre of an oval: "Heligoland" above; the monetary denomination in English currency on the left, in the German on the right; ornamentation at the angles. Green, 2½ farthings—3 pfennig. Carmine, 2½ pence—20 pf. The same mystery prevails as formerly with respect to the *quasi* equivalent values of the Heligoland stamps. If 2 farthings and a-half are equal to 3 pfennig, four times that sum, or 2½d. would make 12, not 20 pf.! One might imagine the 3 to be a misprint for 5; if so, the anomaly is removed.

GUATEMALA.

The New York magazine announces the proximate appearance of nine official sets of five values each! The form of these will be the long rectangle employed for the Peruvian chiffres. Each stamp of a set will be of a different colour. The national arms will be the

general design, except in the instance of the Post-office Department set, which will bear the portrait of the President, Don J. Rufino Barrios.

SWITZERLAND.

The Belgian magazine acquaints us that the postal authorities of this republic, in order to prevent inquisitive people from easily opening envelopes, allow the public to have the die of a postage stamp impressed upon the flaps of envelopes, on condition of not taking fewer than a thousand at once. We presume this will be managed in the same way that the Turkish envelopes are manufactured; otherwise we do not see how the object professedly in view can be attained.

SIERRA LEONE.

With the newly-issued pale brown halfpenny of this colony, we have received among the other values the threepenny of a rich gold-yellow hue.

CANADA.

The 10 cents is now printed of a much brighter hue than originally.

NOTES ON THE DUTCH EAST INDIAN STAMPS.

BY ANCORA.

THE single stamp, which was for so long the sole representative of the Dutch Colonial Post-office, was one of the comparatively few stamps, about which authentic details were forthcoming in the early days of stamp collecting.

The first issue dates from April 1, 1864, but is usually assigned to the year 1863 in catalogues, as specimens were sold at Utrecht (where the printing took place) several months before the stamps were issued for general use; thus one of these specimens was noticed and represented in *The Stamp-Collector's Magazine* for December, 1863, four months before the actual issue of the stamps.

I.—Portrait of William III., slightly facing to the left; value (10 CENTS) above, POST ZEGEL below on scrolls; NEDERL INDIE at sides; dolphins and ornaments in top corners.

Col., imp., rect.

(*a*).—April 1st, 1864. Unperforated.
10 cents. Carmine, v. dark to pale.
,, Crimson.

(*b*).—1868. As *a*, but perforated.
10 cents. Rose-carmine.
,, Rose, v. to pale.

NOTE.—Several forgeries of this issue exist, one of which is so good that it is worthy of at least a passing notice. It is to be recognised by the coarseness of the shading on the face and top and bottom scrolls, by the want of clearness in the delineation of the two stars, and by the fact that the S of POST and the Z of ZEGEL are of the same size as the T and E instead of being somewhat smaller, as in the genuine copies.

II.—No. 1, after being in use for six years, was superseded by a series of a completely different type, somewhat akin to the 1867 issue of the mother country.

1869.—Profile of William III. to right in beaded circle; caduceus and anchor in lateral margin; NED INDIE above; value below.

Col., imp., rect.; perforations varying.

(*a*)—*Thick paper.*

5	cents.	Pale green.
	,,	Watery.
		Pale emerald, v. to deep.
10	,,	Bistre.
20	,,	Ultramarine, v.
	,,	Intense blue.
	,,	Pale ,,
50	,,	Bright carmine, v. to pale.
	,,	Rose-carmine.
	,,	Dull rose.

(*b*).—*Thin paper.*

5	cents.	Green.
	,,	Emerald green (brighter shades than on thick p.p).
10	,,	Bistre.
20	,,	Blue, v. dark to pale.
50	,,	Dull rose.
	,,	Bright carmine, v. to pale.

III.—1874, as II.—*Thin paper.*

1	cent.	Olive green.
	,,	Pale greenish grey, v.
15	,,	Bistre.
25	,,	Violet to purple.
2½	gulden.	Green and violet, v. in intensity.

Unpaid-Letter Stamps.

1874.—As Dutch unpaid stamps.

5	cents.	Yellow
10	,,	Green on yellow,
20	,,	Green on blue.

NOTE.—The most general obliterations on the Dutch East Indian stamps are date stamps; the most recent letters, however, bear stamps cancelled with a postmark formed of dots and enclosing a number.

Post Cards.

1874.—Single card, stamp type of adhesive in right top corner. Inscription in Dutch, Malay, and Javanese ("Postcard"—"Address"). Lines for address, all within a fancy frame.

5	cents.	Violet on buff
,,	,,	deep ,,

Reply Paid Cards.

As single cards, with additional inscription outside the frame.

(*a*).—5 cents and 5 cents. Violet on buff, v.

(*b*).—As *a*, but thicker card.

THE SPUD PAPERS; OR, NOTES ON PHILATELIC WEEDS.

BY THE REV. R. BRISCO EARÉE.

LVI.

Ecuador.

1873; 1 PESO, ROSE.

THIS is not a bad-looking stamp although it is lithographed, and it is certainly very far superior to the older issues, which look so much like forgeries. The forgers have copied it pretty well, but there are a few discrepancies between the genuine and the forged which will enable the reader to settle very speedily which is which.

Genuine.—Lithographed, in rose, on rather stout white wove paper; perf. 8. The perforations are rather small, and set very far apart. Moens gives the perforation as 11, but the only specimen I have is perf. 8. However, both perforations may very possibly exist. There is a good space of white between the rays of the sun and the border of the shield; the mountain-peaks have a sort of oblique snow-line marked upon them, and their points are somewhat higher than the smoke from the steamer. The front flags are shaded all over, except a very small portion near the outer edge. The axe, in the lictor's badge below the shield, has its head properly shaped. There are 83 square white dots round the circle. The inside of the U in UN is square at the bottom, and the inside of the O in PESO is nearly square. The point of the condor's right wing does *not* touch the outline of the circle.

Forged.—Lithographed, in carmine, on white wove paper, which shows very plainly the meshes of the wire-gauze upon which it was made; perf. 12½ and 13. The upper rays of the sun *almost* touch the top of the shield. There is no snow-line upon the mountain-peaks, and their summits are slightly lower than the smoke of the steamer. A large portion of the front flags is altogether unshaded. The head of the axe in the lictor's *fasces* appears to be cleft in two. There are only 68 of the square white dots in the circle. The inside of the U is rounded, and the inside of the O is nearly round. The point of the condor's right wing touches the circle, below the E of ECUADOR.



Postmarks.—The forgeries are postmarked with a rectangle of square dots. They are ungummed, like the majority of the productions of Messrs. Spiro.

Bahamas.

1862; 1S., GREEN.

Genuine.—Typographed, on slightly *glacé* paper; perf. 14, watermarked C C and crown. This stamp, though not particularly striking, is very carefully engraved. The face is shaded almost all over; there being but a small white spot at the corner of the nose, and a small blank space at the top of the forehead. The ear is all shaded except the tip, which hangs down a little. Just under the middle A of BAHAMAS

there is a small ring, or circle, with another circle in the centre of it. The conch-shell (I think it is meant for a conch-shell), in the right lower corner, has a sharp spike projecting from the right-hand side about the centre, and another from the left-hand side at the bottom. There are five leaves at the base of the pine-apple, and five more in the bunch at the top. If a straight line were drawn down through the centre of the pine-apple, it would cut into the o of ONE, considerably to the right of the centre. The white space round the inside of the central medallion is equally broad all round, and the outline of the portrait does not trespass upon this white space anywhere. There is a tiny full stop after the etruscan bordering to the right, above the G of SHILLING; and the upper horizontal stroke of the last "key" in the pattern is wanting (the border cuts it off).

Forged.—Lithographed, on ordinary white wove paper; perf. 13; no watermark, ungummed. The front of the face, from the forehead to the chin, has hardly any shading upon it. The rim of the ear is white, and the lobe inclines forward instead of downward. The letters of name are clumsily copied, and the circle under the middle A has a dot in the centre of it. The spikes on the conch-shell are absent. There are only four leaves at the base of the pine-apple, and the leaves on the top cannot be counted. A line drawn down through the centre of the pine-apple would cut exactly through the centre of the o of ONE. The white space round the inside of the central medallion is much broader at some parts than others; notably, under the MA of name, and below the base of the neck. The chignon and the pointed front of the neck project slightly into this white space. There is no stop at the right-hand end of the key-pattern, and the last "key" (over the G of SHILLING) is only a straight line. The base of the defective "key" over the S of SHILLING is much longer than the bases of the others, whereas, in the genuine, it is the same size as the others.



Postmarks.—The forgeries are cancelled with a stamp something like our own, but without the central figures. I think this stamp will not have a very extended sale, though it copies the original very closely.

TELEGRAPH STAMPS.

WURTEMBURG.

TWO new values have been in use since the 1st of February, type as before:—5 pfennige, grey; 10 pfennige, ultramarine.







GREAT BRITAIN.

The above cuts portray three of the handsome telegraph adhesives described in the early part of this volume. An official notice has been

issued stating that "from the 1st of May no postage stamps other than those embossed on the telegraph message-forms still on hand will be received in payment of telegrams."

OUR FOREIGN CONTEMPORARIES.

THE *Timbre-Poste* "goes on in the even tenor of its way," affording varied information to the philatelic world. Commenting on the 25 reis of Portugal, 1855, portrait of Don Pedro with smooth hair, the editor gives minute directions for tracing a variety or sub-type thereof. A long article on the 20 kopecks, 1850, of Finland follows, too lengthy for transcription; and of which an epitome would give no idea. Then a description of current forgeries of the 10 kreuzer Austrian, which have been employed and passed the post.

The *Timbre Fiscal* bristles with illustrations; among others we get a large handsome stamp portrayed, that bears Her Majesty's portrait, and whose legend states its employment to be for the inland revenue of Montserrat, one penny in value. Strange that the small West Indian island in question should be favoured with revenue and not with postal adhesives.

L'Ami des Timbres came over as a double number of 16 pages, so heavy that it burst its small cover, which latter arrived alone. However, its weight bore it safely to the bottom of the postbag, whence time and enquiries brought it to its destination. A biography of the large-nosed worthy figuring on the latest 10 centavos of Antioquia is given, which we shall transcribe next month.

To the Leipzig magazine we are indebted for portraits of the forthcoming pair of Heligolanders; but although the numeral 3 is plainly depicted, one cannot help imagining it to be a misprint for 5; otherwise the anomaly of the values is inexplicable.

The American Journal of Philately commences with the Rev. R. B. Earée's "Advice to those about to collect," audaciously transferred, without the slightest acknowledgment, from this magazine. C. H. C.'s elaborate paper on the Plympton envelopes is continued. Mr. Overy Taylor's *resume* (sic) follows; then new stamps, among which is introduced a novel monetary denomination, viz., the *shaki* of Persia. An article on revenue stamps concludes the number.

THE PHILATELIC SOCIETY, LONDON.

IN consequence of the absence from town of several of the members, no business was transacted at the meeting of the 1st of April.

The twelfth meeting of the season was held at the Chambers of the Vice-President, 4, Lamb Building, Temple, E.C., on the 22nd of April. The Vice-President in the chair.

The stamps of Barbados formed the subject of study. The chairman first made some very interesting remarks respecting the earlier issues of that colony, especially directing the attention of the members to the issue on *bleuté* paper; the bluish appearance of the paper is due to the combined chemical action of the gum and of the ink employed for the impression, and not to the gum alone, as is generally supposed.

This appearance is chiefly visible in the green and red stamps, but hardly shows itself in the blue. This theory was borne out by the specimens of the (½d.) green and the (4d.) red produced, in all of which the margin is white, while the paper on which the stamp itself is printed is blued.

The list of the different issues having been completed, the Secretary read the correspondence, which included—

(1) A letter from Mr. F. M. Rigge, enclosing a 10 kr. stamp, Austria, 1858, for inspection. The writer thinks it differs from the usual type; the stamp, which is in a very bad condition, was examined, and the slight differences in it, were found to be only due to the bad impression.

(2) A letter from Mr. G. Lennox MacDonald, corresponding member of Cape Colony, announcing his intention of writing monographs on the Cape of Good Hope, Orange Free State, and Transvaal Republic, for the Society's catalogue. This gentleman also states that he has several times received letters from the Transvaal Republic franked with a green shilling stamp cut across diagonally; the postage from the Transvaal Republic to the Cape being 6d., it would appear that the stock of sixpenny stamps is exhausted. A vote of thanks to Mr. Mac Donald was proposed and passed.

The Secretary proposed, and Dr. Viner seconded, the admission of Mrs. C. Tebay as a member proper, which was unanimously agreed to.

Mr. Raffalovich showed a proof of the 2d. English (1842, with white lines), on the original envelope, having done duty for postage in 1875.

The Secretary showed the new Dutch Indies 2½ cents, pale yellowish brown on white paper, and the new 15 cent *Te Betalen*, yellow-brown on reddish buff. The 5 cents, 1874, yellow on white, is now obsolete.

This interesting meeting broke up at 5 o'clock, and the next fixed for the 13th of May, at the same time and place. Members are invited to bring the stamps of Dominica, Grenada, St. Christopher, St. Vincent, Turks Islands, and the Virgin Islands.

NOTICE TO STAMP COLLECTORS.

AT the meeting of the Philatelic Society held on the 26th of February, on the proposal of one of the members, the Society decided to warn collectors against purchasing any stamps that dealers may offer them for sale, giving as a guarantee that such or such a member of the Society had warranted the said stamps to be genuine, without being first satisfied as to the respectability of such dealers, or referring direct to the member in question. Reprints, and even forgeries, have been sold in that manner by certain unprincipled persons, both in London and elsewhere.

Collectors are requested to communicate with the Secretary, 272, Cornwall Road, London, W., in the event of the above practice being continued, in order that the Society may take the necessary proceedings.

In the June number of *The Philatelist* will commence the publication of the Society's Black List. Collectors are earnestly requested to send to the Secretary, 272, Cornwall Road, London, W., the names and

addresses of all dealers in forgeries, as well as of shopkeepers who sell forgeries. From time to time, a list of dealers and shopkeepers, known to sell forgeries, will be published in the local papers of towns harbouring such vermin, as well as in magazines likely to fall into the hands of school boys.

N.B.—In all cases, proofs of the offence must be forwarded, and a stamped and directed envelope enclosed, if a reply is desired:

For the Philatelic Society, London.
H. A. DE JOANNIS,
London, March 25, 1876. Secretary and Treasurer.

THE PENNY AND TWOPENNY POSTS.

BY ANCORA.

ALTHOUGH it is generally deemed advisable by collectors to ignore the proceedings of the Post-office before 1840, still, perhaps, a few words concerning these marks, which seem to offer a certain amount of interest, as being the forerunners and harbingers of the stamp era, may not be unacceptable, especially as many questions have been asked in the pages of the various philatelical magazines with reference to them.

In vol. ix. of *The Stamp-Collector's Magazine* mention is made of a penny post for Edinburgh, established by one, Peter Williams, who seems to have been a shining light amid the postal darkness of the end of the 18th century. This post remained in private hands for about twenty years, until an act of Parliament was passed forbidding the conveyance of letters by any but the authorized government messengers, when of course it fell under government control (1797).

The business of the Penny Post was to deliver and collect the letters in districts belonging to a principal office, all correspondence being taken to the said principal office and thence re-issued.

A sub-office differed from it in charging its letters according to distance only, as was done by the principal offices.

Every letter passing through a Penny Post was marked with the name of the post in blue, red, or black ink, thus,—CUCKFIELD PENNY POST,—and was charged 1d. in addition to the ordinary postage. Franked and other privileged letters formed no exception to this rule, but were taxed just in the same way as ordinary correspondence. Letters which were collected and delivered by two separate Penny Posts, paid 1d. to each.

In 1835 there were 1035 Penny Posts in England, 225 in Scotland, and 197 in Ireland; the number of letters passing through them weekly being about 1400.

Twopenny and Threepenny Posts answered the same purpose in the metropolis, as the Penny Posts did in the rural districts; for they collected and delivered the letters of persons residing within a circle of twelve miles. The charge was regulated by the distance; being 2d. for each letter delivered within an inner circle of three miles, and 3d. for any distance between the inner and outer circles.

These posts had their own receiving houses and letter-carriers, although letters were taken in due course to the General Post-office,

except those which passed between receiving-houses served by the same messenger.

In 1835 there were 209 receiving-houses within the inner, and 194 within the outer circle. These were served by 640 letter-carriers, who accomplished daily seven collections and deliveries in the Twopenny Post department, and from two to six in that of the Threepenny Post.

BULLETIN OF THE FRENCH TIMBROLOGICAL SOCIETY.

THE interesting proceedings of the three monthly sittings appear in this publication. At the first, the stamps of Luxemburg were discussed; at the second, those of Denmark and its dependencies; at the last, a quantity of miscellaneous matter,—among others, the Bergen locals, the existence or non-existence of lithographed French republics, and the authenticity of a Tours emission, during which latter debate the worthy Secretary, most *apropos of nothing*, lugged in by the heels a certain umquhile member of the London Society, once (and then, deservedly) respected, but whose lapses might have been mercifully consigned to oblivion. A member exhibited a specimen of the essay which was being prepared by M. Hulot for Napoleon III. just before the revolution of 1870.

Catalogues, fully illustrated, of the stamps of Luxemburg, Denmark, Schleswig-Holstein, and Heligoland, prepared by the indefatigable Secretary of the Society, fill more than half the *feuilleton*.

POSTAL SCRAPS.

CURIOSITIES OF THE POST-OFFICE.—An auction sale of unclaimed packages from the U.S. Post-Office Department took place lately at Washington. It was called the Dead Letter Office sale, and the inventory, containing no less than sixty-six pages, is a curiosity. It includes 1,374 pieces of jewelry, 1,585 books, 269 chromos, 217 pieces of music, and 102 stereoscopic views. Also saws, knives, spectacles, gloves, soap, lace shawls, revolvers, tobacco, gold pens, fish-hooks, chewing-gum, babies' shoes, artificial teeth, cork-screws, pipes, stockings, shirts, almost every article of a lady's wardrobe, and other articles too numerous to mention.

THE POST-OFFICE AND THE CENTENNIAL EXHIBITION.—The centre of attraction for stamp collectors at the Centennial Exhibition will be the Government building. There will be located in it a complete post-office, and machines for making the Centennial envelopes and post cards. We understand that the post card will not only be useful but suitable as a souvenir. The envelope machine will cut, fold, stamp and gum the envelopes, and put them up in packages of twenty-five, ready for sale. The post-office department will also make a display of stamps and stamped envelopes. The collection is complete, and comprises all sizes, types, and shapes of envelopes, besides adhesive stamps of the general issues and official and newspaper stamps. There will be about four hundred envelopes, all entire.—*The Philatelic Monthly.*

CHEAP POSTAGE FOR FRANCE.—France has always been singularly behind other European nations in the matter of postal reform, and notwithstanding the conclusive experience of England and America before her, she continues to cling to the short-sighted policy of bygone times. However, there appears to be some hope of a little change in the right direction. The Radicals have brought in a Bill for the reduction of the price of postage. They point out in the preamble that the position of France compared with other nations is most humiliating in respect to postal circulation. "Whereas," say they, "an Englishman writes an average of twenty-five letters per annum, a Swiss eighteen, an American fifteen, a German nine, and an Austrian and Spaniard four, a Frenchman writes only three a year, and a Russian one." Before the war the postage in France was a penny per letter for Paris and twopence for the provinces; after the war it was raised to 1½d. and 2½d. respectively. This increase in the price of postage has

led to a more than corresponding decrease in the postal circulation. For example, while before the raising of the stamp the number of letters increased at the rate of ten millions per annum, the number has since decreased at the same rate, so that the Exchequer is a loser instead of gainer by the change. The Bill proposes to reduce the postal stamp to one uniform price for the whole of France, making it a penny for letters and a halfpenny for cards. The preamble winds up by stating that "there is no public service like the post capable of showing the vital intensity of a country, or contributing to the development of the social and commercial relations of the people."—*The Echo.*

THE HALFPENNY NEWSPAPER WRAPPERS.—Attention having been called to the insufficient strength of the stamped newspaper wrappers, the Post-office authorities requested the contractor who had supplied them to submit a sample of paper of equal weight but of greater strength. The extra price being considered excessive, the paper was submitted to practised paper-examiners, who pronounced it not worth the additional cost. As this was repudiated by the contractor, samples both of the paper in use and the new paper were analyzed. The result of the analysis showed the former to contain 15 per cent. of earthy matter, which added to its weight but not to its strength, and which in the latter was replaced by 15 per cent. of fibre. The chemical examination of the paper therefore proved that the increased price was justified, and that the officially-appointed experts knew little or nothing of the value of paper.—*The Printer's Register.*

THE STAMP EXCHANGE.

NOTICE.

For the accommodation of those subscribers who may be desirous of exchanging their duplicate stamps, a portion of *The Philatelist* is set apart each month to facilitate exchanges.

RULES.

1. Advertisements must be accompanied by the cheque given with each number.
2. Advertisements to be addressed to "The Editor of *The Philatelist*, Royal Colonnade, Brighton," and received not later than the 18th of the month.
3. The full name and address of the writer must be sent with each advertisement.
4. IF AN ADVERTISEMENT EXCEEDS 20 WORDS A CHARGE OF 6D FOR EVERY ADDITIONAL 10 WORDS WILL BE MADE.
5. *The Stamp Exchange* is intended for the use of amateur collectors only; notices from dealers cannot therefore be inserted.

J. STEPHENSON, Albemarle Lodge, Wimbledon Park, has got some good stamps to exchange.

JAS. FINDLAY, 7, West Princes Street, Glasgow, has for exchange vols. v., vi., vii., and viii. of *The Philatelist.*

WANTED, Nos. 26, 43, 48, 51, 52, 53, 54, 71, and 74 of *The Philatelist.*—Stanley Thomson, Southport.

A. C. THOMPSON, Cambridge House, Sandgate, has a few bank notes and rare stamps to exchange for other rare stamps.

ATHOL C. H. JOHNSTONE, St. Moritz House, Brighton, is in want of Nos. 26, 43, and 44, of *The Philatelist.* Good exchange.

F. H. PINKHAM, Newmarket, N.H., United States, requests correspondence in every stamp-issuing country with a view to exchange.

JOSEPH J. CASEY, P.O. box, 1698, New York, U.S.A., is anxious to procure perfect copies of Philatelic Literature, Catalogues, &c., in exchange for others, or for stamps. Rare entire envelopes also wanted.

THE EDITOR'S LETTER-BOX.

*** Correspondents sending specimens for inspection and return, are requested to enclose a stamped directed envelope.

C. S., London.—Your stamps are all worthless forgeries.

A. R., Westbournia.—Many thanks for your polite attention.

G. E. W., Boston, Mass., U.S.—The publishers cannot undertake to return rejected prize essays.

H. H. C., Derby.—The omission alluded to by you is repaired in the present number. We do not think the Honolulu stamp genuine.

A. C. H. J., Brighton.—There is nothing in your sixpenny New South Wales being watermarked with the numeral 6 in accordance with its facial value. We have one of the same with 12, which is an anomaly worth keeping. Your United States locals are reprints or imitations. The Belalp is not of the proper colour. The realities are violet. We doubt the Maderanerthal. The Rigi seems right. The Indians are themselves genuine; but the *surcharge* is forged. Some of the numbers of *The Stamp-Collector's Magazine*, we believe all those of the first two volumes, are unattainable. The American magazine comes out once a month only. The subscription to the Belgian magazine is 4s. per annum. It is published on the 1st of each month. The catalogue of M. Moens, since the fourth edition, which appeared in 1874, has been supplemented by *feuilletons* last year, and in January and April of the present year. The Kustendje stamps are found green and blue-green.

RECENT AND UNDESCRIBED EMISSIONS.

BRITISH GUIANA.

TO an obliging correspondent we are indebted for one of the values of the new British Guianas, with information that it is the only one yet in service, because the others will not come into use before the exhaustion of the existing stock. It is rather smaller than those superseded: rectangular; ship in centre within frame arched above and below, and inscribed in white letters DAMUS, &c. On outer frame in coloured letters stand POSTAGE above; value below; name at sides. Orange on white; 2 cents. Watermarked with crown and cc.



SPAIN.

We have been kindly favoured by M. de Ysasi with specimens of the latest Spanish emission. They far transcend any of the numerous types of that country, being of elegant design and commensurate execution. Broadly rectangular; full faced portrait of King Alfonso in uniform within fancy frame; on a white block above, COMUNICACIONES; below, the value, the letters of which are in colour on a white block; the numerals repeated on either side in white on coloured blocks.

5 c. de peseta,	bright brown	40 c. de peseta,	black-brown
10 ,, ,,	blue	50 ,, ,,	green
20 ,, ,,	dark black-green	1 peseta	deep blue
25 ,, ,,	Spanish brown	4 ,,	puce-mauve

10 pesetas, bright vermilion.

War stamps. Profile to left with oval frame inscribed IMPUESTO DE GUERRA and value; spandrels ornamented with key pattern.

5 c. de peseta,	bottle-green	25 c. de peseta,	grey
10 ,, ,,	blue	1 peseta,	lilac

All impressed in colour on thin unwatermarked paper; perforated.

UNITED STATES.

A correspondent from Washington forwards one of the new Centennial envelopes. The impression is large-sized, in fancy shield-shaped form. On coloured ground is a rider at full gallop, canopied by the word POSTAGE in a riband headed by 1776, and flanked by U. S. Below are represented railway engine and cars, with telegraph post and

pair of wires. Beneath is the value in full on another riband, and below all is the date of the current year. The whole device, including a neat bordering, is embossed in white. Green on white glazy laid paper; 3 cents. Watermarked with P. O. D. U. S. in monogram.

Mr. L. W. Durbin writes to say that the 2 c. envelope on fawn-coloured paper, described in the April number of this magazine, was used elsewhere than in Chicago; also that the 3 c. was printed on the same sort of paper in two sizes, extra letter and commercial. A German magazine is our authority for the statement that a decree of Congress on the 9th of February last settled the emission of new postage stamps, each in a different type as at present, as memorials of the jubilee of the hundredth year of American independence. The values are to be 1, 2, 3, 5, 6, 10, 12, 15, 18, 20, 24, and 30 c.

HELIGOLAND.

These cuts depict the pair of novelties chronicled and described last month. Supplementary to our description may be noted, that the frame of the escutcheon and metal-work of the crown are gold colour; that the ermine lining of the latter is distinctly evident; and that the national colours are pictorially, not heraldically represented. Those on the green stamp are green, scarlet, and white; the other has them green, crimson, and white. We may add as corollary to our remarks on the anomalous monetary designations on the stamps of this dependency of ours, that the interpretation thereof officially given us is this—that the stamps being never paid for in English, but invariably in German coinage, it is not of the slightest consequence what value is fixed in the former currency!





FRENCH COLONIES.

We have lately received specimens of all the adhesives in actual use in the French West Indies. They are 1 centime, 5 c., 25 c., 40 c., republic type, imperforate, engraved; 15 c. same type, lithographed; 30 c., 80 c., laurelled head, engraved.

BELGIUM.

We are informed of the destined extinction of the 30 centimes and 8 c. values, there being no further use for them under existing postal arrangements.

NEW ZEALAND.

Post cards are to be issued for this colony consecutively with the arrival of the plant from England. A whole sheet of 240 of the current halfpenny adhesives has been received here with the old star watermark.

PORTUGUESE INDIES.

Readers must be on their guard against some dangerous forgeries of the stamps of this colony; a partial, but sufficing description of which is afforded in our article on Foreign Contemporaries. The very

great prices usually charged for the higher values, would render this swindle proportionately lucrative for the concoctors.

DUTCH EAST INDIES.

There must be added to Ancora's list in the last month's number, 2 c., pale chocolate; 2½ c., ochre-yellow; and the 15 c. chiffre-taxe described in March.

MAURITIUS.

A correspondent forwards a specimen of the ninepenny lilac Mauritius surcharged with the word HALFPENNY in Roman capitals in two lines.

VICTORIA.



This colony's new penny value chronicled in a late number is here depicted. Notwithstanding the maligning shafts levelled against it by other critics, we still think the design satisfactory: the name and value are conspicuous; and the portrait more approaching the original than is usual on postage stamps. A fourpenny pink and sixpenny lilac of similar type is reported.

FIJI ISLANDS.

A six cents green of these islands has been seen surcharged V.R. and 2D. in numerals instead of letters.

MEXICO.

An American authority states that the "porte de mer" impressions are supposed to be too-late stamps in use at Vera Cruz, and there affixed to letters arriving after the closing of the mail, and then conveyed on board the steamer as she is about to sail.

GREAT BRITAIN.

A correspondent has politely transmitted a complete specimen of the wrapper circular alluded to in the number for April of this year. The impressed halfpenny stamp is of a much darker hue than any we have previously seen, so deeply coloured that the green shows vividly on the reverse of the paper. On the side bearing the stamp is printed "To the Clerk of the Guardians——Union (Postal Address)"——"For the Vaccination Officer of the——District." This is in five lines. In the interior are elaborate directions, so lengthy that space will not allow their transcription.

While on the chronicles of our own country, we may instance a remark made by an outsider on our post cards, which it is most singular had never struck ourselves or any philatelic or other critic we have ever met with, to wit, the overwhelming absurdity of the inscription thereon, "The address only," &c. If this had been strictly attended to, the extra penny Income Tax might have been spared, because every post card that has ever yet been sent in Great Britain and Ireland ought to have been charged *one penny* forfeit, on the strictly legal plea that the address only, NOT THE NAME, is allowed on the stamped side! The unstamped Carta Tarjeta cards of Chili are free from this anomaly,

having the letters S. D. (for Senor Don) evidently to precede the name of the recipient. In like manner the French and Belgian cards have M (for Monsieur), and the early Swiss note that the reverse is reserved for manuscript communications, thus tacitly allowing the name as well as address on the obverse. The Spanish are headed sensibly like the Chilians; the cards of Bavaria, Heligoland, Wurtemburg, and the German Empire, show equivalents for TO (the recipient) as well as AT (such a place). Those of Luxemburg have the former word, which is suggestive of the name; and our own bore it originally, but strange to say, the present thick, thin, and embossed, have been mulcted thereof!

GERMAN EMPIRE.

Of similar type to the returned-letter stamp for Hamburg, described last month, are impressions for Aix-la-Chapelle, Arnsberg, Berlin, Breslau, Brunswick, Carlsruhe, Cassel, Coblentz, Cologne, Constance, Coslin, Dantzic, Darmstadt, Dresden, Dusseldorf, Erfurt, Frankfort-on-Main, Frankfort-on-Oder, Gumbinnen, Halle-on-Saab, Hanover, Kiel, Konigsberg, Leipzig, Liegnitz, Magdeburg, Marienwerden, Minden, Metz, Munster, Oldenburg, Oppeln, Posen, Potsdam, Schwerin, Stettin, Strasburg, Stralsund, and Treves.

RUSSIAN LOCALS.



The round stamp on the right portrays the new emission for Aleksandria; and the rectangular central, that for Malmyche both described last month. The circular stamp on the left depicts the current Maloarchangelsk chronicled in the January number. The following, except one resuscitation, are new or first editions.

Borovitch.—The locals of this district were among the earliest known. We have one on view of similar type to the third emission which came out in 1874. The sole differences appear to be the colour and the value. The latter is 3 instead of 5 kopecks, and the central ground is dull green, not red.

Kortschevna.—The designer employed for the rural post of this place in the government of Tver, evidently unpossessed of inventive faculties, has copied the adhesive of Gdov in every respect but the substitution of the name! For fuller description, therefore, readers are referred to page 138 of the eighth volume. Even the colour is like that of the prototypes, being azure-blue; 2 kop. We have one of a much duller hue.

Krementschoug (in the government of Poltava) has just started stamps. Within a square formed by a single line is a circular frame defined externally by one thick between two thin lines, and internally by a pair of thin ones. This contains the inscription "Stamp, 3 kop.,

rural post of the Krementschoug district." On a horizontally lined circle in the centre is an escutcheon bearing one plain white horizontal band and several narrower ones dotted with small lines. Numerals of value, in small lined ovals slightly ornamented, are at each angle. Lithographed in pale brown on plain white paper.

Opotchka.—This is an unpretentious but yet peculiar stamp, unlike most of its companions in being perforated, and having the name in a central escutcheon, not in the frame. It is rectangular; the impression defined by a fancy border composed of thick and thin lines. The said shield is inscribed with small coloured letters in five lines on white ground "District of Opotchka, government of Pskov," on an ornamented background which extends beyond the frame by way of spandrels. The frame bears white letters on dark ground "Rural village Post" and value. Blue on thin white paper, perforated; 5 kop.

Porchov.—This, like the preceding, though not so facially, is in the government of Pskov. It is a rather large narrow rectangle defined by a single line. The impression is also of the same shape, with a narrow latticed border. The frame is in compartments, horizontally lined above and below, perpendicularly at sides; and consequently forming cross-lined squares at the angles, which contain numerals of value. The inscription, in coloured letters, reads, "Rural" above, "Post" below, "District of Porchov" at sides. The central rectangle, on a patterned groundwork, bears a shield divided into two fields: the upper containing a bear canopied by something indescribable on azure, which may be the hand so plainly depicted on the Pskov stamps, but in that on view, apparently issuing from an inverted pyramid of bullets; the lower, a castle on gules. It is lithographed in violet on plain white paper; 5 kop.

Tschern.—The impression which was supposed to exist in company with the greenish blue stamp emitted previously to 1871, printed in black on thick white plain paper, has been resuscitated, and lies in our collection.

CONFEDERATE STATES.

One of our distinguished philatelists has lately become possessed of a specimen of the wonderfully rare Tellico Plains impression, first chronicled exactly three years since. It belongs to a row of three, two of them being 5 cents in value, and the third a 10 c. These three, and probably the complete sheet, exhibit as many varieties as stamps.

CABUL.

M. Moens figures another type of the tiger design of this country, of which he has seen two values only, each showing four varieties, and dated 1293, answering to the present year. The values are 8 shahis and 1 rupee. Both are found in bright and dull violet on laid paper: but the value on the latter, showing as in the preceding set, and that on the former differently, they are easily distinguishable. The 2 shahis now appears in black in lieu of violet. There are ten varieties of this stamp on two vertical rows. Dr. Magnus has detected on the sheet of the 1 shahi stamps, one erroneously dated 1291 instead of 1290.

DENMARK.

Three of this kingdom's adhesives have been slightly altered in hue: the 12 öre is now brownish violet, with a grey framework; the 16 ö. is pale brown, with frame like the preceding; and the 50 ö. is slate-coloured, with brown framework.

THE SPUD PAPERS; OR, NOTES ON PHILATELIC WEEDS.

BY THE REV. R. BRISCO EARÉE.

LVII.

Angola.

1870; 100 REIS, LILAC.

Genuine.—Engraved in *épargne;* perf. 13. The crown in centre is very well done, and all the pearls on the arches of the crown can be easily counted. Beginning with the right-hand branch, the numbers are 9, 10, 5, 10, 9. The cross on the top is not so wide as the ball or orb on which it rests. There are 121 oval white dots round the central circle, and they are perfectly uniform all the way round. The framework down the two sides is formed of two lines,—a very thick outer one and a very thin inner one,—placed very close together. The thick line above 100 REIS cuts into the thick outer line of the outline, as well as the thin inner one, on both sides.

Forged.—Lithographed; perf. 13. The crown is not at all well done, and looks larger than the genuine. The pearls on the arches of the crown cannot be counted with any certainty. The cross on the top is wider than the orb or ball on which it rests. There are 125 white dots round the central circle. They are of all shapes, and are very much smeared on the left side. The framework down the sides is formed of two lines, as in the genuine, but both lines are of equal thickness, and they are far apart. The thick line above 100 REIS only comes as far as the inner line of the frame, on the right side. The rest of the stamp is a pretty close copy of the genuine. The perforation is better than usual, and is the same as the genuine.



Postmarks, &c.—The genuine I have never seen postmarked, but the forgeries have a postmark like our own, but with a blank in the centre. The forgeries are ungummed; but the genuine are also to be met with ungummed occasionally. Why, I know not.

La Guaira.

1870; 2 REALES, ROSE.

Genuine.—Lithographed (?) on yellowish paper; pin-pricked 10, or perf. 13. The outside of the frame is composed of a scalloped line all the way round. There are 15 scallops at top and bottom, and 17 at each side. There is a stop after each of the letters J. A. J., and the top and bottom of the z are carried a little beyond the small knobs which usually finish off that letter. The figure 2 in each corner is very short and fat. The scroll containing DOS REALES just touches the inner line of frame, under TO of PTO. There are two ornamental

tongues or curves in the centre of the left side of each J; the G of GUAIRA is rather like a c; the Q of PAQUETE has a long tail; the letters TO of PTO are nearly as thick as the P, though much smaller.

Forged.—Lithographed, in bright red, on *white* paper; perf. 13. This forgery may be speedily detected by the number of scallops in the outer line. There are 16 at the top, 15 at the bottom, 19 on the right side, and 21 on the left. There is no stop after the last J; the stop after A is not very distinct, and the z is like an ordinary capital z. The figures of value in the corners are tall and thin and are not all alike. The value-scroll does not touch the frame anywhere. There is only one ornamental curve or tongue to the left of the centre of each J, which makes these letters look more like F than J. The G of GUAIRA is like a G; the Q of PAQUETE has a very short tail. The letters TO of PTO are very thin and faint.



Postmarks, &c.—The genuine stamps are obliterated usually with a double circle (blue or black) containing large lettering (CORREOS, &c.), whilst the forgeries are cancelled with four concentric circles in black, and no lettering. The gum on the genuine is yellow, whilst the forgeries are ungummed.

THE PORTRAIT ON THE NEW TEN CENTAVO OF ANTIOQUIA.

IT is that of Dr. Pedro Justo Berrio, a gentleman eminent for personal merit, and the services rendered his country. He was born at Santarosa de Osos on the 27th of May, 1827. Though of humble parentage, while yet a child, he was so eager after instruction, that he went one day knocking at the door of the grand seminary of Antioquia, and on admission, told the superior he came to learn! The precocity of his intelligence gained him admission there; but he soon found that such instruction could not be attained without sacrifices which his parents were not in a state to make. He thought of transmitting from his native town, Santarosa, certain articles of easy sale at Medellin; and in this way, by small speculations, defrayed the expenses of his studies, which terminated brilliantly.



In 1851 he repaired to Bogota, the capital, and passed successfully through all the university degrees of jurisprudence and political science. He then returned to his place of nativity; married in 1858; was elected deputy, and evidenced by his exceptional qualifications his capability for the highest functions.

The revolution of 1860 burst forth; he took a large part in it at the peril of his life: sword in hand, he proved himself as valiant a defender of order and religion as a promoter of liberal institutions and administrative reforms. After triumphing at Yarumal, on the 2nd of January, 1864, and overthrowing the existing government, the army and the people placed the destiny of the State in the hands of Dr. P. J. Berrio, and he was thereupon gifted with the title of Governor-President of the State of Antioquia.

His first action was the recognition of the general government of the Union, to which he was among the first to tender submission. His wise policy, without precedent in all Colombia, inaugurated a new era of twelve years of peace and prosperity, during which he endowed his country with schools of arts and sciences, lyceums, and numerous colleges, in the populous districts. The introduction of the electric telegraph, the organisation of a postal service, monetary improvements, &c., are all due to his administration.

He died at Medellin, on the 14th of February, 1875, only 45 years of age, from a heart complaint. His death was publicly mourned. Never was there a loss more generally felt by all classes of a population, and especially by the schools and religious establishments which he had so ardently befriended.

His benefits, and the amenity of his disposition, leave an ineffaceable remembrance in all minds. The portrait of so illustrious a patriot on a postage stamp, to perpetuate his memory, gives therefore no cause for wonder.

OUR FOREIGN CONTEMPORARIES.

THE *Timbre-Poste*, after the accustomed batch of novelties, has an article on certain falsities of the Portuguese Indian stamps, supposed to be fabricated by M. E. Treibmann, of Dresden. It is too lengthy for full transcription, but an epitome will suffice to counteract the ill effects of the swindle. There are two separate imitations of the complete set. One is on white paper, easily distinguishable from the genuine impressions by the absence of the cedilla under the c of SERVICO. The other is on bluish paper; the principal characteristic being the substitution of an v reversed in this manner for the v in that same word. Another readable article follows on the genuine character of the local stamps of Holte and the Danish railway adhesives, fully establishing their claims to a good character. An authenticated account of the Persian postal arrangements will be epitomized next month.

Articles on the *Postschein* stamps of Brunswick; the first six emissions of Luxemburg post cards; the editorial monthly remarks; announcements of novelties, to which we are indebted for some information; a paper by the editor on the extraordinary half-moon shaped watermark of the Cabul stamps; one upon the official essays of Russia; the proceedings of the Leipzig Philatelic Society, and some miscellaneous matter, render the *Illustrirtes Briefmarken Journal* more than usually readable.

The first number of a magazine printed at Trieste, in the Italian language under the name of *Il Timbrofilo*, should be cordially welcomed, as evidencing the progress of the science we advocate. It is formed on the model of the publications of similar nature in other countries, consequently calling for no particular remarks.

Scott's New York journal devotes eight pages to a well-written article on the postal system of the United States in its earlier stage. Many interesting anecdotes on the state of correspondence some hundred and fifty years since are interspersed. In early times the mail bag was carried by a boy on horseback, three times a week, between

New York and Philadelphia! The Western mail was carried from Albany once a week in a valise on a man's shoulder! So late as 1810 the weekly mail between Canandaigua and Genesee river was borne on horseback, frequently by a woman! Mr. Overy Taylor figures of course. He will be exhausted in time—what then? Among novelties, the 1 c. orange and 3 c. pink of Shanghai, chronicled some time since, are said to be accompanied by three new values; the editor being evidently ignorant that they were on tinted paper, and that the new set, including those values, are on white. A notice on the Centennial Exhibition states that the centennial envelope will be something after our Mulready style, representing the different modes of conveying the mails for the last hundred years. The writer evidently did not know much about the matter. Messrs. Scott & Co.'s case has arrived, and is described to be of solid black walnut wood, with plate glass sides, standing about fifteen feet high. It is so arranged that it can be inspected from three sides, presenting a space of about a hundred and twenty-five square feet, all closely covered with stamps, postal and revenue, foreign and American, many very rare, and not a few positively unique. Its former owner is said to have refused a thousand dollars for seven stamps. The writer pathetically adds that it will be sold, and the diligent labour of years wasted to enrich other albums.

The Philadelphian *Monthly* for May favours us with an article rebuking our "consistency." The editor accuses us of lamenting the circulation of forged postage stamps, and at the same time encouraging their sale by the purchase of them for specimens of falsities in the Spud Papers! The old story of the (so-called) distorted account of the Italian swindler's trial is raked up again. The real distortion was in the American notice of the same, giving the world to imagine the rascals were condemned, when they were really let free! A perusal of our last number will prove that we do not confine ourselves to *words* alone, but that active measures are being taken to counteract the proceeding of gangs of forgers and circulators of forgeries.

Three years ago a small magazine entitled *The Stamp-Collector's Monthly* was in circulation. From various causes it was then discontinued, but the publication thereof is now resumed. It is edited by F. H. Pinkham, Newmarket, New Hampshire, and is very neatly printed. There are only four pages, but the type is small, and a good deal of matter contrived to be got in. A grand prize distribution is the bait for subscribers.

THE PHILATELIC SOCIETY, LONDON.

THE thirteenth meeting of the season was held on the 13th of May, at the Chambers of the Vice-President, 4, Lamb Building, Temple, E.C. Senor de Ysasi in the chair. The Secretary read the correspondence, which included the following among others:—

A letter from the Rev. P. H. Newnham, containing some very interesting remarks on the Society's Reference Lists of English Colonial Stamps. This gentleman also forwarded for inspection a 1d. book-post band on greenish paper, and stated that he had a ½d. newsband on distinctly yellow paper.

A letter from Dr. Magnus addressed to the Society through the

President. The consideration of these two letters was postponed till the next meeting.

The Secretary proposed the admission of F. M. Rigge, Esq., as a member proper, which was agreed to.

Mr. George De Wilde drew the attention of the members to the fact that the 32 penni Finland, issued in 1875, first appeared perforated 14, like the Danish stamps, the first sheets being printed and perforated in Copenhagen. Subsequently that value and the others of the series were printed and perforated in Helsingfors, and were issued perforated 11.

The reading of the correspondence, and the discussions thereon, took up so much time, that no stamps were studied.

The next meeting was fixed for the 27th of May, and duly held, at the residence of Mrs. Tebay, 37, Belgrave Road, Pimlico. Senor de Ysasi took the chair. The Secretary was requested to answer Dr. Magnus's letter, which was read at the former meeting.

The stamps of Dominica, Turks Islands, and the Virgin Islands, were studied and compared.

The next meeting, which will be the annual general meeting, will be held on the 17th of June, at 26, Dawson Place, Bayswater, W. Only members of the Society will be allowed to be present at this meeting.

THE FRENCH TIMBROLOGICAL SOCIETY.

A SITTING was held on the 6th of April under the presidency of M. Carreton. Correspondence was read; novelties exhibited; and new members received, making the present number amount to fifty. After discussion on different subjects, a member exhibited a specimen of the Keble College stamp, promising to get information thereanent. We could inform him that it is strictly a local, used at the College in precisely the same way that the Swiss locals of the Belalp, &c., are employed, to mark the trifling charge for conveying letters written by the students, &c., to the nearest post-office. Mons. Long, among other information, stated that the stamps which pass under the name of Punjaubs belong to Rampour, one of the three great Mussulman states of India; this name accounting for the letter R so conspicuous thereon. The mysterious stamp brought forward for enquiry by M. de Ferrari at the last meeting, was stated, on examination, to appertain neither to Dutch Guiana, nor to the Dutch Indies, and that its origin is quite unknown. We always had an opinion, and see no reason to waive it, that the rare essay in question was made for the use of Java, &c., previously to the adoption of the well-known red stamp of similar value bearing the King of Holland's head. There was a discussion whether the emissions of Lombardo-Venetia should or should not be included among those of Austria in the catalogue of that country's stamps. It was left for further adjustment. The newspaper adhesives were pronounced worthy of admission therein; and the complementary stamps were also subjected to criticism, but with what issue is not mentioned in the report. We were informed, years ago, by the postmaster of Venice, that they had been generally employed as chiffre-taxe stamps, and have consequently always deemed them entitled to a

place in albums; but we have never had any interpretation of the white spots so conspicuous on them, which are too regular to combat the opinion of their unintentional presence. The next subjects for study will be the issues of Austria, Lombardo-Venetia, and Hungary.

POSTAL SCRAPS.

THE DESIGN ON THE NEVIS STAMPS, which is a fac-simile of the great seal of the colony, is symbolical of the healing virtues of the mineral springs for which the island is celebrated.—*Dr. Gray's Catalogue.*

REDUCTION OF POSTAGE TO FOREIGN COUNTRIES.—It is announced by order of the Postmaster-General that correspondence for the French colonies will be subject, on and after July 1, to the rates of postage applicable to the Postal Union. There will also be a reduction of postage to the East Indies, Aden, and Zanzibar, and to Australia and New Zealand, *viâ* Brindisi, and to Ceylon, the Straits Settlements, China, Labuan, and other foreign countries in the East, either *viâ* Brindisi or *viâ* Marseilles.

THE EARLY BOLIVIAN STAMPS.—These stamps, some of which are very rare, form interesting subjects of study. They were engraved in Bolivia, and are by no means superior to the general run of "native-printed" stamps. The design was engraved as many times as there were stamps on a sheet, so that no two are identical; besides which, when the plates became worn, they were, on more than one occasion, retouched; of the 5 centavos especially, at least four different states of the die can be recognised. —*Dr. Gray's Illustrated Catalogue.*

THE TURKISH POST-OFFICE.—The mail carriers in Turkey have about as easy and comfortable a time as could be imagined. In that benighted country they have no boxes, free or window deliveries. The carrier simply takes his bag of letters and newspapers into a hall, empties them into a large flat basket, opens the door, retires to the corner, and calmly smokes his chibouk while the people scramble for their letters. We presume the mail is open as long as the tobacco in the chibouk holds out, but when that is gone the mail must close.—*The Philatelic Monthly.*

THE SHANGHAI LOCAL POST-OFFICE. —The Local Post-office in Shanghai was established in 1865 by the English Municipal Council there. Although termed a "local" post, it does not confine its operations to the mere reception and delivery of letters from or for the town, but, working in concert with the Hong Kong Government Post-office, it receives letters for the Southern Chinese ports, the Straits, India, Australia, Europe, and America, though the postage on such letters must be prepaid in Hong Kong stamps. It is in every sense of the word a genuine undertaking, and its stamps are entitled to the fullest acceptance.—*Dr. Gray's Illustrated Catalogue.*

THE FIVE-CENT CANADIAN. — When the 1868 Canadian set appeared, a 5 cent die was prepared, but never issued, although much required. Proofs in brown were struck off (mentioned in *The Stamp-Collector's Magazine* for 1868), but it was not until the postage to England was reduced to 5 cents that it was thought necessary to issue stamps of that value. The die prepared in 1868 was then used, until one could be engraved of the small size. This will account for the large size being first issued to be so quickly displaced by the small.—*The Philatelic Monthly.*

THE INDIAN MAIL.—The distance from Southampton to Port Said is 3,050 miles, from Port Said through the Canal to Suez 85 miles; from Southampton to Aden 4,443 miles; and from Southampton to Bombay 6,107 miles. When we remember that each of these places,—to say nothing of Gibraltar and Suez,—receives once a week, as regularly as clock-work, a mail from England; and that besides them there is also a weekly fast mail, *viâ* Brindisi to London, it gives us some idea of what must be the importance and the magnitude of the correspondence between Great Britain and our Eastern Empire. There is on board each steamer a regular post-office. The mails for England are put on board at Bombay as they are received from the interior of India, and have to be sorted and packed for their different destinations before the boat reaches Suez. For this work two English gentlemen connected with the Post-office, and four subordinate natives, come on board at Bombay. From the latter port to Suez, fourteen days, they work ten hours a day, and when they reach Suez their labour of sorting the mails is hardly over. At Suez the different bags are sent to their respective destinations,—*viâ* Brindisi, *viâ* Southampton, or to the Continent. The number of these bags would astonish anyone who saw them for the first time. They completely fill a large sized rowing boat,—a boat that would carry with ease a dozen persons, besides the four

men who are rowing her. Nor are the bags themselves small. One of them is quite as much as a strong sailor, or Lascar, can carry on his back from the mail-room of the ship to the gangway. What the number of letters contained in each bag, or, still more, the whole number of letters on board the ship, must be, I refrain from hazarding even a guess. But the simple fact that every Monday throughout the year a mail steamer carrying this unknown quantity of correspondence leaves Bombay for London is a fact which, of itself, speaks volumes for the never ending intercourse between India and England.—*The Echo.*

THE STAMP EXCHANGE.

NOTICE.

For the accommodation of those subscribers who may be desirous of exchanging their duplicate stamps, a portion of *The Philatelist* is set apart each month to facilitate exchanges.

RULES.

1. Advertisements must be accompanied by the cheque given with each number.
2. Advertisements to be addressed to "The Editor of *The Philatelist*, Royal Colonnade, Brighton," and received not later than the 18th of the month.
3. The full name and address of the writer must be sent with each advertisement.
4. IF AN ADVERTISEMENT EXCEEDS 20 WORDS A CHARGE OF 6D FOR EVERY ADDITIONAL 10 WORDS WILL BE MADE.
5. *The Stamp Exchange* is intended for the use of amateur collectors only; notices from dealers cannot therefore be inserted.

A. C. THOMPSON, Cambridge House, Sandgate, has a few bank notes and rare stamps to exchange for other rare stamps.

J. STEPHENSON, Albemarle Lodge, Wimbledon Park, has got some good stamps to exchange.

ATHOL C. H. JOHNSTONE, St. Moritz House, Brighton, is in want of Nos. 26, 43, and 44 of *The Philatelist*. Good exchange.

A. M. REIS, 21, Lord Street, Liverpool, has many very scarce and valuable duplicates to exchange for others new to his collection.

CHARLES W. KING, Rozare Cottage, Ipswich, is in want of vols. i. to vii. of *The Philatelist*, and any kind of philatelical literature, in exchange for rare stamps.

W. STRONG, Alexandria, Egypt, has for exchange vol. ii. of *The Stamp-Collector's Magazine*, and requires Nos. 96 and 97 of vol. ix. of the same magazine.

L. R. TUTTLE, JUN., Box 590, Washington, D. C., United States, wishes to exchange Centennial envelopes and unused U.S. stamps with collectors. Has also many departmentals and foreign stamps. Correspondence requested.

THE EDITOR'S LETTER-BOX.

*** Correspondents sending specimens for inspection and return, are requested to enclose a stamped directed envelope.

E. H., Windsor.—Your stamps are returned with remarks as requested.

L. W. D., Philadelphia.—Thanks for the information respecting the 2 cents fawn envelope of the States.

A. R., Westbournia.—Thanks for your information and offer, of which we hope to avail ourselves.

H. F. C., St. Leonards-on-Sea.—No albums such as you require have been published in England.

A. M. R., Liverpool.—Your 5 cents Knoxville appears quite genuine, and is well worth what it cost you.

C. W. I., Toronto.—Other than advertisements for the Stamp Exchange are not now received for insertion in *The Philatelist.*

A. M., Montreal.—We advise you to write to the Secretary of the London Philatelic Society for the information you require.

J., Brighton.—Many thanks for the vaccination wrapper, of which we avail ourselves to give a fuller description than before, and are pleased to give an additional date.

A. C. T., Sandgate.—We have many letters sent from the Transvaal to the Cape, &c., franked by shilling stamps cut in half, presumably to do duty from lack of the sixpenny values.

L. H., Saumur. — The stamps you enclosed *may* be classed as fiscals; but we believe they are not usually acknowledged by fiscal collectors. The only publications we know treating thereon are those of Moens of Brussels, and Roussin and Mahe of Paris.

C. W. K., Ipswich; W. H. C., Derby; C. G. A. W., Demerara; L. R. T., Washington; and A. H. T., Bury St. Edmunds, are requested to accept the acknowledgments of the editor and publishers for information received, and specimens forwarded.

G. H. L., Leeds.—The envelopes of Würtemburg are on thin paper; and we have more than once noted, in reply to correspondents, that the die is often found repeated in the interior of the envelope, showing a colourless impression, such as you have remarked. It was formerly supposed that the Belalp locals were equally genuine whether printed in red, green, or violet. It was only last autumn that we were informed, by their proprietor on the spot, that the latter was the sole hue ever employed in his establishment, and that all others must be fictitious.

RECENT AND UNDESCRIBED EMISSIONS.

AUSTRIA.

WE have before us a new post card for this empire. It is printed of a red-brown colour on buff; CORRESPONDENZ-KARTE above, then three dotted lines with AN and IN; a 2 kreuzer stamp of the 1867 type at the right-hand upper angle, and the arms of the empire at the corresponding angle.

NEW CALEDONIA.

This illustration does not portray a stamp, but simply a postmark recently seen on an envelope received from New Caledonia. The inscription purports to say that the postage was prepaid in money for want of colonial stamps.



RUSSIAN LOCALS.

Arzamass.—The impressions of the new type of this district, described at page 67, are printed on sheets containing 25 stamps in three rows of eight; the remaining one being placed lengthwise by itself at the bottom. They all differ from one another in a slight degree as to the inscriptions, numerals, or stars.

Bogorodsk.—The 5 kopecks adhesive, noted in the May number, exists in three shades of colour; pale and bright red-violet, and wine-red. A blue 5 kop. envelope, large size, on white laid paper, answering nearly to the type of the pink 5 kop. of 1872, has turned up. The numerals at the angles are larger; that of the left-hand upper corner is in the natural position, the three others remain as before.

Ekaterinoslav.—We understand there is to be no further occasion for specials in this district, the postal authorities having with marvellous liberality undertaken to distribute letters henceforth gratuitously.

Starobjelsk.—This district, in the government of Charkov, has had an emission since New Year's Day last. They are evidently the productions of the same artist who designed the Charkov stamps, being close reminders thereof. There are two individuals of equal value; different in employment, and slightly but distinctly in type. They are both rectangular: and within fancy frame composed of wavy lines, bear a white oval frame inscribed, in coloured characters, "Rural Post of Starobjelsk District." This encloses an oval horizontally divided into two equal portions; the upper contains a horse *passant* on escutcheon *or*

surmounted by imperial crown on ground *argent*. The lower half contains value on ground *or*. Numerals and initials of value lie at each angle in white on coloured ground. So far they correspond: but that which is employed for regular postal purposes is imperforate, and has the central value represented by the figure 3 only: Blue; 3 kop. Its companion is perforated, and shows the word of value in full, and the abbreviation KOP. Yellow; 3 kop.

GREECE.

The Belgian magazine affords another queer specimen of official ignorance or carelessness. The editor, having heard of the existence of a 5 lepta green, on white paper, wrote for some, and received a reply denying the existence of such an issue. Nevertheless, the answer in question was prepaid with some of the very adhesives that were declared non-existent, and with a 10 l. vermilion, and 20 l. blue, likewise on white paper! This reminds us of writing some time since to Perth for specimens of the green sixpenny, and receiving a reply that none such had ever been issued, although the said reply was prepaid with *four* of the very stamps enquired for!

GERMAN EMPIRE.

It seems the list of returned-letter stamps given at page 80 is incorrect. Bremen and Bromberg were omitted; and Marienwerden and Stralsund must be expunged.

CUBA, &c.

At page 31 of this year's *Philatelist* are observations respecting the surcharge Y ¼ on certain of the Cuban stamps. Some remarks in a late number of the Brussels magazine may serve for an appendix to the same. The writer endorses the established signification Interior (Ynterior) ¼ (real). He adds "that the stamps of that value having been exhausted, and a delay of two months being required to fetch a supply from Madrid, the stamps which had already existence several times with the said surcharge, were brought to bear, but the conventional value of ¼ real was only given." We confess not perfectly comprehending this explanation.

The editor adds his resulting opinion that these stamps were emitted neither in 1855, 1856, nor 1857, the first emission of the value ¼ real-plata dating in 1862; and that probably, while waiting for a new envoy from Madrid towards 1863, the stamps of the *soi-disant* 1855-57 were issued; also that they were never chronicled until 1864, all catalogues omitting them so lately as 1862.

SPAIN.

It seems there exist forgeries of the 1, 4, and 10 pesetas of 1874 so perfectly executed that it is extremely difficult to distinguish them without the most careful examination and comparison. The paper, style of impression, and perforation, are closely imitated. One distinction exists, in that they are separately engraved, which may be seen by inspecting the ornamentation at the angles which differ in all three of the imitations, but are identical in the realities. Other differences exist in the back of the chair of justice, in the s of COMUNICACIONES and

especially in the words PESETA and PESETAS, notably in the letters P, E, T, and S.

CORDOBA.

Our readers may remember an adhesive bearing this name figured at page 153 of last year's *Philatelist*. A correspondent of the Belgian magazine writes, while enclosing some specimens, that although unable to lay hands on the actual decree authorising their creation, he had received official and reliable information that such decree had existence. It follows from this and previous proofs that the stamps in question were emitted towards the year 1860; that they are authentic; and were actually employed for postage.

VENEZUELA.

The 1 real adhesive of this republic is found with the surcharge in large letters like that on the ½ real. M. de Ferrari possesses a specimen of the former showing the words ESTAMPILLA DE CORRE, the letters os being omitted. The next word follows too closely for the supposition of the missing syllable having dropped out.

HUNGARY.

A new value of like type with the rest of the current stamps of this kingdom has been added to the set. Black, 20 kreuzer.

THE POSTAGE STAMPS OF FRANCE,

ARRANGED BY THE REV. C. STROOBANT.

REPUBLIC (1848—1852),

FIRST EMISSION, 1849-1850.

Dates of Issue.—1849, 1 January, 20 c. and 1 fr. vermilion; August, 1 fr., carmine; December, 40 c. 1850, 1 July, 25 c.; 23 July, 15 c.; 12 September, 10 c.



Description.—Design: profile of Republic to left, in a circle of pearls. Legend: REPUB. FRANC. POSTES. Coloured typographical impression on tinted yellowish paper. Unperforated.

Nomenclature.—Six values.

10 centimes.	Brownish yellow	2 shades.
15 ,,	Green	2 ,,
20 ,,	Black	2 ,,
20 ,,	Blue, *error*	
20 ,,	Blue, *surcharged* 25 *c. in red; prepared but never used.*	
25 ,,	Blue	4 shades
40 ,,	Orange	1 ,,
1 franc	Vermilion	1 ,,
1 ,,	Carmine	3 ,,

Tête-bêche stamps: 10, 20, 25, c. and 1 fr.

Re-impression.—1862. On white, or scarcely tinted paper. Paler shades than the originals.

10 centimes.	Brownish yellow
15 ,,	Green

20 centimes.		Black
25	,,	Blue
40	,,	Orange
1 franc.		Rosy carmine.

SECOND EMISSION, 1852.

Dates of Issue.—1852, 12 August, 25 c.; September, 10 c.



Description.—Design: profile of Louis Napoleon to left, in a circle of pearls. Legend: REPUB. FRANC. POSTES. The letter B. (the initial of Barre, the engraver's name) appears beneath the neck of the portrait. Coloured typographical impression on tinted paper. Unperforated.

Nomenclature.—Two values.

10 centimes.	Brownish yellow,	1 shade
25 ,,	Blue	2 ,,

Re-impression.—1862. On white or scarcely tinted paper. Paler shades.

10 centimes.	Dark yellow.
25 ,,	Light blue.

EMPIRE. NAPOLEON III. (1853-1870).

THIRD EMISSION, 1853-1860.

FIRST TYPE.

Dates of Issue.—1853, 17 August, 10 c. and 1 fr.; 8 September, 40 c.; 3 November, 25 c. 1854, 1 July, 20 c.; October, 80 c.; 4 November, 5 c. 1860, 1 November, 1 c.

Description.—Design: profile of Napoleon III. to left, in a circle of pearls. Legend: EMPIRE FRANC. POSTES. Coloured typographical impression on tinted paper.

Nomenclature.—Eight values.

A. Unperforated.

1 centime.	Olive-green		2 shades
5 ,,	Green		2 ,,
10 ,,	Brownish yellow		3 ,,
20 ,,	Blue		5 ,,
20 ,,	Blue on greenish	(1855)	1 ,,
20 ,,	Blue on bluish	(1858)	1 ,,
25 ,,	Blue		1 ,,
40 ,,	Orange		2 ,,
80 ,,	Carmine		3 ,,
1 franc	Carmine		1 ,,

B. Unofficially perforated. 1861.

1.—Perforated 7 (Susse), 1, 5, 10, 20, 40, 80 c.
2.—Rouletted in lines, 1, 5, 10, 20, 40, 80, c.
3.—Pierced *en scie*, 5, 20, 40 c.
4.—Pierced *en pointes*, 1, 20 c.

C. Perforated 13½, October, 1862.

1 centime.	Olive-green	3 shades
5 ,,	Green	3 ,,
5 ,,	Green on bluish (1871)	

10 centimes.	Brownish yellow	3 shades
20 ,,	Blue	3 ,,
40 ,,	Orange	2 ,,
80 ,,	Carmine	2 ,,

Tête-bêche stamps: 20, 80 c.

Re-impression.—1862. On white or scarcely tinted paper. Paler shades.

25 centimes.	Blue
1 franc.	Carmine

SECOND TYPE.

Date of Issue.—1859, 1 June, 10 c.

Description.—Design: denomination of value. Legend: CHIFFRE-TAXE. POSTES. A PERCEVOIR. Lithographic (A) and typographical (B) impression on white paper. Unperforated.

Nomenclature.—One value.

A. 10 centimes. Black 1 shade
B. 10 ,, ,, ,,

FOURTH EMISSION, 1863-1870.

FIRST TYPE.

Dates of Issue.—1863, 1 January, 2 c.; 13 September, 4c.; 1870, 1 May, 1 c.



Description.—Design: laureated profile of Napoleon III. to left, in a circle of pearls. Legend: EMPIRE FRANCAIS. POSTES.; large figures of value in lower corners. Coloured typographical impression on tinted paper.

Nomenclature,—Three values.

A. Perforated 13½.

1 centime.	Olive-green	2 shades
2 ,,	Brown	2 ,,
4 ,,	Grey	3 ,,

B. Unperforated. 1870. 2, 4 c.
C. Unofficially pierced on line. 2, 4 c.
Tête-bêche stamps, 4 c.

SECOND TYPE.



Dates of Issue.—1867, 4 April, 20, 30 c.; 15 November, 10 c. 1868, February, 80 c.; August, 40 c.

Description.—Design: laureated profile of Napoleon III. to left, in a circle of large pearls. Legend: EMPIRE FRANCAIS. POSTES. Coloured typographical impression on tinted paper.

Nomenclature. Five values.

A. Perforated 13½.

10 centimes.	Brownish yellow	2 shades
10 ,,	Brownish yellow, *surcharged* 10 *in blue; prepared in* 1871, *but never used.*	
20 ,,	Blue	3 shades
30 ,,	Brown	4 ,,
40 ,,	Orange	2 ,,
80 ,,	Carmine	3 ,,

B. Unperforated. 1870. 10, 20, 30, 40, 80 c.
C. Unofficially pierced on line. 10, 20, 30, 40, 80 c.

THIRD TYPE.



Date of Issue.—1869, 2 November, 5 fr.

Description.—Design: large transversal rectangle; laureated profile of Napoleon III. to left, in a grecian frame, and circle of large pearls. Legend: EMPIRE FRANCAIS. TIMBRE POSTE. Coloured typographical impression on rosy-tinted paper. Perforated 13½.

Nomenclature. One value.

5 francs. Lilac 3 shades

This stamp exists with 5 F. printed in blue.

FOURTH TYPE.



Date of Issue.—1863, 1 January, 15 c.

Description.—Design: denomination of value. Legend: CHIFFRE-TAXE. POSTES. A PERCEVOIR. Typographical impression on white paper.

Nomenclature.—One value.

A. Unperforated. 15 c., Black.

B. Unofficially pierced on line. 15 c., Black.

REPUBLIC (1870).

FIFTH EMISSION.

Bordeaux (1870).

FIRST TYPE.



Date of Issue.—1870, November, 1, 2, 4, c.

Description.—Design: profile of Republic to left, in a circle of pearls.—Legend: REPUB. FRANC. POSTES.; large figures of value in lower corners.—Coloured lithographic impression on tinted paper.

Nomenclature.—Three values.

A. Unperforated.

1 centime	Olive-green	2 shades.
2 ,,	Brown	4 ,,
4 ,,	Grey	2 ,,

B. Unofficially perforated.

1.—Pierced on line. 1, 2, 4 c.

2.—Perforated 13. 1, 2, 4 c.

SECOND TYPE.

Date of Issue.—1870, November, 5, 10, 20, 30, 40, 80 centimes.

Description.—Design: profile of Republic to left, in a circle of pearls. Legend: REPUB. FRANC. POSTES. Coloured lithographic impression on tinted paper.

Nomenclature.—Six values.

A. Unperforated.

5 centimes.	Green	3 shades
10 ,,	Brownish yellow	6 ,,
20 ,,	Blue (1st variety)	2 ,,
20 ,,	Blue (2nd variety)	7 ,,
20 ,,	Blue, with REPUR	

20 centimes.	Blue (3rd variety)	4 shades
20 ,,	Blue (4th variety)	1 ,,
30 ,,	Brown	3 ,,
40 ,,	Orange	7 ,,
80 ,,	Rosy carmine	4 ,,

B. Unofficially perforated.

1.—Pierced on line,—5, 10, 20 (2nd. and 3rd. varieties), 30, 40, 80 c.

2.—Pierced *en scie*, 20 c. (3rd variety)

3.—Perforated 13.—5, 10, 20 (3rd variety), 30, 40, 80 c.

THIRD TYPE.

Date of Issue.—1870, November, 15 c.

Description.—Design: denomination of value. Legend: CHIFFRE-TAXE. POSTES A PERCEVOIR. Lithographic impression.

Nomenclature.—One value.

A. Unperforated.

15 centimes.	Black on white,	1 shade
15 ,,	Black on bluish,	1 ,,

B. Unofficially perforated.

1.—Pierced on line.

15 centimes.	Black on white,	1 ,,
15 ,,	Black on bluish,	1 ,,

2.—Pierced on black line,

15 centimes.	Black on white,	1 ,,

SIXTH EMISSION.

Paris (1870-1873).

FIRST TYPE.

Dates of Issue.—1872, 10 May, 2 c.; June, 5 c.; July, 4 c.; 10 December, 1 c.

Description.—Design: profile of Republic to left, in a circle of pearls. Legend: REPUB. FRANC. POSTES. Large figures of value in lower corners. Coloured typographical impression on tinted paper. Perforated 13½.

Nomenclature.—Four values.

1 centime.	Olive-green	2 shades
2 ,,	Brown	4 ,,
4 ,,	Grey	2 ,,
5 ,,	Green	4 ,,

SECOND TYPE.

Dates of Issue.—1870, 11 October, 10, 20, 40 c.; 1871, 24 August, 15, 25 c.; 1873, January, 10 c., on rose.

Description.—Design: profile of Republic to left, in a circle of pearls. Legend: REPUB. FRANC. POSTES. Coloured typographical impression on tinted paper. Perforated 13½.

Nomenclature.—Five values.

10 centimes.	Brownish yellow,	2 shades
10 ,,	Brown on rose	1 ,,
15 ,,	Brownish yellow	6 ,,
20 ,,	Blue	4 ,,

25 centimes.	Blue	6 shades
40 ,,	Orange	5 ,,

Tête-bêche stamps: 10, 15, 20, 25 c.

THIRD TYPE.

Date of Issue.—1871, 24 August, 25, 40, 60 c.

Description.—Design: denomination of value. Legend: CHIFFRE-TAXE. POSTES. A PERCEVOIR. Coloured lithographic impression on white paper.

Nomenclature. Three values.

A. Unperforated.

25 centimes.	Black	1 shade
40 ,,	Blue	2 ,,
60 ,,	Brownish yellow	1 ,,

B. Unofficially pierced on line.—25, 40, 60 c.

SEVENTH EMISSION, 1872-1875.

Dates of Issue.—1872, September, 80 c.; October, 30 c. 1874, June, 15 c. 1875. March, 10 c.

Description. Design: profile of Republic to left, in a circle of pearls. Legend: REPUB. FRANC. POSTES. Thick figures on the lower border. Coloured typographical impression on tinted paper. Perforated 13½.

Nomenclature.—Four values.

10 centimes.	Brown on rose	1 shade
15 ,,	Brownish yellow	3 ,,
30 ,,	Brown	3 ,,
80 ,,	Carmine	3 ,,

THE SPUD PAPERS; OR, NOTES ON PHILATELIC WEEDS.

BY THE REV. R. BRISCO EAREE.

LVIII.

La Guaira.

1864; 3 C., BLACK ON YELLOW.

THERE have been several forgeries of the stamps of this series, but this 3 c. seems to belong to a new set of forgeries;—at all events, I have never met with it before, and it is quite distinct from the two sets of forgeries which I described in *The Philatelical Journal*, and again in *The Stamp-Collector's Magazine*, vol. xi., pp. 73. 74. In some respects it is better than either of the above-named forgeries, but I do not think I should call it a dangerous forgery.

Genuine.—Lithographed, in rather oily-looking black ink, on dull yellow paper; imperf. The outline of the stamp is formed of one thin black line. There is a large dot under T of ST., another after GUAIRA, and another after CABELLO. There is a very tiny flag on the mainmast of the steamer. The masts are very nearly the same height, and neither of them comes near the top of the containing rectangle. The 3 has an extra outline on the right side. The scroll containing CENTAVO is very plainly discernible, and is rounded at both ends. The stop after CENTAVO is on the *outline* of the scroll, and the letters (all except

the c) are joined together, top and bottom, by thin lines following the curve of the scroll. There is a small oblong ornament under NTA of CENTAVO. The smoke of the vessel does not reach the edge of the frame. The horizontal lines in the background are very clear, and are drawn at regular distances from each other.

Forgery.—Lithographed, in jet-black ink, on bright yellow paper; imperf. There are two distinct forgeries on the same sheet. The first has the horizontal lines in the background very clearly drawn, and the L of LA is only half its proper height. In the other the horizontal lines of the background are badly done, especially behind the 3, and the L of LA is the same height as the A. The following description will apply to both, unless otherwise specified. The outline of the stamp is formed of two thin lines, which run together on the right side, forming one thick line. No. 2 forgery has a *very* tiny dot under T of ST. In most copies there is no stop at all after GUAIRA and CABELLO; but if there *is* a stop after the one, it is not visible after the other; so that those copies which have a stop after GUAIRA, have none after CABELLO, and *vice versâ*. There is a very distinct flag on each mast. The mainmast is very much higher than the fore-mast, and touches the inside of the frame, almost under G of GUAIRA. The 3 is an ordinary figure. The scroll containing CENTAVO is very badly drawn, especially in No. 2 forgery, and the right end is not rounded off. The stop after CENTAVO is *inside* the scroll. The letters of CENTAVO are not joined together. There is no oblong ornament under the NTA of CENTAVO. The smoke of the vessel touches the inside of the frame, opposite the s of THOMAS. These forgeries are not postmarked.



THE BERLIN POSTAL MUSEUM.

THE imperial German postal administration, in the new building at No. 15, Leipzigerstrasse, Berlin, has founded an art museum, containing a very interesting collection of everything appertaining to the postal service. The various objects composing the said museum are grouped after the following classification:—

1st.—Postal buildings.
2nd.—Models and drawings of mail carriages.
3rd.—Official uniforms.
4th.—Furniture, books, maps, and everything else connected with the technical management of the post-office.
5th.—All the material for postal service in time of war.
6th.—Collection of postage stamps, cards, envelopes, money-order forms, &c.
7th.—Historical documents, &c.
8th.—Foreign postal institutions.

The first group comprises a plaster model of the principal frontage of the new post-office at Berlin, as well as several drawings and photographs of that building; also the designs of a great number of postal erections belonging to the State in other cities.

Among the carriage models may be found an open mail-cart of the last century, and a closed one of the same epoch; moreover, a specimen of every kind of mail vehicle in present use on common roads, and a couple of models of railway ambulating post-offices. Some of the mails are fully equipped with zinc horses in complete harness; thus giving a good idea of the manner in which the harnessing of one or more horses is managed, as well as of the different component parts of the whole equipage. These mail models, and especially the drawings which represent all the carriages employed by the German administration in the course of the present century, permit the visitor to apprehend the modifications successively introduced into the means of transport during that period.

In the third division of the museum may be remarked two figures of postilions of the natural size fully equipped; and also drawings and descriptions of postal uniforms worn both formerly and now-a-days by all classes of postal *employés*.

The fourth group contains a considerable number of models of letter boxes, constructed principally with the intention of realizing some preconceived idea; that, for instance, of assuring the security of correspondence by means of bags placed inside, and self-closing immediately upon the opening of the box by the postman, without his being able to tamper with the letters. With regard to printed books and maps, every sort which ought to be provided for the use of the more important offices may be seen in this same group.

In the section relative to the apparatus needful in time of war, is found a specimen of every object requisite for the complete establishment of an office, or for postal relays for army service during a campaign.

The collection of stamps, &c.. contains (with the exception of some obsolete emissions) a specimen of every adhesive, stamped envelope, post card, &c.; issues from the introduction of this method of prepayment down to our own days.

On the 1st of December, 1875, this collection comprehended 3,431 individual stamp impressions of every nature. The adhesives and envelopes, taken separately, are apportioned as follows:

	Adhesives.	Stamped Envelopes.
Europe	1404	285
Asia	207	21
Africa	170	8
America	765	77
Australia	160	2

The historical section is principally distinguished by a remarkable collection of drawings and copies representative of every system of transport employed from remote ages until the end of the last century. In addition may be remarked designs of the sedan chairs in use up to the commencement of the present century, as well as the plaster model of a statue representing a postman of the middle ages, the original of which ornaments the top of the principal staircase of the town hall at Basle. The same section comprises a sub-division consecrated to postal curiosities; this portion of the museum is

exclusively enriched by gifts from postal *employés* or amateurs. Seals and coins are also begun to be collected.

Objects relative to foreign postal institutions are represented in photographs forming a special gallery, among which are principally remarkable:

From Russia—a reindeer-post employed in the government of Archangel; a sledge-post used on the frozen river, Vitchegda, in the government of Vologda; a boat-post (Post Karbas) doing duty between Archangel and the monastery of Solovetski, situate on an island of the White Sea; and lastly an *arba* of Georgia, or Caucasian post (a two-wheeled car drawn by mountain oxen).

From Switzerland—The St. Gothard mail, and the diligence which serves the baths of Gournigel.

From the United States of America—Photographs of the head post-offices of New York, St. Louis, Chicago, New Orleans, &c.; edifices which, for the most part, are of a grandiose character, and are, besides, distinguishable for their fine architecture.

We have now but one desire, which is, that all governments would decide on following the lead of the German Empire, and establish museums after the plan of that of Berlin in their several capitals.

THE PHILATELIC SOCIETY, LONDON.

Report of Meeting of June 17th.

THE Annual General Meeting, the fifteenth and last of the season 1875-76, was held on June 17th, Senor Victor de Ysasi in the chair.

The Secretary and Treasurer laid before the meeting the accounts for 1875-76, which were passed *nem. con.* The election of the Committee for 1876-77 was then proceeded with. Owing to the increase of the Society, as evidenced by the accounts, which show a good balance in hand, it was agreed by the members present that two gentlemen should be placed on the Committee in addition to those elected, and that an Assistant Secretary be appointed.

On the proposal of several of the members, the Statutes of the Society were amended, a copy of which as they now stand will be found below, together with a list of the Committee for 1876-77.

The following novelties were exhibited:—15 centimes, France, June 15, 1876, by Diogène; a French international post card printed on buff instead of on white, by F. G. Lott; a complete sheet of New Zealand ½d. stamps, with star watermark, by the Secretary; post cards of Victoria, Austria and Greece, 1876, by Señor V. G. de Ysasi.

The Secretary read an extract from a French newspaper, sent by G. Campbell, Esq., giving a list of the new French stamps, with their colours, which were as follows:—

1	centime,	emerald-green	25	centimes	ultramarine
2	,,	,,	30	,,	bistre
4	,,	,,	40	,,	madder
5	,,	,,	75	,,	carmine
10	,,	,,	1	franc	bronze-green
15	,,	steel-grey	5	,,	lilac
20	,,	red-brown			

The 20 c., 75 c., and 1 fr. are new values. The stamp of 80 c. will be suppressed on the exhaustion of the present stock. The 15 c. was issued on June 15th.

By an oversight of the printer the following was omitted from last month's *Philatelist*,—"Diogène exhibited a specimen of the first type Melitopol, and a pair of first type Outssissolk."

Statutes.

REVISED AND AMENDED AT THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING, HELD JUNE 17, 1876.

I.—Name.

Art. 1.—The English Society of Philatelists was constituted on the 10th of April, 1869, under the name of "The Philatelic Society, London."

II.—Objects.

Art. 2.—The objects of the Society are:—

1° The study of postage stamps, stamped envelopes, newspaper bands, and post cards, in their relation to history, geography, engraving, printing, paper making, &c.;

2° The facilitating and spreading of Philately;

3° The detection and prevention of forgeries.

III.—Membership.

Art. 3.—All amateurs, ladies and gentlemen, whatever their nationality, political views, or religious creed, are eligible as members of the Society.

Art. 4.—Candidates for admission must be proposed in writing by one of the members, and elected by unanimity of votes.

IV.—Composition of the Society.

Art. 5.—The Society is composed of:—

a Members proper;

b Corresponding members;

c Honorary or Titular members;

d Free members.

Art. 6.—Corresponding members consist of amateurs (ladies and gentlemen) and dealers residing in the United Kingdom or abroad.

Art. 7.—Dealers are *only* admitted as corresponding members, and cannot, in any case, attend the meetings.

Art. 8.—Corresponding members, dealers excepted, may, at any time, attend the meetings, by notifying their intention to the Secretary and Treasurer.

Art. 9.—Honorary or Titular members consist of gentlemen who, although not collectors themselves, are willing to furnish the Society with information concerning the stamps of the country in which they reside, or through which they may happen to travel.

Art. 10.—Free members consist of the publishers appointed by the Committee, and in whose magazines the reports of the proceedings of the Society do appear.

Art. 11.—Subscribers may, at any time, bring a friend with them, to be present at a meeting; the same friend not to be brought more than *once*.

V.—Committee.

Art. 12.—The business of the Society is conducted by a Committee composed of seven members, as follows:

1. A President;
2. A Vice-President;
3. A Secretary and Treasurer;

and four members proper.

Art. 13.—All the members of the Committee must reside in London.

Art. 14.—The election of the Committee takes place at the annual meeting of the Society, on the first Saturday in May.

Art. 15.—Every member of the Committee is elected for a year, and can be re-elected.

Art. 16.—The Secretary and Treasurer conducts the correspondence of the Society, keeps the minutes, and draws up the reference lists.

Art. 17.—The Secretary and Treasurer has charge of the funds of the Society, and is to present the balance sheet to the Committee, in time that it may be audited and laid before the Society, at the annual meeting in May.

VI.—Subscriptions.

Art. 18.—The annual subscription for members proper, and for corresponding members, amateurs, and dealers, residing abroad, is *Ten Shillings*; for corresponding members, amateurs, and dealers, residing in the United Kingdom, *Six Shillings*.

Art. 19.—The subscription is paid on being admitted a member, and annually, on or before the 1st of January, always in advance.

Art. 20.—On the 1st of March the names of those members who have not paid their subscriptions for the ensuing year, will be erased from the Society's books.

Art. 21.—Members wishing to withdraw from the Society, must notify their intention to the Secretary and Treasurer, on or before the 1st of December.

Art. 22.—All communications intended for the Society must be addressed to "The Secretary and Treasurer, 272, Cornwall Road, Notting Hill, W." and should contain nothing whatever of a private nature.

Art. 23.—Remittances by letter must be sent by P. O. O. payable to H. A. DE JOANNIS, at Ladbroke Grove Road P. O., London, W., and addressed as above (Art. 22).

VII.—Meetings.

Art. 24.—Meetings are held in London, *always* on a Saturday, at such a date, place, and time as the Committee may appoint.

Art. 25.—The meetings are presided over by the President, or, in his absence, by the Vice-President.

Art 26.—Should both the President and Vice-President be prevented from attending, the senior member of the Committee will take the chair.

Art. 27.—As soon as the chair is taken, the Secretary and Treasurer is to read the minutes of the previous meeting, as well as all communications he may have received on behalf of the Society.

Art. 28.—The business appointed for the day is to be proceeded with *without interruption.*

Art. 29.—Any novelties are to be exhibited after the business of the meeting is over.

Art. 30.—Any member of the Committee has a right, at any meeting, to call upon the Secretary and Treasurer to produce at the following meeting, both the book containing the copies of the letters written by him, and the account book showing what moneys have been received and spent on behalf of the Society.

VIII.—Publications.

Art. 31.—Reports of the proceedings of the Society are published in an English magazine.

Art. 32.—The reference lists of the stamps studied at the meetings will be published from time to time by the Society in a separate form.

Art. 33.—At the request of two members of the Committee, and with the approval of a majority of the said Committee, any of the foregoing Articles may be suspended *pro tem.*

COMMITTEE FOR THE YEAR 1876-1877.

President:—Sir Daniel Cooper, Bart.

Vice-President:—F. A. Philbrick, Esq.

Secretary and Treasurer:—H. A. de Joannis, Esq.

Dr. C. W. Viner.

Senor V. G. de Ysasi.

T. K. Tapling, Esq.

M. Raffalovich, Esq.

Assistant Secretary:—F. G. Lott, Esq. (not in Committee).

Nota.—Copies of the Statutes may be had on application to the Secretary and Treasurer, 272, Cornwall Road, Notting Hill, W., or to F. G. Lott, Esq., 34, Blenheim Crescent, Notting Hill, W.

THE FRENCH TIMBROLOGICAL SOCIETY.

SITTINGS were held on the 4th of May and 1st of June last. At the former, an application from Mr Casey, of New York, to have his projects for mounting envelopes discussed, was rejected. In reference to the Tours *soi-disant* stamps and the London Philatelic Society, the Secretary complained of the introduction of his private letter into a public discussion; and with respect to the question of certain specimens being lithographed or otherwise, further study of the same was invited, and members requested to take steps for the requisite examination of the stamps, and thereby settling the dispute.

M. De Bosredon was criticised for the omission of Belgian publications written in French, from his *Bibliographie Timbrologique,* thus ignoring

the first two numbers of the Society's Bulletin. He jocosely replied that he did not care to be reproached for annexing Belgium to France, even timbrologically; and would hereafter complete his work by a list of Belgian publications.

The Austrian stamps being under examination, it was concluded that the contemporary emissions of the German and Italian provinces of that empire ought to be considered as forming a part thereof: but that the stamps of Hungary should be treated separately. The newspaper stamps were to fall under a separate category; and in the discussion that ensued, it was demonstrated—(1) That these stamps are not sold to individuals at the post-offices, which do not possess them;*—(2) The public must frank their papers with ordinary stamps; (3) The zeitungs-stempel adhesives cannot serve for letters; (4) They are sold by the central administration to newspaper proprietors only, entitling them to a reduced payment. Their proper place in catalogues was reserved for future consideration.

At the June sitting, the specimen of a New Caledonian postmark, mentioned in the present number, was exhibited by the Secretary. The catalogue of Austrian stamps was proceeded with; the labours of M. Schmidt de Wilde on the subject being fully approved. The fiscal portion thereof, compiled by Dr. Legrand, was likewise adopted. The next meeting was fixed for the 6th of July; when the stamps of Hungary and those of Portugal and her colonies are to form matter for examination.

POSTAL SCRAPS.

THE POSTAL RATES IN RHYME:—The following is the scale of postal rate in the latest style of rhyme:—

A ha'penny stamp for a circulair.
A ha'penny stamp for a newspapair.
A penny stamp for a sealed lettair.
All licked on in the right cornair.
Lick, brothers, lick with care,
On the right hand side, not everywhere,
Unless you want the postmastair
To make things hot, and "cuss and swear."

THE WHITE HORSE OF HANOVER.—Like the white elephants in Siam, the white horses of early German worship were carefully preserved and tended. In the neighbourhood of the haunted Harz mountains was their principal abiding place; and the sacred animal is frequently seen carved over the doors of dwellings in North-Western Germany. The same effigy is still to be found on some German coins; and stamp collectors do not need being reminded of the horses portrayed on so many of the Hanoverian and Brunswick stamps.

THE DILIGENCIA STAMP OF MONTE VIDEO:—These stamps,—original impressions of which are very scarce,—appear to have been issued, in reality, by the proprietors of the diligences running between the town of Montevideo and the interior, and the charges were collected for their benefit. This we infer from the fact that the decree of 1859 opens as follows: "The prepayment of letters is *hereby* established, and the postal administration is forbidden to send any letter which does not bear a stamp;" and also from the fact that no reference is made therein to any pre-existing issue of stamps. Subsequently to the decree of 1859, the offices of the diligences became branch post-offices. Originals of the above stamps are very scarce.—*Dr. Gray's Illustrated Catalogue.*

THE FIRST ISSUE OF BRAZIL.—Brazil had the honour of being the first country in the world to adopt the cheap postage system introduced by Great Britain. It appears that a Brazilian consul, Mr. J. D. Sturz, who was stationed in a European town, comprehended its importance, and used all his influence at home to get it tried there. His efforts were successful; the decree ordering that *postage should be prepaid in stamps*, was signed on the 29th November, 1842, but the first series did not actually come into use until the 1st

* We have frequently purchased them at post-offices both in Austria proper and the provinces.—*Ed.*

July, 1843. It was originally intended to put the sovereign's effigy on the stamps, as in England, but (the report goes) that the postmaster-general considered it would be showing disrespect to obliterate the face of the monarch, so recourse was had to the "bull's-eye" type.—*Dr. Gray's Illustrated Catalogue.*

STAMP COLLECTING IN AMERICA.—The other evening, crossing at Fulton Ferry, as the writer was placing some tickets in his pocket he chanced to expose an envelopeful of used stamps that he was taking home for his little girl, who is "making a collection." Instantly a stranger sitting beside leaned over with a manifestation of deep interest. "Ah!" he said, "a philatelist? What department, sir? I'm general and Asia myself." The remark led to an extended conversation and subsequent researches which disclosed the fact that the pursuit of philately, or in other words the collection of postage stamps, is literally one of the great industries of the country. J. W. Scott & Co., formerly of Nassau street, and now on Fulton, are at the head of the American trade. That trade is not a small one, for this single house has a stock valued at 50,000 dollars; there are mercantile collections of still greater value at London, Liverpool, Brighton, Brussels, and Paris (two at Paris); and sworn evidence in a law suit by an expert places the number of collectors in the United States at 200,000, the value of their collections ranging all the way from 5 to 20,000 dols.—*The World, New York.*

LIVE ANIMALS BY POST.—The arrangements of the Post-office are in some respects inimical to private enterprise, and it was but the other day that a person residing at some distance from Dantzic, having been requested by the proprietor of a menagerie in that town to forward two hares to his address, found himself confronted by a postal regulation forbidding the transmission of live animals by post. It then occurred to him to chloroform the hares, carefully calculating the dose in order that they might remain in an insensible condition until delivered. But the train was late, the parcels were verified, and laid aside in the sorting room to be sent out next morning. Accordingly, a sorter entered the room at dawn, went through the letters and parcels, and missed "108, two hares." He looked for them high and low but in vain. Their disappearance seemed inexplicable; the lock of the door was intact, the window barred, and the whole staff unanimously declared that the parcel of game was there the night before. As the bewildered sorter again looked round the apartment, one of the hares shot by him, followed by the other, on the back of which the post-office stamp at D—— was plainly visible; both started out at the open door. This was too much for the nerves of the sorter, who almost fell to the ground in astonishment; and the thought of the spectral hares would long have embittered his lonely hours had not the proprietor of the menagerie called to enquire after the expected consignment, and explained the circumstances. It is needless to add, that "108" and his companion have not been seen since their hurried exit from the Dantzic Post-office.—*Pall Mall Gazette.*

THE STAMP EXCHANGE.

NOTICE.

For the accommodation of those subscribers who may be desirous of exchanging their duplicate stamps, a portion of *The Philatelist* is set apart each month to facilitate exchanges.

RULES.

1. Advertisements must be accompanied by the cheque given with each number.
2. Advertisements to be addressed to "The Editor of *The Philatelist*, Royal Colonnade, Brighton," and received not later than the 18th of the month.
3. The full name and address of the writer must be sent with each advertisement.
4. IF AN ADVERTISEMENT EXCEEDS 20 WORDS A CHARGE OF 6D FOR EVERY ADDITIONAL 10 WORDS WILL BE MADE.
5. *The Stamp Exchange* is intended for the use of amateur collectors only; notices from dealers cannot therefore be inserted.

J. SARPY, 160, High Holborn, London, has a quantity of stamps which he wants to exchange with collectors at home or abroad.

A. M. REIS, 21, Lord Street, Liverpool, has many very scarce and valuable duplicates to exchange for others new to his collection.

ATHOL C. H. JOHNSTONE, Lochgelly House, Lochgelly, Fife, N.B., has for exchange Spain, 1851, 5 reales; 1872, 4 and 10 pesetas.

W. STRONG, Alexandria, Egypt, has for exchange vol. ii. of *The Stamp-Collector's Magazine*, and requires Nos. 96 and 97 of vol. ix. of the same magazine.

T. H. RIDLEY, Woodlands, Dulwich Wood Park, Surrey, has Nos. 72 to 79 (inclusive) of *The Philatelist* to exchange for stamps or post cards new to his collection.

L. R. TUTTLE, JUN., Box 590, Washington, D. C., United States, wishes to exchange Centennial envelopes and unused U.S. stamps with collectors. Has also many departmentals and foreign stamps. Correspondence requested.

RECENT AND UNDESCRIBED EMISSIONS.

CABUL.

WE described in June a pair of emissions for this government, the 8 shahis value of which is here figured. Our publishers have since received direct from their place of issue a set of five, whose general appearance answers to the above except in the bottom characters enouncing the value, none of which correspond to those in the engraving. This may be accounted for by the fact that the values marked by their correspondent are not shahis but annas. Neither do the colours of the set on view agree; being all of a more or less bluish grey. The lowest value is nearly blue, the highest rather less so; the 8 annas has but a slight tinge of that hue; the other two are nearly of the same tint. The values are: 1, 2, 4, and 8 annas, and 1 rupee.



ICELAND.

The currency of the parent country having been changed from skillings to öre, its dependency naturally follows suit. A new set of like type with the preceding has recently appeared; values and colours as follow:—

5 öre,	ultramarine	10 öre,	carmine	20 öre,	lilac
6 ,,	grey	16 ,,	brown	40 ,,	yellow-green

The service stamps vary in type from those superseded. Within central oval an escutcheon surmounted by a crown bears numerals of value. A rectangular frame has ISLAND above; value 10, 16, or 20 AUR. below; PJONUSTU POSTFRIM at sides.

10 öre,	ultramarine	16 öre,	carmine	20 öre,	yellow-green

SARAWAK.

From default of a supply of the 2 cents lilac, the current 3 cents has been utilized with the required value 2 *cents* surcharged thereon in black.

GREAT BRITAIN.

Our international 2½d. stamp has already reached its third edition, as may be seen by the minute 3 thereon. This variation may have been expected; but there is another still more marked, viz., the adoption of a new watermark; to wit, an orb surmounted by a cross.

FRANCE.

Most of our readers will doubtless have been familiar ere this with the actually current new emission for this republic, and will have remarked the discrepancies between the annexed long-known proposed, and supposed-to-be adopted, type, and that really chosen. For the benefit of those who have not yet seen the actualities we just note the variations. The stamp in use is smaller and proportionably broader; the globe is almost obscured by a white tablet bearing the numerals of value; the minute POSTE has been enlarged; and the name at the base is now colour on white, in lieu of white on colour. We fancy art-critics will be satisfied neither with the design nor the execution of the issue under notice. The five lower values being all of the same colour is another great defect, likely to lead to much confusion. The set is not in full use yet, awaiting the gradual extinction of the stock on hand. The only values yet out are 5 c., 15 c., 25 c., and 30 c. There is one revived value in this new set, and we find also one hitherto unused in any country. The colours given in a French journal are: emerald green, 1, 2, 4, 5, 10 c.; steel-grey, 15 c.; red-brown, 20 c.; ultramarine, 25 c.; pale brown, 30 c.; madder, 40 c.; carmine, 75 c.; bronze-green, 1 franc; lilac, 5 fr. The 15 c. is certainly not steel-grey, there being a decided tinge of lilac in it; and the 40 c. is probably what we call lake. A correspondent possesses a French post card dated 7, 75, and writes that all of the new type bear the date of the month in which they were issued.



CASHMERE.

Two emerald-green impressions of this country have lately turned up, of the second die of the round type. Their respective values are ½ anna and 4 annas.

DOMINICAN REPUBLIC.

The violet 1 real, and also the green one of that same value, have been seen divided diagonally, to serve for their half value.

NORWAY.

A new set of adhesives, &c., value in öre, is announced for this kingdom, types remaining as before. Values and colours of adhesives:

1 öre,	brown-grey	12 öre,	green
3 ,,	orange	20 ,,	red-brown
5 ,,	blue	25 ,,	lilac
10 ,,	carmine	50 ,,	pale red

PHILIPPINE ISLANDS.

According to *Le Timbre-Poste* the adhesives in actual use in this Spanish dependency of the now dying Spanish type—head of King Alfonso to right, FILIPPINAS above, value below,—are 12½ c. de p., green; 25 c. de p., brown; 50 c. de p., blue; and 1 peso, black. We have ourselves—2 c. de p., carmine, and 12 c. de p., violet-mauve.

CUBA, &c.

Of the same type (Alfonso's profile) we have 12½ c. de peseta, green; 25 c. de p., violet; the latter bearing a paraphe. In reference to this,

a correspondent of M. Moens writes that, "at the Havanna, all public documents and stamped papers are paid for in paper money, and consequently a large amount of stamped matter was sent to Porto Rico and there paid for in silver, to the prejudice of the treasury." To remedy this, the government of Porto Rico forbade the circulation of any stamps unless those sold in the island, and this gave rise to the use of the paraphe or official signature, and not any emission of forgeries as at first supposed. The stamps of 1868-9 surcharged HABILITADO, &c., were used in Porto Rico only.

UNITED STATES.

The engraving below represents the design of the stamp on the Centennial envelope described last month. We have received from a correspondent a communication to the effect that he has one postmarked printed not in green, as originally, but dull red, the regular existence of which is confirmed by the American magazines. Another correspondent from the States writes to correct an error in our notice of the lower values of the newspaper stamps described in an early number of this volume. The figures depicted thereon were originally supposed to be wild Indians in full state dress; and certainly the engraving of the 2 cents (see p. 9) quite answers to that idea. The real stamp itself is rather less like; but it seems that the design was really copied from the bronze statue of freedom which crowns the dome of the Capitol at Washington. Mr. Chute, the gentleman in question, forwards a very beautiful engraving thereof, which gives quite another idea of the character portrayed, and being full-faced has a noble appearance. Both the stamps themselves and their depicted representations being in profile, the helmet of the original, which is fronted by a coronet of stars, and is very badly copied, gives a wild outlandish appearance to the figure, so that the mistake is easily accounted for. The same gentleman adds the singular information that the reprints of 1861-66 and 69 are equally available for postage with the current values; that all stamps issued prior to the war are obsolete.



COLOMBIAN STATES.

A pair of stamps, most probably the first instalments of a new set have been recently put in circulation for this republic. One bears the usual eagle in a circle; CORREOS NALES above; value in words below; roman numeral at the angles in a circle. Lilac on white; 5 centavos. Female head to right, having LIBERDAD in minute capitals on her diadem, within a narrow circle inscribed ESTADOS UNIDOS DE COLOMBIA above, nine stars below. At top, CORREOS NALES in white on coloured band; value in words similarly at bottom. In the spandrels some ornamentation and what are presumably intended for roman numerals in small circles. Light brown; 10 c.

Same profile accompanied by the nine stars encircled by band inscribed CORREOS NALES EE UU DE COLOMBIA. In curved lines VEINTE above, CENTAVOS below; numerals at angles. Blue; 20 c.

BRITISH GUIANA.

We have seen some of the higher values of the new emission, among which is a new one viz., 96 cents. The whole set consists of—

1 cent,	black	12 cents,	violet
2 ,,	orange	24 ,,	green
6 ,,	blue	48 ,,	pink
8 ,,	lake-pink	96 ,,	light olive

GUATEMALA.

The reply card of this republic is like the simple one with the exception of a slight variation in the frame, and the necessary addition of the word RESPUESTA. In one of them is an error the word being misprinted RESQUESTA. The cards are joined above.

TURKEY.

A new adhesive has been in circulation since the 20th of April last. It is like those destined for international service without having the value repeated in French, because it is intended for internal use only. Yellow; 1 piastre.

VICTORIA.

We have received a consignment of the new post cards for the use of this colony. They were issued on the 10th of April. The design is an evident copy of our own; the heading, arms, and inscription being the same with the addition of the word TO in italics. But the execution is very poor: the texture of the card is coarse, and they are unevenly cut, so that a portion of the left side of the frame is frequently cut off. The frame is of a rope pattern. The stamp of 1863 on the right. Lilac impression on pale yellow; 1 penny. By favour of a correspondent we have a specimen of the first introduction of post cards into Victoria. They are strictly official, and have been used for some years by the Lands and Survey Department. On the address side we find the Royal Arms above, and beneath it ON HER MAJESTY'S SERVICE. Beneath this in two lines NAME, ADDRESS, each word being followed by a guiding line. Then at the right hand lower corner TURN OVER. The other side bears a printed form of the transfer of a lease, spaces being left for the names of places, &c., date and signature. On the address side is the official stamp of the department. This is cancelled and the usual date-stamp added.

JAPAN.

The latest emission of this empire is a new value. The type approximates that of the 6 sen., having the conventional chrysanthemum and wreath within gartered oval frame inscribed in native characters; value in English below as in that stamp. Rectangle completed by ornamentation. Pale green; 5 sen.

GREENLAND.

The Leipzig magazine warns collectors against falsities purporting to represent this country. The values are 2 skilling, red, and 8 sk., blue.

NETHERLANDS.

The 5 cent card bears now a light brown frame instead of lilac. The rest of the colouring remains as before. Blue stamp on buff.

PORTUGAL, AZORES, AND MADEIRA.

From a specimen kindly forwarded by a subscriber, we describe the new journal-stamp for Portugal, which does duty also for the above-mentioned colonies when duly surcharged. Broad rectangle; numerals of value within oblong oval frame, inscribed with value in words above, CORREIO below. In straight bands PORTUGAL above, JORNAES below. Bronze on plain white paper; perforated; 2½ reis.

CURACOA AND SURINAM.

From the Brussels magazine we gather that the long-expected cards for these Dutch colonies are at last in circulation. Their frames are like that of the Dutch Indian cards, with the type of the current stamps at the right hand, BRIEFKAART in the middle; four lines for address: the first headed by AAN, the last by A. The card for Curaçoa has a 15 cents brown; that for Surinam the same value in grey.

PERSIA.

All doubt respecting this emission is for ever at rest. We saw lately a large importation thereof in Paris. The colours are black, blue, green, and red.

LUXEMBURG.

We possess specimens of a new value adhesive for this duchy, 5 centimes, yellow; hole perforation; and hear of the emission of the 12½ c. rose-violet with similar improvement. Among the officials are 2 c. black, and the above 5 c. yellow. The 6 c. card of the new type is in use.

SWITZERLAND.

The 10 centimes, rappen, or centesimi card has been denuded of its frame in conformity with the 5 c. r. c.

THE SPUD PAPERS; OR, NOTES ON PHILATELIC WEEDS.

BY THE REV. R. BRISCO EAREE.

LIX.

Mauritius.

1857: BLUE.

THIS stamp (which is a good deal more common now than it was a few years ago) is a fair specimen of *taille-douce* engraving; and, though the forgers have been wonderfully careful, the counterfeit is very far from equalling the beauty of the original, so that there is no very great probability of our young friends being taken in, if they will only use a little ordinary caution.

Genuine.—Well engraved in *taille-douce*; imperf. The corner-rays of the eight-pointed stars in the angles point accurately to the four corners of the little squares which contain them. There is a tiny white dot in the centre of each star. The border of the stamp is formed of little half-moons interlaced, with all the cusps pointing inwards. The background consists of vertical strips of engine-turning; some of the strips looking like fine lace. The tassel or knob of the cap of liberty is of the same colour as the rest of the cap. The union

jack is just visible upon the shield, which is shaded all over. The merchandise in the foreground consists of a bale and a chest, and the bale seems to be tied or fastened with a broad band. The lines of shading on the bale are wavy. The bowsprit and jib of the vessel are plainly visible, and the sea is darkly shaded. The foot of the figure is well shaped, and the half of the spear-head, which is nearest to the figure is shaded. The fingers of the hand which rests on the shield are not shaded. The M and S of MAURITIUS are exactly the same distance from their respective ends of the name label.

Forged.—Lithographed, on very white paper; imperf. Only one or two of the corner rays of the stars in the angles point to the corners of the containing squares; and in most copies of the forgeries, the dots in the centre of the stars are almost invisible, notably the one in the left lower corner. The border of the stamp is a sort of clumsy lace-work. The background is composed of simple shading, without any defined pattern. The tassel of the cap of liberty is a round white dot. The front rim of the shield is white, and there is no union jack. The merchandise in the foreground consists of two bales, the larger one being fastened with a rope. The lines of shading on both bales are straight. The bowsprit of the vessel is not visible, and the jib looks like part of the foresail. The sea has the appearance of soap-suds, and is not much shaded. The foot of the figure is dreadfully "splay." There is a dark line down the centre of the spear-head, but the rest of it is white. The fingers of the left hand are so very darkly shaded that they are scarcely visible, except upon close inspection. The M of MAURITIUS is much nearer to the end of the name label than the s is.



Postmarks.—The forgeries are postmarked with four concentric circles.

Japan.

1872: 2 SEN, VERMILION.

I would caution our readers against the forgery of this stamp, as it is very likely to mislead, and the forgers have been unusually successful with it.

Forged.—Lithographed, on whitish wove pelure paper; pin-pricked 13. The ink does not stand out from the paper at all, and the design is blotched in many parts. There are only two lines forming the outer border,—a thick one and a thin one. There are seven-and-a-half lozenges running across the top of the stamp inside the etruscan border. The lozenges at the bottom are like the genuine, except that the last on the left is smaller than the rest. The tongues of both dragons touch the lozenges above them. The best tests for these forgeries are the wove paper, and the small pin-pricked perforations, instead of the unmistakably *laid* paper and large machine-perforations of the genuine.



Genuine.—Engraved in *taille-douce*, on very yellowish laid pelure paper; perf. 11. There are many differences between this stamp and its counterfeits, but it is a matter of very great difficulty to describe

them,—as anyone may see for himself, who will take both, and lay them side by side and compare them. The ink stands out very well from the paper, and the different parts of the design are not blotched in any part, except that the outer line of the frame sometimes runs into the next line, forming one thick line instead of two thin ones. As this line is seldom blotched all the way round, it will be seen that there are three lines forming the outer border of the stamp. There are seven lozenge-shaped ornaments running across the stamp, both above and below the dragons, inside the etruscan bordering, and parallel with it. The tongue of the left-hand dragon touches the lozenge immediately above it, but the tongue of the right-hand dragon does not.

Postmarks.—All my own used copies are postmarked with a square, enclosing some Japanese characters, struck in blue. The forgeries have three varieties of postmarks on the one sheet: a large, solid, five-pointed star, a single-lined circle containing NAGASAKI, and a black, circular patch, divided into four quarters, and the quarters so far removed from each other as to leave a white cross in the centre. I am sorry that I cannot give a fuller description than the above of this forgery, but the design is so very complicated that I should only confuse, instead of enlightening the reader.

OUR FOREIGN CONTEMPORARIES.

TWO numbers of the Belgian magazine lie before us, those for the months of June and July. Besides the usual novelties and resuscitations, some of which are transferred with due acknowledgments to our own annals, there are editorial articles of interest. More than three pages are devoted to the completion of Dr. Magnus's article on the stamped envelopes, &c., of Japan; and upwards of two to another on the post cards of Roumania. Notices on some falsities of the 1874 Spanish; on the postals of Cordoba, chronicled and figured in last year's *Philatelist*, p. 153; on the Holte locals; and on the surcharged 1¼ Cuban adhesives, with other equally instructive matter, render these two numbers readable and interesting. An account of a visit, by a well-known philatelic noble, to the lately founded Postal Museum at Berlin is worth reading.

In the *Timbre Fiscal* the editor considers the Impuesto de Guerra Spanish adhesives to be strictly fiscals. Many of our readers must have met with stamps of the island of Grenada, yellow in colour, surcharged with various values in green. In addition to those generally seen five other values are chronicled, 6d., 9d., 1s., 2s., 5s.; also several misprints forming so many errors. It is singular that the West Indian island, Montserrat, has an adhesive fiscal and stamped paper peculiar to its own use, but no postals.

The *Gazette des Timbres* has not appeared for some time. *L'Ami*, for July, is full of descriptions and cuts. From the recent numbers of the Leipzig magazine we get the colours of some of the new stamps of British Guiana which we had not seen. That of the new high value not noted by Dr. Moskau we give from ocular inspection. The latest emission of Japan is figured in the current number. A specimen of the new Spanish and its watermark,—the tower of

Arragon,—also appear portrayed therein. The June number holds a catalogue of the German philatelic literature.

The second number of the Trieste publication, *Il Timbrofilo*, is but half the size of No. 1 from unavoidable causes; but the next number is to contain extra pages to make up for the deficiency. It is opened by a history of the old French Velayer envelope, of which a drawing is given in a diminished size. Descriptions, reviews, advertisements, &c., make up the pages.

The American Journal of Philately, of which the May and June numbers are to hand, favours us with the usual instalments of Mr. Overy Taylor, new issues, &c. The former number moreover contains upwards of five pages devoted to a list of U.S. Tobacco stamps! If of no other interest, it evidences the industrial research and classifying powers of the compiler. A notice to correspondents promises Liquor and Beer stamps for the next number. This is not carried out, but in lieu thereof is a much more interesting article,—no other than full documentary evidence of the values, &c., of the fatal stamps of 1765, the enforcement of which resulted in the defalcation of the States from their mother country. The account is so interesting that we purpose epitomising it in an early number. Two papers on the stamps now exhibited at the Centennial are also well worth transcribing. The editor cautions the philatelic public against certain falsities purporting to be Egyptian envelopes, value 1 piastre. Here he is probably right; but after owning the genuineness of the late Antioquia emission, which he took occasion to doubt without the slightest reason, he throws dirt upon the numerous issues from Cabul, advising collectors to do without them for a few months, "when, if genuine, they can be easily procured." This was precisely our own course with regard to the first Cashmeres. Prudently shy, as we thought ourselves, of these outlandish looking strangers, we missed purchasing some of the now very rare circular impressions exposed for sale at 1s. or 1s. 6d. each! The wisdom of that proceeding is not problematical now.

The Stamp-Collector's Monthly of New York is to be commended for publishing in its fourth number the true account of the Patroni case, so infamously distorted by some other American magazines.

The Newmarket magazine, bearing precisely the same name with the preceding, to which we presume it has a prior claim, being now in the course of its second volume, whereas the former is but at the commencement of its first, is too small to hold much; but like the preceding, no doubt supplies a necessity.

A new-comer, hailing from Toronto, and rejoicing in the applicable title of *The Canada Beaver*, is to be welcomed among the publications devoted to philately. There is a very good leader on the pursuit. Among other remarks are the facts that the stock in trade of Messrs. Scott amounts to fifty thousand dollars; that there are 200,000 collectors in the States, their collections ranging in value from 5 to 20,000 dollars; and that General Sherman is the most prominent member of the noble army of philatelists in the United States. We are sorry that the editor endorses the false report of Patroni's two years' imprisonment in the Pennsylvania State prison.

POSTAGE STAMPS AT THE CENTENNIAL.

FROM *The American Journal of Philately* we cull the remarks of more than one correspondent on the postal exhibits at the Philadelphian show. One of them ventures the perhaps not exaggerated opinion that near P. (pillar) 73 is located a small case which contains within itself as much information and food for reflection as the remainder of the Exhibition. This precious cynosure is no other than the valuable collection of J. W. Scott & Co., of New York, in close proximity whereto is the model post-office of the Yale Lock Company.

The writer proceeds to state that, unlike most goods exhibited, the albums are precisely the same as those shown to the public; and that the stamps illustrating their use, consist of a general assortment, as complete as the space allowed by the commissioners would admit. He then points out some of the principal gems therein contained.

The States postals naturally occupy the front of the case. Among the rarest locals are the large Boyds, forming a good centre to a full set of the same name; the Washington City stamps, noted for their artistic design; those of Hall & Mills, whose scarcity is all their recommendation; the gold on black Broadway Post-Office stamps; the Essex (not S.X.) Letter Express; Grafflin's Baltimore Despatch; Jones' City Express; Kidder's City Express, both in blue and green; the Staten Island; Overton's, &c.

There is said to be a complete collection of the provisionals issued by various postmasters. The various varieties of engraving noticeable in the 5 cent and 10 c. St. Louis are represented; and particular attention is called to a specimen of the 20 c. of that locality, of which four varieties only have ever been found; also the New Haven envelopes, of which three genuine originals only have ever turned up; and a fine copy of the Brattleboro'. The 20 dollar State is the sole lacking representative of departmental stamps. The general adhesives and envelopes are complete, many of the rarer ones showing entire as well as cut. The Plimptons, in the latter state, make a fine show in the critic's opinion, who fancies them a kind of Chinese puzzle for collectors (whatever that may purport).

On the right are the foreign postage stamps,—and amateurs are rightly supposed to enjoy the feast spread before them,—conspicuously the red and yellow Austrian *Morenius* stamps. The Bolivians are pronounced the finest set in the world,—embracing two beautiful shades of the 5 c. violet, the 10 c. brown, two distinct types of the 100 c. blue, an uncatalogued black of that high value, and the rare green. There is a fine specimen of what the writer erroneously terms "the almost unique" 12 pence of Canada. Many rare provisional Confederates are represented; a beautiful specimen of the French 1 franc vermilion; a very fine display of Mexicans; a magnificent vermilion shilling of Newfoundland; an entire original sheet and a single used New Caledonia. There are very beautiful specimens of New South Wales stamps; a peculiarly fine Sydney twopenny, probably one of the earliest impressions; fine copies in numerous shades, of Peruvians, the yellow and pink ½ pesos being specially

noticeable. There is a complete collection of Spanish, which the critic rightly remarks not to be so much thought of now as formerly. The Colombian are well represented by fine specimens; and among the Sandwich Islands show are a fine row of the plain numerals set, and the 2 c. and 13 c. with fancy frame.

The New York Herald notices the advent of the first centennial stamped envelope, and details its adventures. It enclosed a letter deposited in the box at Station A, Broadway, near Prince Street, and not being recognised by the superintendent as a legal stamp, was taken to the General Post-office for information. It seems that the Washington department not having notified the issue of these novelties throughout the country, they are expected to give considerable trouble until known, by which time they will be useless, being extinct for postal purposes in November.

Among the Japanese exhibits is a complete set of the postal and fiscal emissions of the islands; a whole sheet of each sort being shown, although hung too high for careful examination. In the Hawaiian department are a few sets of the later issues, prepared on cards in the islands for collectors. Sweden and several other countries expose coins or bank notes; but Japan and Honolulu are the only foreign governments that show stamps.

The Philadelphian correspondent describes the United States governmental display of postage and revenue issues in glowing colours; but regrets the sacrifice of every other desideratum to beauty. They are placed in first-rate position for examination, and the revenue portion forms a magnificent *coup d'œil*, attracting great attention and unqualified praise; but brilliantly-coloured proofs occupy the space of stamps, and these are arranged by dozens of a kind to carry out ornamental designs. This plan gives a magnificent trophy to the skill of the designers and engravers; but its value for collectors is reduced to a minimum in consequence of the difficulty of detecting any particular stamp. The writer, after half-an-hour's study of the frame containing the match, medicine, and document stamps, was left doubtful whether he had discovered all the varieties that might be hid in the intricacies of the design. He noticed "the famous 4 cents Morehead's Neurodine, the 6 c. Swain, the Dr. Pearl, and nearly all the rare matches." The new issues contain "the Louisiana match stamp, not yet brought to the notice of philatelists; Wistar's Pine Tree Tar Cordial; and others." The arrangement of the tobacco and beer portion is stated to be very defective; the rare sorts not appearing, and those that are represented so mixed together as to be useless for examination.

With respect to the General Post-office Department, our authority, unlike his compatriots in general, hesitates not to express great disapprobation of native management. He goes so far as to call the display a disgrace to the country, declaring himself almost tempted to pass it over in silence! But to prevent collectors being deceived, he thinks it his duty to point out a few of what may be glossed over as *mistakes*, to make the best of the matter. A complete set of regular adhesives is shown, the same that the department has been passing off on country schoolboys for stamps. These (reprints) which the writer calls "rubbish" are labelled as engraved by Rawdon,

Wright, & Edson, which firm was dissolved about twenty years since, all the members being probably dead! The departmentals appear by proofs only, the colours of which only approximate those in use, the closest approach to the realities are the War and Executive Departments.

The crowning shame of the entire show is developed among the envelopes which are *supposed* to be exhibited entire; but any value or size that is at all scarce, is produced by carefully cutting out the stamp and pasting it on an envelope of the desired size! The doubly-stamped 4 c. are formed by a 1 c. impression being cut to shape, and pasted on a 3 c. envelope! As one of these can be purchased of a dealer for 25 c., there was little occasion for this shabby dodge. It seems the department paid 15 dollars for one of the envelopes, and being thus bit went in for economy. The Plimptons are in all their shades and sizes, facial evidence of the bungling way in which the government is served by its contractors.

The writer concludes with the remark that, taking the United States stamps of the exhibition as a sample of the much talked of official collection, what must the foreign stamps be? He doubts the existence of a genuine specimen in the entire lot!

TELEGRAPH STAMPS.

PERU.

A TRIO of telegraph stamps has just been prepared by the New York National Bank Note Company for this government. They are all three of a similar type. A shield is disposed on a lozenge in the same way as seen on the 2 centavos postal. TELEGRAFOS NACIONAL on curved bands; arabesque ornaments above. Value in words and numerals beneath. Although the type is similar, it is by no means identical; the values being very variously disposed; and the stamps increase in size according to increased value. The colours given are: 5 centavos, purple; 20 c., green; 50 c., brown. There may eventually be more.

POSTAL SCRAPS.

HELIGOLAND.—A recent number of *The Geological Magazine* contains a map of this island, said to have been copied from an old one in the possession of the Governor. It gives by three different shadings the size of the island at three periods. In A.D. 800 it is represented as 120 miles in circumference; in A.D. 1300 as 45 miles; in 1649 only 4 miles. Since then it has diminished to less than one-third of a mile in superficial extent! This dimunition has been effected almost entirely in one direction, the sea having encroached 30 miles on the N.E. side, and one mile only on the S.W.

A MAIL-BAG ROBBERY OF THE LAST CENTURY.—In February, 1798, the Postmaster General issued the following placard respecting a robbery in Yorkshire:—

"General Post-Office, Saturday, February 24, 1798. The post-boy carrying the mail on horseback from Selby to York, on Thursday evening, the 22nd inst., was stopped between 6 and 7 o'clock by a man on foot with a gun in his hand, between Barlby and Riccall, who asked him if he was the post-boy, and at the same time seized hold of the bridle of his horse, and without waiting for an answer, told him that he must immediately unstrap the mail and give it him, pointing the gun at him at the same time. The boy gave him the bag, with which the robber went away. He is described to be a stout man, in a drab jacket, and had a cloth apron, and from the appearance of his hat and his clothes is suspected to be a flaxdresser or rope maker." The bill goes on to offer a reward of £200, a free pardon being offered to any accessory. Nothing was heard of the matter, though

suspicion pointed to some of the principal inhabitants at the time. A few days ago, however, on a public house, situated on the Church-hill, Selby, being pulled down, a suit of clothes, a sou' wester, and an old mail bag, marked "Selby" were found in the roof. There is little doubt that these were the clothes worn by the robber on the occasion, and that the bag is the one which was stolen. In digging into the foundations, several coffins, containing bodies in a good state of preservation, have been found.

THE POSTMASTER OF THE SOUTH AFRICAN REPUBLIC.—We are happy to be enabled to correct a false and malicious report circulated, both at home and in the States, to the effect that the respected postmaster of the Transvaal had been convicted of an intentional fraud on the government. A letter from an American correspondent seems to take the scandal for granted, and writes of him as a former member of the Philatelic Society now in penal servitude! We may epitomize the actual facts from the published account of the trial lying on our table. Stamps to the value of upwards of £800 were missing, and the postmaster was naturally called to account for them. It seems the safes provided by the authorities were too small to contain all the documents and stamps, and some were consequently stowed away in desks, &c., of easy access. A more convenient office having been prepared, all the furniture and stock were removed by *convicts*. Two of them swore to having seen one of their comrades abstract some packets, and put them into his coat pocket, but their evidence was over-ruled; and Mr. Jeppe obliged to pay the small sum required for printing off the missing stamps, on the plea that he neglected his duty by allowing convicts to convey loose packets of stamps from one office to another.

THE STAMP EXCHANGE.

NOTICE.

For the accommodation of those subscribers who may be desirous of exchanging their duplicate stamps, a portion of *The Philatelist* is set apart each month to facilitate exchanges.

RULES.

1. Advertisements must be accompanied by the cheque given with each number.
2. Advertisements to be addressed to "The Editor of *The Philatelist*, Preston Road, Brighton," and received not later than the 18th of the month.
3. The full name and address of the writer must be sent with each advertisement.
4. IF AN ADVERTISEMENT EXCEEDS 20 WORDS A CHARGE OF 6D FOR EVERY ADDITIONAL 10 WORDS WILL BE MADE.
5. *The Stamp Exchange* is intended for the use of amateur collectors only; notices from dealers cannot therefore be inserted.

A. C. H. JOHNSTONE, Lochgelly House, Lochgelly, Fife, N.B., has a large number of duplicates for exchange.

G. CAMPBELL, La Tranchée, Tours, France, desires to exchange used and unused post cards with other collectors.

E. H. GARDNER, Hempsted, Gloucester, England, has a large quantity of duplicates to exchange. Prefers foreign correspondents.

DAVID H. HILL, Treasury, Melbourne, Victoria, wishes to exchange unused stamps with collectors in Australian and others colonies.

T. H. RIDLEY, Woodlands, Dulwich Wood Park, Surrey, has Nos. 72 to 79 (inclusive) of *The Philatelist* to exchange for stamps or post cards new to his collection.

P. H. CARPENTER, 56, Regent's Park Road, London, N.W., has for exchange *The Stamp-Collector's Magazine*, vols. iii. to xii. inclusive; also vols. i. and ii. of *The Philatelist*. All bound, and in good condition.

THE EDITOR'S LETTER-BOX.

*** Correspondents sending specimens for inspection and return, are requested to enclose a stamped directed envelope.

G. H. L., Leeds.—Your trio of stamps appears quite genuine.

C. W. K., Ipswich.—We have to acknowledge your favour with thanks.

D. H., Melbourne.—Thanks for your politeness in forwarding specimen of the official post card of Victoria.

W. G., Islington.—The change of watermark in our 2½d. English has been noticed by the continental magazines for some time.

J. M. C., Boston.—Many thanks for your information. We do not wonder the first describer of the newspaper stamps mistook the design.

W., New York. — Acknowledgments for the specimen of the new Colombian emission. We had already heard thereof, as also another value belonging to the same set. Both are described in the present number.

W. E. B., Newport, Shropshire.—Your Newfoundland is a forgery; the other three stamps are genuine. The date of the blue Barbados is about 1870, value 1 penny. The green stamp is one of the current set for the German Empire.

D. H., Saumur.—The specimens described were received direct from the French West Indies, with the remark that they were the only ones in present use. The 80 c. republican type must therefore be exhausted. Acknowledgments rendered for your information.

RECENT AND UNDESCRIBED EMISSIONS

VICTORIA.

THE latest novelty from this colony is probably a mere provisional. In consequence of the modification of postage, viâ Brindisi, the eightpenny stamp, long disused, was again required. Presumably the stock of that value had been exhausted, and consequently the well-known current ninepenny is brought into use, surcharged EIGHTPENCE in Roman capitals, hiding the original value, and 8D. on either side of the Queen's effigy. The said surcharge is in blue ink.



JAPAN.

The head-engravings in the September *Timbre-Poste* represent three newly-issued Japanese of closely approximating, but not identical type. Unlike the numerous emissions of this flourishing empire, in consequence of the adoption of the galvanoplastic system, there are no varieties of impression. The value in Japanese characters, with the conventional chrysanthemum, &c., lie within an oval frame inscribed in native letters above, and IMPERIAL JAPANESE POST below. In the spandrels are numerals and initials of value variously disposed; unframed in the lowest (a new) value; within a small circle in the next; and a square block in the other. They are rectangular, perforated, and unwatermarked, on plain white paper. Grey, 5 rin; black, 1 sen; pale brown, 2 sen.

PHILIPPINE ISLANDS.

A letter from our best authority on the stamps of Spain and her colonies, contradicts the list of values given at page 106 on the authority of *Le Timbre-Poste*. He writes that he received the 12 c. de peso=1 real plata, chronicled by ourselves on the said page, from a correspondent at Manilla, with information that they were first issued on New Year's Day. In a letter dated May 3rd, he received from the same quarter a quantity in value each 2 c. de peso=4 cuartos, which had been issued about the middle of April. These also are noted by ourselves from specimens in our possession.

PORTO RICO.

The same authority endorses the explanation of M. Moens respecting the use of the *paraphe*. He gives the values and colours 12½ c. de

peseta green; 25 c. de peseta brown; 50 c. de peseta blue; and 1 peseta black. He possesses a variety with the two customary signatures from top to bottom, and an additional one across. *Le Timbre-Poste* mentions the same variety in the current number, stating that it was added to render useless the abstraction of a considerable number of stamps. The misinformation of the Brussels magazine alluded to above was evidently caused by a confusion of the Philippines with the Cubans, the realities of the latter corresponding exactly with the supposititious former.

PORTUGAL.



This cut depicts the new journal stamp described at page 109. The stamps are issued in sheets containing 28 individuals, in 7 rows of 4 each. The expected post cards are not ready yet; but we understand will be forthcoming at the New Year, together with stamped envelopes and money orders.

BRAZIL.

The 100 reis adhesive of this empire comes over with rouletted perforation, either from default of the usual hole-machine, or some other unexplained reason.

CASHMERE.

M. de Ferrari possesses specimens of the round stamps of this country, in value ½ anna, 1 a., and 4 a., printed in pale yellow on laid paper.

CORDOBA.

The Cordoban adhesive noticed last month, and figured last year, according to information received from the country, had two companions, besides a variety. Those first known were the 5 centavos blue, of which we lately saw in a southern French city some of the earliest specimens which were brought to Europe by a young South American collector and exchanged with a dealer. There are a 10 c. black on laid, and the same value and colour on wove paper; also another value of violet colour, probably 15 c. in value, which would complete the set in accordance with the Argentines.

UNITED STATES.

Mr. Whitlock, a corresponding member of the French Society, made a communication at the July meeting that there exist three varieties of the Centennial envelope: one with green stamp and the usual envelope watermark; the second with red stamp; and a third, whose stamp is green like the first, but the watermark has U. S. C. 1876. This last we had not previously noted.

RUSSIAN LOCALS.

Dnieprovsk.—We have just received specimens of a quite new emission for this district. Rectangular; imperforate; nature and value in white characters on azure central circle enframed with black, and imperial crown above. There is also a fancy frame bounding the whole stamp impressed in black, with numerals in small white circles at the four angles. That portion of this new emission between frame

and central circle is ochre-yellow, inscribed above "Village stamp;" below, "Dniepr: District." Blue, yellow, and black on white; 5 kop.

FRANCE.

Of the new series of this country these only seem yet in general use: green, 2 c., 5 c., 10 c.; French grey, 15 c.; ultramarine, 25 c.; light brown, 30 c. We are told that the new value, 75 c., represents the postage and registration of an inland letter: it is a strange anomaly that whereas 40 c. pays for registering abroad, it requires 10 c. more to ensure safety at home.

At a district post-office we lately met with a specimen post card, probably an essay, not having remarked a description thereof in any magazine. Two distinct impressions in black on white *paper*, not card, united. The upper has the frame, type No. 4 of Moens,—DE BUREAU A BUREAU, place for one stamp, inscription sideways beneath it. The lower portion has the third type frame, DANS L'INTERIEUR, &c; room for two stamps, inscription beneath. This curiosity may have been an essay to show frame-patterns. A far greater curiosity is the existence of one single 15 c. stamp at the right-hand side of the latest issued sheets of the 10 c. brown on tint!

SPAIN.







The stamp bearing the head of King Alfonso represents the lowest value of the new type, the 2 c. de peseta still remaining with profile-head. The green 10 c. de peseta war-stamp lies to the right; and the centre depicts the new frank stamp for the Spanish Congress, an almost identical one with SENADO instead of CONGRESO serving for the Senate. M. de Ysasi pronounces the castle watermark not to be Arragonese, but Castilian. The impression is blue.

AUSTRIA.

It is reported that a new issue is in contemplation for this empire, bearing the device of the imperial eagle instead of the sovereign's head. There will be a 2 kr. brown, a 15 kr. violet. The 25 kr. is to be suppressed.

TURKS ISLANDS.

The grey sixpenny has at last appeared with a star watermark like the penny value.

THE HALFPENNY MALTESE STAMP is used for the correspondence between Malta and the neighbouring isle of Gozo. The unwatermarked stamp exists on paper which, according to some, was originally of a bluish tint, and according to others, has acquired that tint through the action of the gum.—*Dr. Gray's Illustrated Catalogue.*

"LOOK ON THIS PICTURE, AND ON THIS."

BY THE EDITOR.

A CORRESPONDENT of the Brussels magazine writes his experiences of the Poste Restante at Athens. At the proper office, on enquiring for expected letters, an exceedingly polite official, without waiting for his name, credentials, &c., passed him an enormous basket, intimating he could select what belonged to him! Thereupon the gentleman emptied the basket on a table, and had to select his own correspondence from the voluminous contents, some of which dated as far back as 1875! Wishing then to prove himself worthy the confidence placed in him, he was proceeding to show what he had selected; but the polite clerk informed him that such a formality was quite needless. This arrangement was not a chance freak of the official in charge, for the same thing occurred on the morrow, and was evidently the custom of the country.

Contrast this free and easy method with our own recent experiences at Barcelona, and we fancy most people would prefer the Grecian to the Spanish arrangements. Calling at the head post-office on the morning after our arrival, although we had visiting cards and appressed letters to show, we were informed we could not receive any correspondence without producing a passport. As this had not been called for before during many weeks' sojourn in Spain, excepting only at the Portuguese frontier, we had ceased to carry it about, and had to return to the hotel for it. The hours for delivering letters *en lista* (every letter addressed Poste Restante being catalogued in a book) are from 10 till 12, and 5 to 6 only. However we got back about 11.15, but the small hole, through which alone communication is held, was closed. Several others had been waiting, and the only reason given was that the mails were being got ready. As we presume that preparation always takes place at the same time, and that the Poste Restante (as we afterwards found) was invariably closed the while, it seems a farce to fix that hour for receiving letters. However, there was nothing for it but to wait patiently, which we tried to do until ten minutes to 12, during which interval the office became crowded with men and boys, pushing and struggling to near the wicket. We had secured a hold of one of the bars; but it was useless, for the rule was that those who had boxes and came calling out their numbers, were served first; and after the bear-garden was cleared we were politely informed we were too late for the letters *en lista*, and must come again in the evening! Some French gentlemen who were in the same boat, left equally disgusted with ourselves, remarking that things were managed better in France.

More remains behind. In the evening we again entered appearance, received *The Philatelist* and some correspondence, and a paper notifying that there were two registered packets which were to be delivered at another part of the office. On proceeding thither, and producing the regular Foreign Office Passport (duly *viséd* by the Spanish consul in London, at the charge of 3/. or 4/.) because there was no one in Barcelona we knew to vouch for our identity, we were told we must get the passport signed and sealed by the British Consul,

without which the registered packets could not be delivered. It was now nearly six, and of course the Consulate was closed. We explained that our time was short, and the letters which had been waiting some days might require immediate reply; but it was of no use—it was their rule. At last we got speech of a higher official, being asked to walk into an inner room; but he could or would do nothing. We are bound to add that everything was transacted with the most perfect politeness and patience on the part of all the officials. At last, presumably to get rid of us, we were introduced to the Director in Chief; but after a quarter of an hour's explanations and protests, the final dictum was *es imposibile.*

The next morning we got to the Consulate at about 10; had to wait an hour in the streets, till the office was opened; to pay half-a-dollar for the required signature; then ride back as fast as possible to the farther extremity of the city, where the post-office is; and at last, after signing on the covers of the packets, that they were received intact, and also in a book, the official stripped off the wrappers of both packets and retained them stamps and all. Commend ourselves to the Greek *modus operandi.*

THE FRENCH TIMBROLOGICAL SOCIETY.

THE meeting of the 6th of July was held under the presidency of M. de Bosredon. Several letters from corresponding members, on philatelical matters, were read, and fresh members elected. The President exhibited a couple of private French post cards, and read an extract from the *Revista de Correos* to the effect that Don Diego Castell was authorised in the year 1868 to frank a special pamphlet throughout Spain with a stamp of his own design, which said stamp is yet unknown. The same favour was accorded, in 1870, to the Statistic Society.

The same gentleman then proposed the foundation of a library, composed of all works which should be presented to the Society; and which should be always available for its members. The proposition was unanimously adopted, and M. de Bosredon himself was appointed librarian.

The examination of Hungarian stamps was commenced; and M. Schmidt de Wilde treated of his projected catalogue. He mentioned certain peculiarities: among others, the exclusive employment of journal stamps by their publishers; the inability of the administration to explain why the post-horn is sometimes turned to the right, sometimes to the left; the fabrication of a million envelopes of the 25 kreuzer violet of the 1st emission, and the destruction of the whole stock before the employment of one individual; finally, that the 3 kreuzer envelope, though known for some time, is not yet in use!

The same gentleman showed an essay of the 1874 card different from the known type, and an almost perfect collection of stamped money orders. Envelopes for enclosing specie, though official, are not allowed to be catalogued.

M. Carreton read a notice in the *Frankfort Gazette* announcing permission to frank telegrams with postage or telegraph stamps indif-

ferently, and to throw them into any letter-box whatever, without any extra charge. M. Stephan is at present director-general of all means of communication throughout the German Empire.

THE SPUD PAPERS; OR, NOTES ON PHILATELIC WEEDS.

BY THE REV. R. BRISCO EAREE.

LX.

Danish West Indies.

1874: 7 CENTS, LILAC AND YELLOW.

I THINK this stamp need not detain us very long, as the absence of the crown watermark and of the hyphen in the word DANSK-VESTINDISKE will serve as ready tests for the forgeries; though I ought to do the forgers the justice of acknowledging that, in other respects, they have turned out a very decent imitation of the genuine.

Genuine.—Engraved in *épargne* on thickish white wove paper, watermarked with a crown; perf. 13½. (Moens gives it as 14.) The middle of the horizontal stroke of the figure 7 in the centre of the stamp is bowed upwards. The small 7 of 7 CENTS is an exact copy, in minature, of the large central figure. If a rule or straight-edge be laid along the down-stroke of the small 7, it will pass through the ö of ÖER. There is a very distinct hyphen between DANSK and VESTINDISKE. Round the central figure is a wreath of barley.

Forged.—Lithographed, on thinnish white wove paper, unwatermarked; pin-perf. 13. The middle of the horizontal stroke of the central 7 is bowed downwards. The small 7 at the bottom of the stamp is not at all like the central one, and resembles a schoolboy's first attempt at a 7. The down-stroke of this small 7 is so much sloped that, if a straight-edge be laid along it, it will pass altogether to the right of ÖER. There is no hyphen between DANSK and VESTINDISKE, and the wreath of barley round the central figure looks more like a wreath of thistle buds than anything else.



Postmarks, &c.—The genuine stamps are postmarked with five concentric circles; the forged bear an imitation of our own, without the central figures. The genuine are backed with a white crystal gum; the forgeries are ungummed.

In the genuine, the central figure and other parts are slightly embossed, as is the case with all the blank parts of an *épargne* engraving; the forgeries, being lithographs, do not show any trace of this embossing.

St. Helena.

1864: 1 SHILLING, GREEN.

I have found it very hard to give any good tests for the instant detection of this forgery, for though it has a very chalky, washed-out look, it follows the genuine almost line for line.

Genuine.—Engraved in *taille-douce* on white wove paper, watermarked with cc. and crown; perf. 13. It is sometimes impossible to

see the watermark, so this test is not always available. The general background of the stamp is formed of a very distinct engine-turned pattern of fine *white* lines, and the background of the central medallion is an engine-turned pattern of coloured lines. This central medallion is bounded by a very fine line; and the convex portion of each outer scallop of the central engine-turning touches this line, leaving a row of white half-diamonds all round the inside of the fine circular line.

Forged.—Lithographed, on thinnish white wove paper, unwatermarked; pin-perf. 12½. The white engine-turning of the background is very indistinct and blotched. The coloured engine-turning of the central medallion is better done, but the little white half-diamonds round the outside of the medallion are not visible, and the fine line which surrounds the medallion seems to be only a part of the engine-turning. As the originals are *taille-douce* engravings, the ink stands out well in all the dark parts; but the forgeries, being lithographs, do not exhibit this peculiarity.



Postmarks.—The originals are generally postmarked with four v's, placed point to point at some little distance from each other. I have also seen four very wide bars, and sometimes a pen-stroke.

The forgeries are cancelled with dots, or with short blotches hardly long enough to be called bars.

I am sorry to have to give such a poor description of this forgery; but if our readers will take the trouble to place the forgery here given, side by side with a genuine stamp, they will see that there really is no very marked difference between them which would serve to detect the genuineness or otherwise of a single copy. My object, in these *Spud Papers*, is to give, if possible, such tests as will enable the possessor of a copy of any stamp to say at once whether that copy is genuine or forged; but, as our readers will see, this is a difficult matter with the stamp in question.

THE TOURS EMISSION.

FROM an article in *Le Timbre-Poste* we learn that the President of the French Society has received a letter from Mons. H. Delebecque, Master of the Mint at Bordeaux, to the effect that the fabrication of postage stamps from the end of October, 1870, till the following 18th of March, had been centralized at the Bordeaux Mint, in special workrooms established by the authorities. All works relative to stamp-making, of whatever kind, were exclusively confined to the workmen of the said *ateliers*, under the surveillance of the Mint Master, and with the concurrence of Mons. de Maintenant, Inspector-General of Finance, and Mons. Lapouyade, Postmaster of the Gironde, conformably with a decision of the Minister of Finance, dated October 19th, 1870.

Consequently, at this epoch, elsewhere than in the Bordeaux workrooms, the writer proceeds to affirm there was no other provincial centre for the fabrication of postage stamps, and the Mint Master's authority stands for the statement that all specimens other than of

Bordeaux origin are false. He adds that the mistake of *The Philatelist* would be accounted for by the fact that the Bordeaux stamps had not been definitively admitted; the Tours delegation having received by balloon, at the very moment of the presentation of the said stamp, another from Paris modelled after that of 1848. This reception was the reason that the Government, renouncing its former idea, engaged Mons. Delebecque to imitate the 1848 model as much as possible, that the public might not have on view two different stamps representing the same value.

The die of the Bordeaux stamp was broken in the presence of the Gironde postmaster; and a *procés-verbal*, regularly drawn up, attests this destruction.

Regarding the initials placed on the Bordeaux model, the letter A represented the engraver, M. Augé-Delille; the D the name of Delebecque; K was the private mint mark of Bordeaux; and X designated the postal administration.

OUR PRIZE ESSAYS.

A Copy of the Design on the Mulready Envelope.

WE never had a more difficult task to perform than the present one of deciding on the respective merits of a prize competition. Where all are good, and some excellent, the judge must of force exercise a nicer discrimination and a more fastidious taste. We have not the text of the prize-offer at hand, writing some thousand and more miles from home; but we believe a pen-and-ink *drawing* of the Mulready was the object. This excludes Captain Beresford, of Leamington, from competition. Whether any of the other aspirants executed the task by means of tracing paper, as that gentleman, with the usual straightforward manliness of his cloth, owns to having done, we cannot say; but in most, if not all cases, we think the others are actual drawings, although the Captain expresses his opinion that few of the competitors will attempt a copy.

The same "letter of the law" excludes Mr. J. Brumell, of Morpeth, whose drawing, most carefully and distinctly manipulated, is in *pencil*.

Mr. E. L. Mills, of Norfolk Crescent, London, on the contrary, has too strictly adhered to regulations, and presented us with rather a superabundance of pen and ink. His pen was not fine enough, or his hand too heavy; and the consequent effect gives too much of the appearance of a blotchy woodcut.

Mr. Thos. St. L. Stephenson, of Wimbledon Park, has most indubitably not managed his production by tracing paper, and considering that it is really a tolerable copy, is worthy of praise, but not neat or correct enough for a prize.

We are now approaching greater difficulties, the remaining six exhibitors having pretty well managed to surpass themselves and each other. The drawing of Mr. O. L. Davis, of Bristol, so far as we can judge without the opportunity of comparing it with the reality, is faultless. It *may* be a tracery, we do not aver it to be one, but it is just possible, though we think not. That of Mr. J. H. Harley, of

Hemel Hempsted, on the contrary, cannot be otherwise than a fair copy. Equally correct with the preceding, it is drawn on paper so thick that all idea of tracing paper is cast to the winds. That of Mr. Bertram Hagen, of Guernsey, is on paper not too thick for the purpose, and shows all the elaboration of the two preceding productions. Had we to judge between the three we should be long, if not ever, undecided on which to fix the preference; but better still remains behind. We have just discovered another, which being unaccompanied by a letter of communication, like the rest, had slipped amongst them unobserved. It is by an inhabitant of Brighton, Mr. A. P. Green, and is, like all the rest, a most creditable production. We do not know the professions of any of the gentlemen except the first named; but if they are not lithographers, or artists of some kind in embryo, they ought to be, for they would or will be somewhen eminent in their way.

We are now drawing to a close. That specimen now on view is on exceedingly thick paper, precluding all thought of tracery. It is exquisitely and most correctly drawn, and has that advantage over all the other almost faultless productions that not only the illustrated face of the Mulready, but the very size and folding of the whole cover is presented. If anything must be cavilled at, it is this. The article was to be a *copy* of the Mulready. The original bears the name John Thompson at the right-hand lower corner. Our copyist, Mr. H. H. Sheard, of Isleworth, has substituted his own name, and he may well be proud to do so.

Finally comes the *crême de la crême.* Unlike the rest, a blue twopenny stands to view; and unless the original notice requires positively a black penny, the concoctor of the exquisite production before us must be awarded the prize. In design, colour, even the tint of the very paper on which stands the drawing, the copy is a presentment of the original. It is, moreover, folded as an envelope, with the blue edging lines, and shows, in addition, what one would have thought almost impossible to be achieved by pen and ink, the word postage worked on apparently engine-turned ground, exactly as seen in the veritable blue Mulreadies. The name of the gentleman who, although last mentioned, stands prime in rank, is George R. Arnott, of No. 5, Bar Houses, Beverley.

A Descriptive List of the Stamps of Spain.

The now and then of philately are never more distinctively marked than while contrasting our present knowledge of the numerous long-disused emissions of Spain with the very misty ideas entertained of them in the early days of collecting. Some few years short of a score since, very few individuals had any acquaintance with more than the two black and two red 6 cuartos of the first four sets. In 1861, the blue of 1853 was a marvel in albums; and in the same year, a lady in the gardens of the Tuileries,—then the grand public mart in Paris for exchange and purchase,—caused considerable excitement by the production of half-a-dozen green of the same date on an old letter! Now-a-days complete sets, both used and unused, grace most of the good collections.

Still, among the first five rarer sets, there are many decided varieties of hue, besides a few errors which ought to be noted in a

descriptive list of the Spanish. These, as well as many a conspicuous variety among the later issues, are totally ignored by all our contributors; so that among the papers sent for examination, none can be termed perfect; all being, more or less, mere copies of existing catalogues or price-lists. Three only can be selected for competition; the rest are nowhere.

Captain M.D. Beresford, Beauchamp House, Leamington, acknowledges his indebtedness to Dr. Gray's Catalogue; adding fuller descriptions of his own. But, as remarked above, he gives no shades of colour. The two distinct hues of the 12 c. of 1850, the 6 c. of same date on different papers; the two greens of the next year; the 2 reales blue (error) of the same; the shades of the 6 c. and 12 c. of 1852, and of the 12 c. of 1853, ought not to be omitted in a list of Spanish stamps. Then the 4 c., 1 r., and 2 r., of the next four years, evince notable varieties; and most of the same values vary in succeeding years, every one of which is totally ignored by the Captain. The 19 c. of 1855 is omitted altogether; so also is the well-known surcharge H. P. N. A greater miss are the oval officials of 1855, of which there are such various hues; and above all, the watermarks of 1855 and following year. Finally, are conspicuous by their absence, the blue returned-letter stamp of 1875; the 20 c., 25 c., 40 c., and 50 c., Alfonso's profile; all the current set, which may not have been out when the list was made; and all post cards but the single blue and double green of 1873.

Mr. O. B. Hake, The Precincts, Canterbury, offers one of the neatest specimens of manuscript we have ever met with. It is most legibly traced in semi-print, relieved by red marginal and separating lines. Nearly all the omissions of the previous competitor are alike conspicuous by their absence, with one exception, viz., his notice of the watermarks on the sets of 1855 and 1856. He calls the 12 cuartos of 1860 red; and he appears unacquainted with the colour of the 19 c. of 1862, but gives those of the 1 r. and 2 r. correctly; and also those of the 2 cuartos and 2 reales of 1864, which are wrong in the preceding list. The same omission of the H. P. N. surcharge exists in both. There is a grand error with regard to the 1873 series, which he misnames imperforate! He mentions the same two post cards only as the Captain; and neither of them remark the 12 cuartos vermilion of the 1857 set, which was really made for use, though never officially emitted. The 2 cuartos gold should have been quoted, though never used; but the 16 maravedis of Don Carlos, being as much a stamp as his other issues, is unreasonably left out. The fact of the use of postals for telegraphic purposes, known by the round holes punched therein, is noteworthy and imperative in a catalogue of the stamps of Spain. Finally, although the present handsome series of King Alfonso were not out when the papers were sent for approval, that one bearing His Catholic Majesty's profile was in full use, and is unpardonably omitted.

Mr. Reginald Walker, presumably English, who hails from Oden Kinchen, in Rhenish Prussia, is next on view. His list notes that there *are* shades in many of the early issues; and in respect of colour, &c., is generally more correct than the others; but the descriptions are very meagre. He notes the H. P. N. surcharge. His Carlists

seem quite correct; and he notes not only the regular governmental post cards, but those allowed to be issued by private individuals, Don M. P. de Figueroa and others. We noted above the omission of the current set, which was but talked of when the MSS. were sent; but certainly ignoring the first series of the young King is an unpardonable slight.

As the merits of the three essays are about equal we think our publishers cannot do better, than divide the offered prize between the three competitors.

POSTAL SCRAPS.

AT THE END of 1875 the post-office letter carriers, sorters, and messengers of the United Kingdom numbered 16,393.

INSUFFICIENTLY ADDRESSED.—The following is a copy of the address of a letter which lately reached Liverpool, the names of persons and place being here omitted:—"This letter is for Mrs. M——. She lives in some part of Liverpool. From her father, John——, a tailor, from——; he would be thankful to some postmaster in Liverpool if he would find her out."

CURIOSITIES OF THE POST-OFFICE.—According to the Postmaster-General's report for 1875, the following articles were discovered passing through the post during the twelvemonth:—Silkworms and gentles, flowers, fruit, and vegetables, various kinds of game, wearing apparel, models of metal fittings and toys, leeches, snails, eggs, six white mice, a sparrow, two snakes, a crayfish, and a dog.

POSTAL STATISTICS.—If the work and business of the Post-Office in 1875 be described on the principle of average, the following results are shown:—The post carried 31 letters for every man, woman, and child in the United Kingdom; or, in detail, 35 each in England and Wales, 26 in Scotland, and 13 in Ireland. There was a registered letter in the year for 1 in every 7 or 8 persons in the United Kingdom. The postman brought 8 newspapers or book packets for every person, and his load of post cards was sufficient to allow every person to be addressed at least twice in the year (most of them thrice) by open post card. Telegrams are to letters as 1 to 50, and the number of telegrams sent in 1875 was nearly equal to two-thirds of the population, a telegram to each of 20 persons in every 3.

CORRESPONDENCE.

NOTES FROM THE MAURITIUS.

To the Editor of "THE PHILATELIST."

DEAR SIR,—In the May number of *The Philatelist*, which I found here on my arrival, is a statement to the effect that the denominations of the Mauritius stamps will probably be altered in consequence of the introduction of the rupee. This coin has now been in use in the island for about nine months, and, as far as I can learn at present, there is no intention of altering the denomination of the stamps.

For the new rate to England,—6½d.,—a supply of the ninepence lilac has been issued, surcharged HALF PENNY in roman capitals in two lines, for use in conjunction with the ordinary sixpence; and I am told that halfpenny stamps are expected from England shortly. The ninepence green, as well as the lilac, are to be got at the post-office here, and also the shilling in various colours. The officials are unable to give any reason for the same values appearing in different colours, but I hope to be able to obtain some account of this idiosyncrasy, if there be a reason for it, before I leave the island.

A short time before leaving England, I obtained a specimen of a stamp which has I believe never yet been alluded to in any of the catalogues, and the question of whose existence has never to my knowledge been fully discussed. It is a three half cents of the first or provisional issue for the Straits Settlements, with the words THREE HALF crossed out and the figure 2 inserted above with a pen.

In one of the numbers of *The Philatelical Journal*, whether for 1872 or 1875 I cannot remember,—and my books not being unpacked I am unable to refer to them,—a correspondent mentioned such a stamp, and made enquiries as to its existence, but it was set down by the editor as mythical, and no one else seemed to take any notice of the enquiry.

I am assured by a person, whom I have no reason to disbelieve, that the specimen now in my possession came on a letter from Penang in company with two others which had been similarly altered, and that all three had done duty as 2 cent stamps. My informant told me this as of his own knowledge, and it was very evident to me that, if he had not actually taken the stamp from the letter with his own hands, it had at all

events been received at the place where he was employed, and had been obtained by him under circumstances which precluded all possibility of its having been tampered with.

I send you this account in hopes that some of your readers may be able to furnish further proofs of the authenticity of this doubly provisional issue, as it is probable that other specimens are in existence. The correspondent of *The Philatelical Journal* possessed one, I think.

Yours truly,

Mauritius. CHETH.

THE EDITOR'S LETTER-BOX.

*** Correspondents sending specimens for inspection and return, are requested to enclose a stamped directed envelope.

V. G. DE Y., and D. H. H.—We are much indebted for your obliging information, which is embodied in the proper place.

F. H. P.—It is just possible that your registered Canada 2 cents, deep brown, may be a doctored vermilion normal specimen; it may be a proof, but we know nothing about it.

A. C. H. J., Brighton.—Your new Portuguese was chronicled in the August number and is figured in the present. The Persian was noticed last month as part of the recent accredited issue. Both your Montevideans are genuine.

G. R. A., Beverley.—We regret being unable to furnish the information you require. The stamp you describe, is as you suppose, one of the first issue of Natal. Possibly your specimen is a reprint; in that case it is valueless.

BARON ERIC VON OTTER.—Thanks for the varieties of hue in Swedish. We regret being obliged to condemn most of your specimens. The Bern and French stamps are fiscals. The two Oldenburg envelope stamps and the adhesives are genuine; so is the unpostmarked Parma; but all the rest are worthless.

C. O. L. P., Twickenham.—There is not the slightest doubt about the character of your Reunions. They are not even imitations in the smallest degree: type, inscriptions, paper, postmark, and colour, have not the least similitude with the realities, which are both engraved in black on slightly tinted very thin paper in a superior style. The Ionian is genuine.

G. B., Kirk Langley.—We are ever ready to afford any information in our power. The Kanton Bern is a fiscal. The Basle dove with dotted ground is genuine; the other is false; as are all the Genevas but the double one, and that which is priced at the back. The Naples, Sicily, New Caledonia, and Bavaria, are more than doubtful. The rest you may put in your collection.

P. J. A., Inverness.—There have been five small additions to the supplement of M. Moens' catalogue. They are not priced; but we presume are given gratis with the catalogue and supplement. The last is dated July of the present year. The French Society's Bulletins, of which the fourth is now published, are all obtainable from the same source at a trifling charge. If we mistake not, M. de Bosredon's Bibliographie is embodied in one of the Bulletins; but writing far from home, have no means of reference.

M. S., Alexandria.—Your Reunion is very much more likely to deceive than those referred to above, being a very fair imitation. The pair of Zurichs are like that noticed in the reply to E. H., attempts at reproductions of the unique essays alluded to therein, which the forger had evidently heard of, but never seen. The Granadines and Pacific Steam Navigation stamp are forgeries. The black one has the wrong value appended for that colour, which is really 2½ centavos: the 1 peso is rose-pink. The Buenos Ayres, Sydney, and Confederate, are good stamps of same value. The British Guiana is also genuine.

E. H., Eton College.—Your untorn 10 gr., Sicily, appears equally genuine with the others. It is on thinner paper, it is true, and there are slight variations in type; nevertheless, we hesitate in condemning it; and the value being in common use, the original die may have become worn and repaired. Perhaps other collectors will look at their specimens of same value, and see if they can trace more than one variety. The Portuguese 150 reis, lately issued, was described in the March number. It replaces the 120 r. now obsolete. In like manner the new 300 r. renders the 240 r. equally obsolete. The carrier's stamp is not forged, being from the proper die. It was either a proof or fancy impression. The Bergedorf will not pass muster. The Honolulu stamps are genuine remainders, surcharged SPECIMEN to show they do not serve for postage. With regard to the United States 7 c. our opinion remains unchanged: the surcharge is too clumsily executed to be official. The green Natal is all right. The Swiss Poste Locale is false; we doubt the Genève; the 2½ rappen will pass; but the dated Zurich never existed at all. There are two specimens only existing of a Zurich with the date 1843. They were, after the English, the first essays ever made; but they are not at all like your falsity.

RECENT AND UNDESCRIBED EMISSIONS.

PERSIA.

THE values and colours of the now accredited issue for this country are: 1 shahi, black; 2 sh., ultramarine; 4 sh., vermilion; and 8 sh., green. They are but poorly executed in colour on white, and rouletted. There are already sundry varieties chronicled. They were at first emitted in horizontal bands of four stamps, comprising as many varieties. The last lot received by M. Moens came over in vertical bands imperforate, still containing the same four varieties, but in different positions. The 1 shahi had also changed colour, being violet-carmine, and in two rows of two stamps each.



JAPAN.

Two more individuals of the new set have been emitted. One of them bears the Japanese inscription very distinctly on a white oval, enclosing the usual floral emblems. In straight lines above and below are, in English capitals, JAPANESE EMPIRE, FIVE SEN. Numerals of value within minute circles at the angles: Arabic at the top left and bottom right, Roman in the other two places. The other is similar in type to the trio described last month. The value is 4 sen, blue-green.

FRANCE.

The 5, 15, 25, and 30 centimes were the earliest to appear of the new set; then followed 2 and 10 c. The 1 franc came out in the middle of September; and the 4 c. is expected in November. Of the 1 c. there is calculated to remain sufficient stock to last until the New Year; and the 40 c. of the new type will not be wanted until May. The 20 c. and 75 c., although in existence, are not in use, neither is the date of their appearance ascertained. Of the 5 francs, there remain on hand enough for twenty years' requirements! We hear nothing of the expected 60 c., the international double postage.

FIJI ISLANDS.

The stamps of the *Fiji Times Express*, after having been apparently disused for a considerable time, are again in vigour. The whole

sheet is composed of five horizontal rows of eight stamps, smaller than those of the former set. Each row is composed of individuals of a different value from the others. The numerals and inscriptions are smaller than before. The lines of demarcation are indicated by small ticks, on which are pin-pierced perforations. These stamps are printed in black on pink laid *bâtonné* paper. The five values are 1d., 3d., 6d., 9d., and 1 shilling as before. M. Moens has been informed that these stamps are employed as an extra tax, in addition to the regular postage.

TURKEY.

The same authority announces the forthcoming of a new set for this distracted empire. One would have imagined that the authorities had matter of much more consequence to employ their faculties at present, than an apparently unnecessary change in their postal emissions. However this may be, the expected set is to be composed of a 10 paras, black and rose-lilac; 20 p., violet-brown and green; 50 p., blue and yellow; 2 piastres, black and yellow; 5 pi., red and milky blue; 25 pi., red and wine-red.

QUEENSLAND.

From the same we learn that the violet shilling bears now the same watermark as the rest of the current set, viz., Q and crown. The 5 shilling stamp remains still on plain paper.

DECCAN.

In the Belgian magazine is figured and described an interesting resuscitation of a stamp for this government. It is a large-sized broad oblong; impressed in black on a white ground, showing characters in white, which are very similar to those on the early-emitted oblong 1 anna. It is printed on native paper. The date is 1288 (1871); consequently more recently issued than the other, which was in use five years previously. The value is supposed to be the same.

VICTORIA.

A sixpenny lilac was announced on the authority of a German writer, but does not seem to be forthcoming. The latest arrivals of that value are ultramarine.

DUTCH EAST INDIES.

Our latest batch of the stamps of these colonies contained specimens of the current single and double post cards, whereon the impressed stamps are of a much deeper violet than any we had previously seen. The single ones, moreover, are all conspicuous by the glaring error of the Javanese inscription being reversed. This variety is described by Dr. Magnus's catalogue published in the French Bulletin, as well as another on which the inscription on the reverse is more extended than in the first *tirage*. That gentleman chronicles also two varieties of the double card, whereof one of these (Javanese) brethren is united to its companion on the left, the other on the right side. Ours are all of the former species, which the doctor says were destined for the use of the army in the Atchinese war.

BRITISH GUIANA.

The list of stamps of the new type given at page 108 is incomplete; and the colours, though taken from what we should have supposed competent authority, prove incorrect. The 1 cent is slate-grey, not black. There is a 4 cents ultramarine to be added. The 6 cents is brown, not blue. We presume an 8 c. exists, though none arrived in the packet sent us professing to contain all the values required.

GUATEMALA.

Officials are now used in this republic. Following the lead of the United States, there are more sets than one: in the present instance five; values and colours alike. Black impression, ½ real; bright green, 1 r.; blue, 2 r.; red, 4 r.; bright lilac, 1 peso.

DANISH WEST INDIES.

Two hitherto unexistent values for these colonies are to be shortly, if not already, issued of the same type as the current set. Grey, with yellowish green frame, 5 cents. Brown, with bright blue frame, 10 cents.

ARGENTINE REPUBLIC.

Veritable envelopes are in employment for this state since the 1st of August. Oval impression on plain white unwatermarked envelopes of the usual letter size. They show the bust of Rivadavia to left within oval frame, interrupted at sides by small white circles containing numerals of value. REPUBLICA ARGENTINA above; value in words below. Red, 5 centavos.

GREECE.

The 40 lepta of many varieties produces yet another. It comes out now rose-violet on white. The Parisian edition being almost exhausted, a new one is preparing at Athens, so that more varieties may be expected. The new 30 l. is on a more yellowish paper than at first.

FRENCH COLONIES.

According to M. Roussin's magazine, the 2 centimes of the French republic is in use for the colonies in an imperforate state.

COLOMBIAN STATES.

The same quotes a variety of the current 5 centavos in the following words:—"Above on either side CORREOS is a small cross instead of points; the head is on a plain, not cross-barred, ground; the figure of value is on a white ground; the circle is not shaded; the background is composed of 44 in lieu of 55 lines; and the characters of value are shorter and broader.

GREAT BRITAIN.

Towards the middle of September, the philatelic world was startled at the appearance of an unannounced new value for the British Empire. We doubt much if its employment will not be, for some time to come, confined to collectors, although it professes to be issued for the prepayment of Australian letters viâ Brindisi. It is curious to see the complications people prefer to employ instead of any of our higher priced stamps than a penny. Where we see one twopenny, we see

dozens of pennies side by side. Two pennies and a halfpenny are preferred to the new twopence-halfpenny. The tenpenny and ninepenny adhesives are rare in a used state; also the two shillings. The five shilling is commoner, but it was extensively employed for telegraphs before the same value was emitted for that exclusive use. The new stamp shows her Majesty in the centre of a neat framework arched above and below, with the perhaps useful but very unornamental corner letters, and the numeral 1 within small circles on either side; POSTAGE above; value in words below. Impressed on white paper, watermarked with a garter. Orange, eightpence.

In addition to the above novelty are to be chronicled some official envelopes, only lately resuscitated as far as general publicity is concerned, though we find a Parisian collector has possessed them for some years. It seems that in 1851, 1862, and 1873, official envelopes were employed by Her Majesty's Commissioners. That for the first and greatest exhibition consisted of a white envelope, on the lower left of which is a large transverse oblong impression in red. Within a neat outer frame is an inner one inscribed H. M. COMMISSIONERS FOR THE EXHIBITION OF MDCCCLI, interrupted above by an imperial crown, beneath which is ANNUAL INTERNATIONAL EXHIBITIONS on a slab supported by,—something. Below a red official stamp on the reverse is inscribed in blue "OFFICES OF HER MAJESTY'S COMMISSIONERS FOR THE EXHIBITION OF 1851, UPPER KENSINGTON GORE, LONDON, S.W. In 1873 this inscription was in black letters. It appears singular that the plural noun and the word *annual* were employed in 1851, because we never understood the intention of the authorities at that early period was the institution of annual exhibitions. Perhaps the engraver of the cut in the Leipzig magazine, from which this description is taken, has unwittingly combined the central slab of the 1873 envelope with the inscribed frame for 1851.

WURTEMBURG.

For advertising purposes, parties have been allowed to procure printed post cards in number not less than a thousand at a time, value 1 kreuzer each. A new currency being now adopted, and in universal use, the said cards have not been received by the postal authorities for transmission for the last three months or more. But they have arranged to accommodate those who still hold such cards on hand, by impressing below the kreuzer value an additional stamp in pfennige. Of these compound varieties, there are with coloured impressions on bordered cards: 1 kr., with an additional 3 pf.; and 2 kr. with a 5 pf. Of black impressions on borderless cards are the same compound values. The private card of the Society of Arquebusiers has suffered the same modification.

SWITZERLAND.

The money-order cards of 20 c. value are to be suppressed, 30 c. being the minimum for the future; but so long as the stock on hand lasts, they may be employed with the addition of a 10 c. adhesive.

HELIGOLAND.

On the 1st of September was issued a double card for this small island; which, in proportion to its size, has perhaps given us more

varieties than any government. Its type is much the same as the current simple cards, but the frame is a reminder of the 1873 issue of the German Empire. One of the cards has on the left-hand a notice in English and German, to the effect that the other must serve for reply. The latter shows under POST CARD the words ANSWER—ANTWORT. The stamps are like the simple cards. Impression, green on buff.

TELEGRAPH STAMPS.

PERU.

A TRIO of new telegraph adhesives for this republic has been recently put into service. They are all three of very similar type; bearing the sun rising from behind an escutcheon with the arms of the country, supported by flags. This device, so long used by the designers of the Peruvians, looks quite new in a lozenge-shaped frame, slightly broken above by inscriptions on curved scrolls above and below. The upper one is TELEGRAFO NACIONAL, with the letters smaller in the lowest value than in the others. Beneath is the value in words above numerals at each angle in the low value; the same below numerals in the medium value; and numerals between the words in the highest. They are printed in colour on white, and perforated. Violet, 5 centavos; green, 20 c.; brown, 50 c.

BULLETIN OF THE FRENCH TIMBROLOGICAL SOCIETY.

THE fourth number of the Bulletin of the French Society published on the 4th of July, contains a much fuller account of the proceedings and discussions at the three meetings held in April, May, and June last, than has been given in our epitomes of the same; but it is unnecessary to give them at more length here, because all the advanced philatelists of the British Empire will read them for themselves in the original language, and the abbreviated matter will suffice to give an idea of the valuable service afforded to philately by the said reports.

Besides the proceedings alluded to, will be found M. de Bosredon's Timbrological Bibliography of France, as far as the ascertained publications up to July of the present year. There follows an amply illustrated catalogue of the adhesives, envelopes, and post cards of the Netherlands, and their East and West Indian colonial possessions.

M. Schmidt de Wilde follows with as fully an illustrated catalogue, not only of the postal adhesives, newsbands, envelopes, post cards, and newspaper stamps, of the Austro-Hungarian Empire, including the Lombardo-Venetians, but the money-orders, &c., of the same; and the learned Secretary of the Society concludes that gentleman's paper with a description of the telegraphic adhesives, stamped sheets of paper, receipt form, pneumatic-post envelope and stamped sheet, as well as the fiscal adhesives, and those employed by the post-office as a tax on the transmission of foreign newspapers. The former writer had previously read an introduction to the catalogue at the *Séance* held in April.

THE JAPANESE GOVERNMENT, it is announced, has notified its adhesion to the International Postal Union.

THE SPUD PAPERS; OR, NOTES ON PHILATELIC WEEDS.

BY THE REV. R. BRISCO EAREE.

LXI.

La Guaira.

1870: ½ REAL, GREEN.

FORGERIES of the Curaçoa series have not, I think, been in existence very long; at any rate, I have only known them for a few months. I described the forgery of the 2 reales in our June number, page 82; the present forgery completes the set.

Genuine.—Lithographed (?) on yellowish wove paper; pin-pricked 10, or perf. 13. The outside line of the frame is scalloped all round, with 15 scallops at top and bottom, and 17 down each side. There is a stop after each of the letters J. A. J., and the horizontal lines of the Z are carried beyond the knobs which ought to end them. The scroll containing the value almost touches the frame on each side. There are two ornamental tongues sticking out of the centre of the left side of the body of each J. The steamer's mizen is set, and can be readily seen.

Forged.—Lithographed, on white wove paper; pin-perf. 13. The principal and easiest test is the number of scallops round the frame. There are 16 at top and bottom, and 20 at each side. There is no stop after the last J; the stop after the A. is not very distinct, and the Z is like an ordinary capital Z. The ends of the value-scroll are at some distance from the sides of the frame. There is only one ornamental tongue sticking out from the centre of each J, making these letters look more like F than J. The steamer's mizzen-sail is not set, though the gaff (or boom, or whatever it is called) is plainly visible.



Postmarks, &c.—The genuine stamps generally bear a double circle in blue or black, containing large letters (CORREOS, &c.); and the forgeries have four concentric circles in black, and no lettering. The gum on the genuine is yellow; the forgeries are ungummed.

I am sorry that I did not get this stamp in time to describe it with its twin brother in our June number, because the major portion of the description there given is applicable to both stamps.

Brazil.

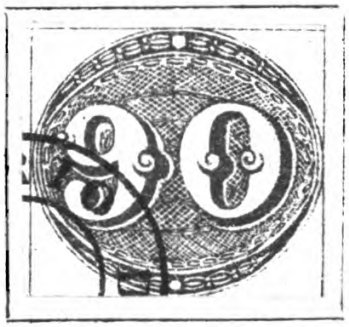
1843: 90 REIS, BLACK.

I think there is not much danger of any one being taken in with the forgery now to be described, for it is coarse and poor to the last degree, and scarcely worthy of a place in our "Spud Paper" museum. But as some of our juvenile friends might possibly get sold, I will dissect it for their benefit.

Genuine.—Finely engraved, in *taille-douce,* on yellowish or bluish white wove paper; imperf. The background is composed of an engine-turned design, the white lines of which are *very* fine, and the black parts, between the intersections of the white lines, of almost microscopic minuteness. The figures of value seem to be, as it were,

laid upon the design of the background. Following the curves of the figures, there is a very light black outline outside the shaded parts of each; and the engine-turning of the background can be seen *between* the outlines and the figures.

Forged.—Very coarsely lithographed, on yellowish white wove paper; imperf. The imitation of the engine-turning in the background is poor, all the white lines being very irregular, and of all thicknesses; and the black parts between the intersections of the white lines are very large. The figures of value do not stand well out from the background, although they seem much whiter than in the genuine stamps. There is a coarse outline following the shaded parts of each figure, and the spaces between figure and outline are perfectly white, with no trace of the engine-turning. Immediately inside the inmost line of the ornamental frame there is a sort of chain-pattern running right round the stamp, which is not to be seen in the originals; and inside this again, behind the figures, are three concentric ovals of double black lines, which are intended to represent the darker parts of the engine-turning in the originals.



The forgeries are postmarked RIO DE JANEIRO in large capitals, in a large double circle. A very similar postmark is often to be found on the genuine. I think I have said enough to show that these vermin are not likely to be at all dangerous.

OUR FOREIGN CONTEMPORARIES.

CONTINUED locomotion has much interfered with our regular reception of the various philatelic publications during the past summer. Those now to hand, are commented on in the accustomed way.

The August, September, and October numbers of *Le Timbrè-Poste* await notice. They are replete, as usual, with descriptions and illustrations of novelties, prominent among which is a new and hitherto unexistent British denomination as an adhesive, value eightpence,—known as yet only by the little, if ever, used compound envelopes of a pair of fourpenny impressions, or a sixpenny and twopenny side by side. The several numbers contain, likewise, much interesting information regarding philatelic subjects, of which our readers shall have the benefit as opportunity offers. The October number figures and describes a resuscitated Deccan stamp of great interest, and contains a most valuable historic, descriptive, and illustrated article on the emissions of Modena, with official information on dates and other matter which sets at rest several moot points respecting the stamps in question. This paper also we hope to epitomize in due course.

The August number of Dr. Moschkau's *Illustrirtes Briefmarken Journal*, has an article on the money-order issues of Holstein in 1866, and one on Austro-Hungarian essays. We presume that the stamps of each nature are being still collected in Germany and elsewhere on the

continent; but the former have never attracted much interest with British collectors; and for some unexplained reason, very few, even of our leading philatelists, seem to care for the latter. We remember in the early stages of stamp-collecting, that essays were sought after more, and prized and priced higher than regularly current or accepted issues. The same number holds an illustrated account of the Deccan stamps; but we presume the author had not met with the resuscitation chronicled by M. Moens, or it would have been included. The ensuing number proves the truth of one of our old saws, that "one must go abroad to hear news of home." There is a full description and engraving of the stamp on an envelope officially employed by Her Majesty's Commissioners for the Exhibition of 1851. In the same number is an article on the modern philatelic literature of Germany.

We have now to notice the first two numbers of a publication, in one respect unique, namely, in having the contents in paralleled columns of two languages, Italian and French. The title of this new appearance is *Guida Illustrata del Timbrofilo.* It is to be published once a month at Bologna. We have seen the numbers for July and August only as yet, and so far as we can judge from them this Italian magazine, in conjunction with the French translation, will rank among first-class publications of its nature. It is of the same size as the Parisian *Timbrophile* and *Ami*, strongly reminding us of the former, owing to the portrait of Sir Rowland Hill on the first page. The August number gives a long article upon the supposed existence of a 9 centesimi violet Modenese, undistinguished by the letters B. G. The arguments employed, and afterwards answered in the latest number of the Brussels magazine, are too lengthy for recapitulation here. A copious amount of illustrations and descriptions fill many of the large pages of this new aspirant for patronage. There is also other philatelic matter; and a feuilleton interpolated after the manner of the French journals, under the title of "Stamps and Stamp-collecting," which is very amusing, if not particularly instructive. Still more amusing is a notice on the wrapper of the first number, which is devoted to advertisements and correspondence. This said notice refers to Dr. Moschkau and M. Louis Senf., calling upon the former to pay 80 francs and the latter 200 francs, which the proprietors of the magazine claim to be their due for stamps purchased. In the succeeding number of their Leipzig magazine, the said gentlemen deny the soft impeachment, stating it to be the first time they ever heard of, much less had any dealings with, the parties so unceremoniously calling upon them for payment. The Italians rejoin that they hold letters and other documents to prove demonstrably the truth of their accusation! Something or somebody must be in the wrong. The first number is as full as the second of illustrations, descriptions, and other philatelic matter. We wish the publishers and their publication all deserved success.

The American Journal of Philately for July is the latest that has reached us. Mr. Overy Taylor is prominent as usual, and the editor seems pleased that he will last some time yet, because there is nothing worth cribbing in any other European contemporary. He forgets the valuable catalogues appearing in the Parisian *Bulletin*. There

is an amusing paper on "The Stamp Business," illustrated by a full page inner and outer view of Messrs. Scott's place of business in New York. The curious list of cigar stamps will interest many, though but a very meagre portion of home philatelists. There is a reply to a correspondent which we cannot comprehend, wherein a quotation of ours from a number of the *Journal* is alluded to. The editor rightly allows us credit for no disrespect towards himself in calling his journal by his own name. We should have considered it rather a compliment than otherwise in our own case. It may be remarked that for the sake of variety of expression, the *Timbre-Poste* figures in our pages sometimes as the Belgian or Brussels magazine, and at others as M. Moens' publication.

There is an irregular batch of minor magazines of the United States to notice. The 3rd and 5th number of the Newmarket *Stamp-Collector's Monthly* have readable articles on stamp collecting, the Confederate Locals, &c., and, of course, illustrated novelties. The September number gives the addresses of well-known concoctors of counterfeits; and under the heading of a newly-coined word, "Timbrophilets," informs readers that there are 200,000 stamp collectors in the United States; and that among the most prominent members of the fraternity are the Royal Family of England, Pope Pius IX., King Victor Emmanuel, Baron Rothschild, and Gen. W. T. Sherman. The writer seems to imagine that there is but one Rothschild bearing the baronial title; and we much doubt the taste of the Italian king for so sedentary an amusement as postage stamps.

The Philadelphian *Philatelic Monthly* for July, August, and September, devote six out of their eight pages each to advertisements. This looks well for philately, if uninteresting to philatelists of standing, because showing the existence of demand and supply. The editor describes a French impression which is a well-known essay for the first republic.

The Chicago *Monthly Chronicle* for August, amidst much that is perfectly irrelevant to philately, contains a good article on "Philosophy in Collecting;" an account of the postal arrangements in the city of Hamburg in its palmy days; and the information that there are more than 500,000 stamp collectors in the United States.

The Canada Beaver for August informs its readers that the first collector of postage stamps was a Belgian schoolmaster, who, in 1854, used his specimens to create an interest among his pupils. We believe the statement approximates the truth. The collegians of Louvain claim to be the earliest collectors; but the date must be put back a few years. We were much interested in the examination of a collection of about a hundred and fifty specimens, at that time a pretty large one, so long since as the year mentioned; but this had been formed a year or two previously in emulation of a much more extensive existent collection, wherein many of the now very rare locals of the United States figured. The editor concludes an article on philately with a sensible sentence: "If any stern parent objects to the philatelical recreations of his offspring, all the children need do, is to present to his notice a stamp from Bergedorf, Thurn and Taxis, or Réunion, and say, 'Pa, where is that place.'?"

POSTAL ARRANGEMENTS IN THE EAST.

AN ARTICLE on the above subject, by a well-known and influential philatelist, in the Brussels magazine is embodied here. The details are evidently authentic, and appear to be taken from information published in two accredited Austrian periodicals.

It has been often remarked that the history of nations is a perpetual kaleidoscope; and that of the Persians seems, more than any other, to verify such an observation. At an epoch when the West was almost a desert, the pompous city afterwards called Persepolis by the Greeks served as capital to those powerful Achæmenidæ who had fixed their sovereignty upon the remains of the Assyrian empire, and covered the land of Iran with cities, villages, religious and civil edifices, richly cultivated lands, subterranean canals, and lastly, good post-roads, on which were regularly stationed relays of couriers, termed *angaroi* by Herodotus.

This brilliant state of civilization of necessity could not survive the dynasty that created it. By the fact of the Macedonian conquest, Persia, deprived of its pristine political importance, fell by degrees back again into the state of semi-barbarism whence the organizing ability of Zoroaster's disciples had extricated it. Among the different masters chosen, or otherwise, after Alexander the Great, Seleucidæ, Parthians, Sassanid, Arab, or Sofian princes,—not one even under the glorious reigns of Shah-Abbas the great, Nadiz Shah, and others, could replace it in the same degree of social prosperity and splendour that it had attained during the rule of the Achæmenidæ. It is but just, however, to notice the serious efforts made by the later Persian sovereigns to reconstitute their empire, and model its organization upon European institutions.

Among the number of these attempts which must be unreservedly commended, may be reckoned the request lately addressed by the Persian government to the Austrian ministry, for the purpose of obtaining the services of some agents to assist in the renewal of a postal *régime* in the State, which having invented posts in the heroic ages, seemed now-a-days completely oblivious of its own invention. One of the said agents thus sent in response to the call, the councillor Riederer, reports that, if he has hitherto been able to acquit himself of his mission with facility, it is thanks to the support received from Amin-ul-Mulek, Minister of Justice, and particular friend to the Shah Nasser Ed-dyn. This young dignitary, highly accomplished and very affable, assisted the delegates with all his power to triumph over the obstacles which the selfish opposition of the Persian functionaries raised in their path. One of these obstructives, the gövernor of a province, had obtained the superintendence of the postal relays, which he underlet to subordinates, on whom he exercised unbounded tyranny. The chief of the Austrian legation had recourse to the intervention of Amin-ul-Mulek, for the forcible removal of the said high personage from office, and the suppression of the privilege he enjoyed.

But the destruction of abuses and a clear field for reform were not sufficient; the reforms themselves, and without delay, were the grand requisites. In the space of one year, and in spite of the

ridiculously small subvention allowed by the Persian government (little more than £300), M. Riederer contrived to establish post-offices in the principal cities of the North-West, as well as a weekly service of despatches between Teheran, the capital, and Tauris, the chief commercial city of the empire, together with correspondence as far as the Russian frontier. Between Teheran and Tauris the distance is nearly 400 English miles. This space is traversed in 80 hours by three couriers, changed at two points on the road, where post-offices have been erected. To the said couriers are usually joined postillions, carrying saddlebags containing the letters. As to the transmission of money, M. Riederer's report announces that he is in hopes to be soon enabled to essay such on one of the postal lines established by him; but he seems for the present to entertain no immoderate confidence of success, in consequence of the highway robberies, which, unfortunately for Persia, have not yet ceased to interfere with its roads of communication.

A short time after his arrival at Teheran, the chief of the delegation had inaugurated the fabrication of postage stamps there; of necessity a very primitive one, since nothing but a hand-press was at the disposal of the workmen, and the stamps could be separated by means of scissors only. This insufficiency of material has since been provided against,

From Persia let us pass to Japan. Till a comparatively recent period this country enjoyed no general postal service. It was only when the empire was opened to foreigners that the French, English, and American governments, found themselves necessitated to establish post-offices in the ports whither Europeans were admitted, for the convenience of receiving their own national correspondence. It was after the pattern of these offices that the Japanese State regulated the organization of their own, when it was decided to launch out into the paths of reform, and set to work constructing railroads, steamers, erecting telegraph stations, and founding newspapers.

The report of the Postmaster-General of Japan for the year 1875, attests the prodigious impulse afforded to this part of the public service, which is superintended by a Japanese, named Magesima, assisted by English under-officials. The system of post-office savings banks, which Mr. Gladstone introduced into England in 1864, is now instituted in Japan, as well as the circulation of post cards and the delivery of money-orders.

During the last six months of 1875, the Japanese offices received 8,077,333 ordinary letters; 1,849,190 post cards, 1,839,846 newspapers; 44,860 books, patterns, &c.; 47,480 registered letters; 165,752 booked letters; 44,185 letters for foreign destination; and 34,639 newspapers for the same.

The report reveals, moreover, a singular fact. A certain number of registered letters had been stolen from the post-office; but the guilty individual, overcome with remorse, hastened to restore the effects of his larceny! This is a fine instance of the force of conscience; but one which we much fear will find but few imitators among the pickpockets of the West.

Book Postage in Spain.—A Madrid paper complains that book postage costs twice as much in Spain as in any country in Europe.

POSTAL SCRAPS.

THE POSTAL SERVICE IN PERSIA.—An article in *L'Orient Illustré* declares that a postal system has been maintained in Persia for the last twelve years, but insufficiently responding to the needs of the population. It was merely the couriers of the several European legations, who set out once a-week with letters for the interior, on condition of never deviating from the direct route. The earliest service was established between the capital and the villages of Shemiran, where the upper classes pass the summer. A horseman, in red and green uniform, booted and spurred, with post-horn and all, sets out at sunrise from Teheran. After repairing to the residence of the king of kings, one hour's distance from the city, he bears his letters to the different villages. This distribution takes about three hours. Towards noon he sets off on the return journey, distributing as he goes, and receiving other letters for dropping on the way, or delivering at Teheran. He is always supplied with postage stamps for sale in the villages and private houses. The preparation of these stamps has been difficult: for the nonce, a sufficient quantity was fabricated by means of a hand-press. In six weeks, a wonderfully brief period for the purpose, a great number of pupils have been taught to read addresses in French. Ten schools have been established wherein young Persians receive instruction in postal service and the French language. There are two post-offices at Teheran distinguished by the Persian emblems of the lion and sun; and at the military encampment in the neighbourhood of the Shah's residence, where ten thousand men bivouac, a native telegraphist is charged with the management of the post. The couriers are strictly punctual, and announce their arrival and departure by the sound of the post-horn.

THE STAMP EXCHANGE.

NOTICE.

For the accommodation of those subscribers who may be desirous of exchanging their duplicate stamps, a portion of *The Philatelist* is set apart each month to facilitate exchanges.

RULES.

1. Advertisements must be accompanied by the cheque given with each number.
2. Advertisements to be addressed to "The Editor of *The Philatelist*, Preston Road, Brighton," and received not later than the 18th of the month.
3. The full name and address of the writer must be sent with each advertisement.
4. IF AN ADVERTISEMENT EXCEEDS 20 WORDS A CHARGE OF 6D FOR EVERY ADDITIONAL 10 WORDS WILL BE MADE.
5. *The Stamp Exchange* is intended for the use of amateur collectors only; notices from dealers cannot therefore be inserted.

G. CAMPBELL, La Tranchée, Tours, France, desires to exchange used and unused post cards with other collectors.

R. R. BOGERT, P.O., Box 1438, New York, has a pair of U.S. Envelopes, 1857, 6 cents entire, to exchange for rare stamps.

ATHOL C. H. JOHNSTONE, Dyke Road, Brighton, has for exchange a quantity of rare duplicates, English and foreign. Correspondence requested.

T. STEPHENSON, Albemarle Lodge, Wimbledon Park, will give 2s. (exchange in stamps) for every 1,000 common foreign stamps any amateur likes to send. Has also a few good stamps to exchange.

THE EDITOR'S LETTER-BOX.

*** Correspondents sending specimens for inspection and return, are requested to enclose a stamped directed envelope.

CAPTAIN V., Brighton. — The New Caledonia is one of the photographic fac-similes; the Argentine is not genuine.

J. H. H., Hemel Hempstead.—We never object to receiving any remarks made by our readers on the management of the magazine, but rather court them.

C. C. W., Princeton, U.S. — Conformably with your intimation, we give "The Equitable Stamp Company, P.O. Box 4989, New York," dealing extensively in forged stamps, the benefit of this gratis advertisement.

V. DE Y., Brondesbury.—The date 1855 given for the missing 19 cuartos in our notice upon the Spanish prize-paper, is evidently a misprint for 1865. The blue 2 r. of 1851 is catalogued by Moens, and certainly existent. We did not complain of *incorrectness* with respect to the H. P. N. surcharge; but of the total *omission* of such varieties. We cannot take advantage of your kind offer of a sight of the Don Diego post card for description, being unable to return it by the required time.

A. C. H. J., Brighton. — You have mistaken the new 8d. chronicled in the September number. It is for Victoria, not New South Wales. There was an adhesive of same value previously issued for Victoria, which we presume has been exhausted; but it might have been imagined a re-impression thereof would have been a less clumsy expedient than a surcharged ninepenny. Very probably that value being no longer required, it was thought more expedient to use up the stock, than undergo the expense of reprinting the old eightpenny. Your 1 sen Japanese is perfectly genuine; you may notice it duly chronicled at page 118.

RECENT AND UNDESCRIBED EMISSIONS.

COLOMBIAN STATES.

AT page 107 of this magazine will be found the description of a pair of new emissions for these republican states. The cut here depicted represents one of them, the 20 centavos value. The word ANTIOQUIA is seen misprinted on the variety described at page 131; and the first letter of LIBERDAD which ought to be on the bandeau is omitted. The 1 centavo of this state is now on yellow-green, and its paper unglazed. The first set of Tolima adhesives had been supposed always printed on laid paper, but the collection of Baron A. de Rothschild contains specimens on plain bluish paper; and the same rectification of misspelling the word CORREOS being seen thereon, M. Moens concludes that the stamps on laid paper appeared first, and were successively followed by those on plain bluish, and those on white laid.



CANADA.

The Canadian envelope stamps seem to have been disused and extinct for some time. Writing to a component part of the dominion for some, we lately received reply that there were none now to be had, *if there really ever were.* However, we are kindly informed by Mr. A. E. Myers, of Montreal, that one at least is in course of preparation, and that possibly more denominations may be eventually issued. The impression will be very similar to that of the 3 cents envelope of the United States. Head of Queen to left; CANADA POSTAGE above; value below. Oval stamp; green on white; 3 cents.

MAURITIUS.

A correspondent, one of the earliest promoters of the Philatelic Society, writes from this distant island that the stock of ninepenny adhesives lately employed for the low halfpenny value having become exhausted, the tenpenny values are now surcharged for the same purpose in a similar way; and there being but few of them left in the office, some other value will be next employed. He adds that the rupee currency having just been authorized, a requisition for a new set of stamps, with the value in cents, has been sent to England by the Postmaster. The designs, colours, and values proposed at present, are:—2 cents, deep red, type of the current tenpenny; 4 c., brick-red;

8 c., blue; 12 c., vermilion; 16 c., pink; 25 c., marone; 37 c., ; 50 c., green; 2 rupees 25 cents, mauve. All these, except the first, are of the type of the current penny. In addition to these adhesives, application has been made for envelopes to the value of 8 c., 25 c., and 50 c.

HONG KONG.

Mr. Sidebotham has shown us a mauve 30 cents surcharged 28 CENTS in black capitals. Another correspondent sends us intimation of the same.

MONTSERRAT.



Perhaps preparatory to a regular emission of stamps for this small island, those of Antigua are now employed there, surcharged with the new name in upright block black capitals, the word ANTIGUA being barred out. We have both the sixpenny green and penny red values before us thus manipulated. They were kindly transmitted for inspection by a subscriber.

HOLLAND.

Our Bath contemporary announces the forthcoming issue of four new stamps for this kingdom: ½, 1, 2, and 2½ cents. Design and colours promised next month.

TASMANIA.

A correspondent kindly favours us with the information that the die of the 4d. blue of 1871, unused in the colony for some time, is again employed, but the colour is now yellow. It first appeared about the middle of August last.

SWITZERLAND.

On the current official card, the words CARTE-CORRESPONDANCE. OFFICIEL, are now replaced by CARTE-CORRESPONDANCE OFFICIELLE in larger letters.

TURKEY.



The type of the new set for this empire chronicled last month is the same for all the stamps, value of course excepted. This emission is about one of the most distinctive we know of, and will be an ornament to philatelic albums. For colours and values, see page 130. The stamps made their first appearance last month. A correspondent quotes a surcharged 10 paras of the previous set of a very dark reddish violet hue.

AZORES.

In allusion to the several varieties of type and colour in the surcharges upon the Portuguese adhesives for use in the Azores and Madeira, M. Moens remarks that it is easy for any individual to print such on the easily procurable stamps of Portugal; and that, if such varieties are found in the emission of 1868, it only proves that the postal authorities of the islands applied a surcharge of their own, differing from what was used at Lisbon, when they knew it had been decided that such modifications of the Portuguese should be employed.

M. Moens' opinion is, that these varieties are inadmissible, being valueless in a philatelical point of view. We agree with him so far as regards the fancy surcharge first alluded to; but surely, the colonial variety is equally valuable with any other *really* official adaptation, like the Porto Rico *paraphe*, &c.

GREAT BRITAIN.

This engraving is self-evident, and tells its own tale. It would be one of the most effective of our home adhesives, had a richer colour been chosen. The international twopenny-halfpenny has reached No. 4; some of the sheets are a trifle paler, others very much deeper hued than before. A correspondent forwards specimens of the Vaccination paper, chronicled at page 52 of this year's volume, one of which bears the stamp dated 28-2-72, and the other is impressed with the current undated stamp. The former is Form C, the latter Form D, of which the difference consists only in the printed directions on the former being more elaborate than those on the latter. We understand that a companion local to the Keble adhesive is now circulated for the use of that college, viz., a post card, of which we hope next month to give a full description.



RUSSIAN LOCALS.

Aleksandria.—The *Timbre-Poste* corrects the received dates of issue of the stamps of this place. That first emitted in 1870 was the round fawn-coloured one, with no indication of value. The small round blue stamp, with numeral and posthorn in centre, appeared in 1873; and the current blue, with central value and ornamentation, came out in 1874.

Bielozersk.—The same authority states that the emission of this stamp on plain white paper did not appear until 1876, instead of 1871 or 72, as usually believed. The pink paper variety was employed in 1874 in consequence of the exhaustion of the stock on white.

Charkov.—The red 5 kopecks, as well as the blue timbre-taxe, have been replaced by a pair of similar designs somewhat modified. The numerals, inscriptions, and star, are larger; the latter now touches the inner frame. The numerals at the lower angles are reversed, and the stamp encompassed by a fine line. The surcharge is continued on the red, but not on the blue.

Egoriev.—A pair of individuals have turned up differing from the 1872 emission. They are the black and blue engraved varieties. The inscriptions on the lozenge-shaped frame are larger; but the star is smaller. The small white ornament below the value is suppressed.

Gdov.—We have just received a perforated specimen of this stamp, surcharged in black written letters (not Russian characters), TYOBV.

Krapiwna.—The stamps of this district are extinct.

Melitopol.—Another variety is formed by a recent modification of the smoker-type. An eight-pointed star is now seen, and all the letters are thinner and closer than before: no stop follows the 3; the upright P in the Russian equivalent for *silver* is corrected into a sloping one, in conformity with the other characters; the inner circle is less thickly filleted; and the stamp is line-pierced.

Nolinsk.—A new comer from this locality is described and figured in the Belgian magazine. It is oblong; bears a flying goose on a very peculiarly formed escutcheon, surmounted by numeral and minute initial of value on what appears to be a small reversed shield. On a patterned groundwork are "Post Stamp" above; "Nolinsk Rural District" below. Small numerals within circles at angles. It is lithographed on white paper by an artist named Kotlewich, at Viatka, as evidenced by an inscription at top of stamp. This stamp is imperforate, although its wavy border gives the cut the effect of perforation. Black on white; 2 kop.

Pavlograd.—The 5 kop. stamp of this place is now ultramarine, instead of the two shades of blue originally employed.

Podolsk.—The type of this stamp is again modified. The exterior festoons are smaller; the numerals are more upright; the inscriptions in bolder characters; and the star is larger. The oval shows 32 vertical lines instead of 25; and the stamp is no longer arch-pierced, but hole-perforated. Yellow-green; 5 kop.

Riasan.—Another type remade. The inscriptions are in larger characters; the outward boundary line is thicker: and the stamp itself altogether larger. Lilac for postage; silver for timbre-taxe; 2 kop.

Wesiegonsk.—A correspondent of the *Timbre-Poste* states that the 5 kop. of each emission of this district is the sole stamp employed for postage. The ½ kop. and 1 kop. are timbres-taxe for newspapers; and the 2 kop. of the first emission was used for postal announcements, *i.e.*, to prepay a notice from the postmaster to parties that a packet or registered letter awaited them. That extra charge being afterwards raised to 5 kop., the 2 kop. value was not included in the current oval set.

INDIA.







Two of the representatives of these engravings have been announced some time; but the lowest value comes totally unexpected, its appearance being heralded by a cut in the Leipzig magazine. It is violet like the perhaps now superseded 8 pies. A contemporary is inclined to object to the disposition of the letters of value; but we think *any* variety of type in the general sameness of the beautifully designed stamps of De La Rue is to be welcomed. The engravings describe themselves, colour excepted. The 6 annas is brown; the 12 a. reddish violet.

FRANCE.

The 20 centimes and 75 c. noted last month to be existent but inactive, have since appeared. The latter is for inland postage and registration. In accordance with the many anomalies of the French

postal regulations, 40 c. serves for foreign, but 50 c. are required for home registration!

JAPAN.

The subjoined cuts depict two of the five lately-issued Japanese in a new type. The 5 rin (½ sen), the 1 sen and 2 sen were chronicled in the September number; the 4 sen and 5 sen in October. It will be observed that the 5 sen differs from the others, although equally remote from the ancient type. The 1 sen is distinguishable from the others in having more white in the spandrels, which gives it a better effect. The 2 sen which we lately received are in two distinct shades of hue; and all the 1 sen are devoid of the minute distinguishing characters hitherto seen at the bottom of the garland.





UNITED STATES.

Mr. Chute, of Boston, has obliged us with a fuller description of the various centennial envelope stamps than has yet appeared in the pages of *The Philatelist*. He first notes that there is but one car depicted thereon, which is an exact pattern of that used in the U.S. service, with Ward's catcher attached. The letters U.S.M. (United States Mail) are embossed on its panels. The improvement in the Mail system during the past hundred years was intended to be conveyed by this representation, in contradistinction to the mail-rider of 1776. He adds that, although the first railway post-office journey was made in England on the Grand Junction Railway between Liverpool and Birmingham on the 1st of July, 1837, it was more than a quarter of a century ere any attempts were made in the States to reorganize the mail-service, and establish it on a footing similar to that of England. It was Post-master-General Holt, in 1860, who first effected a satisfactory arrangement of this nature. The varieties of the centennial envelope mentioned by our correspondent, are:—

3 cents,	green	(two lines under postage)	watermarked U.S.P.O.D.
,,		(one thick line ,,)	,, ,,
,,		(same as the 1st.)	,, U.S.C. 1876.
,,		(same as the 2nd.)	,, ,,
,,	red	(one line under postage)	,, U.S.P.O.D.
,,		,,	,, U.S.P.O.D. 1876.
,,		,, (variety)	,, ,,

This last variety has a break in the inner stroke of the letter U; the catcher on engine is composed of solid colour; and there are various minor differences. None of the above will be issued after the 19th of this month (November); the red colour was discontinued some time since. Both hues will continue valid for postage for the next twelvemonth.

SERVIA.

The German magazines figure and describe an as yet unchronicled resuscitation appertaining to this unlucky principality. It was

prepared for use, and approved of by Prince Michael, in 1867; but the type found no favour elsewhere, and the impressions were suppressed, and destroyed. The stamp is a small oval, containing emblazoned and crowned escutcheon, within engine-turned frame inscribed with monetary denomination in Servian characters; numeral of value beneath. Black on dark pink paper; 1 groschen.

PERSIA.



The annexed is reported by the Leipzig magazine to be representative of a new emission for the Persian empire. The generally effective key or Grecian patterned border is here totally spoiled by being out of the straight line. The Shah appears, as the Bath circular justly observes, to be looking out of a circular window; and wears the magnificent aigrette which attracted such notice in England. The stamps are printed in black upon a coloured diaper ground. Lilac, 1 schahi; green, 3 sch.; pink, 5 sch.; blue, 10 sch.

JOHORE.

The *Illustrirtes Briefmarken Journal* describes an envelope purporting to emanate from the above-mentioned East Indian government. The stamp is a transverse oval embossed in white; bears star and crescent on central escutcheon, topped by imperially crowned vizor. Native characters above; MAHARAJAH OF JOHORE below.

BHOPAL.



Another East Indian emission is here represented. No further description is needful, other than to remark that the Indian characters in the centre are in white relief. The impression is coloured on white paper. Bhopal, with 30,000 inhabitants, is the capital of the province of Malva, containing 644,000. There are two values,—dark red, ¼ anna; black, ½ anna.

NEW SOUTH WALES.

A correspondent wishes us to note a twopenny adhesive of this colony of the 1868-72 type; pin-perforated 13; watermarked with a single-lined numeral 2.

SOUTH AUSTRALIA.



Surcharges seem the rage at present. An eightpenny stamp being necessitated in all our colonies, and South Australia not being provided therewith, the orange ninepenny is employed for that colony, with the numeral and word PENCE in thick upright capitals on the lower portion of the stamp, thus obliterating the original value. A specimen of this novelty has been kindly forwarded for inspection by a subscriber.

CABUL.

The new lilac-grey stamps are now milky blue. The round 1 shahi violet, and 4 sh. of the same hue, small sized, of the last emission but one, are chronicled on German authority.

LA GUAIRA—CURACOA.

The stamps of the company serving these islands and St. Thomas have been reprinted on whiter paper and in brighter colours, also with closer perforations. The same were also found on yellow paper, with much larger perforations. The former are blue-green, and red. The latter green, and red.

ARGENTINE REPUBLIC.

The new envelope chronicled at page 131 last month is here depicted It was not mentioned that the impression is embossed. An additional centavo is charged for each envelope; but 10 per cent. is allowed to purchasers of 100. Carriers and steamboat companies are required to use these envelopes for any unpaid letters they may receive *en route*, close and address them, adding the date, and adhesives if requisite for excess of weight. All this gratis trouble under penalty of a fine if omitted! In 1877 is expected a new postal tariff, and consequently a new set of stamps.



FINLAND.

About the middle of September last was emitted a "Retour-Recepisse" formula for this province. The 10 penni stamp is now on the right, not on the left, as formerly; and the letters are all different from those used before. The colour is bright lilac. The local green and red Helsingfors has now the hole instead of the serpentine perforation.

GERMAN EMPIRE.

The 10 p. envelope on plain bluish paper of the usual, and also of the larger size, now appears with the word of value in the inscription denuded of the final E, like the Bavarian and Würtemburg envelopes.

NORWAY.

A new Drammen local is figured in the Belgian magazine. It is a small square; bearing value within frame, inscribed, DRAMMEN BY POST; ornamentation below. It is lithographed on plain thick white paper. Blue and dark blue; 2 skillings.

NATAL.

The yellow fiscal, surcharged POSTAGE in capitals horizontally, has been lately used, perhaps in consequence of a temporary lack of the pink postals proper. By the last mail, however, we received a letter from the colony franked entirely by half a dozen of the latter.

BRAZIL.

Mr. Parry, a well-known collector, possesses a 50 reis of this empire, gophered at the back in the same way with certain of the Peruvian and United States stamps.

SIR ROWLAND HILL.—A movement is on foot at Kidderminster to erect a statue of Sir Rowland Hill, in recognition of his services to England and the world at large by the introduction of the penny postage system.

THE SPUD PAPERS; OR, NOTES ON PHILATELIC WEEDS.

BY THE REV. R. BRISCO EAREE.

LXII.

Bolivia.

1868: 100 CENTAVOS, ORANGE.

ONCE more the forgers have tried their hand at imitating *taille-douce* engraving, and, as usual, though the design is most carefully copied, the effect is very poor, and there is not much danger in these last claimants for our notice. If the forgers would simply confine themselves to imitating only the *taille-douce* stamps, I think my occupation, as the writer of these "Spud Papers," would be almost gone. I fancy the readers of this magazine must sometimes be rather tired at my speaking so often of the various ways of printing stamps, and the differences between those ways; but it would be a wonderful saving of trouble, both to the readers and myself, if they could all tell at a glance which stamp is a *taille-douce* engraving, which is a typograph, and which is a lithograph; for then, in most instances, it would be sufficient for me merely to indicate the mode in which the genuine stamps and the forgeries respectively are printed, instead of having to wade through tedious and minute descriptions. To gain a clear knowledge of this subject, our readers cannot do better than read Dr. Magnus's article on "The various modes of printing postage stamps," which appeared in vol. vii. of this magazine, pp. 80, 87.

Forged.—Lithographed, on ordinary white wove paper; pin-pricked 12½. The figures of value are very much sloped. If a line be drawn downwards, through the left-hand 1, it will pass through the o of CENTAVOS; and a similar line, drawn down through the right-hand 1, will pass altogether to the left of the value-label. The lettering is ragged. The llama's tail sticks out obliquely upwards, without a curl. The butts of the right and left flagstaffs are shaped like arrow-heads. The circle which contains the arms, flags, stars, &c., is composed of solid colour. This is the readiest test of the forgery. In the shield every salient point appears to be covered with snow.



Genuine.—Engraved in *taille-douce*, on stout yellowish white wove paper; perf. 12. The figures of value (100) are not much sloped. If a line be drawn straight down through the left-hand 1, it will pass through the N of CENTAVOS; and a line through the right-hand 1 will pass through E of the same word. All the lettering is beautifully done, and very clear. The llama's tail curls upwards like that of a rabbit. The butts of the right and left flagstaffs are shaped like the butts of the old lances of the middle ages. The circle which contains the arms, flags, stars, &c., is composed of horizontal lines of shading. In the shield there is no snow, except upon the peak of the highest mountain.

Postmarks.—The genuine are postmarked either with a large figure or an ordinary postmark. The forgeries bear four concentric circles (like the Danish), with six straight lines filling up the centre.

Gum.—The genuine stamps are backed with clear white gum; the forgeries are ungummed, and printed in sheets of 25,—5 × 5.

OUR PRIZE ESSAYS.

A Pen-and-Ink Map of Central America and the West Indies, Showing all Places issuing Postage Stamps.

SEVEN specimens of the artistic powers of some of our subscribers lie on the table for examination and verdict. That of Mr. R. W. Buss, of 13, Ennis Road, Finsbury Park, London, appears entitled to the pre-eminence: his production, being on good substantial cardboard, and of large size, with coloured boundaries, and fully stocked with names, rivers, mountains, &c., neatly filled in. The various West Indian islands are labelled with their respective European governments. The non-stamp-issuing islands are announced to be painted in a particular colour; and this circumstance exposes one omission we have discovered, viz., Montserrat. But it must be remembered that the map has been prepared for some months, and that the island in question has but yet joined the philatelic ranks, so that the error is no fault of the mapper's.

Mr. W. G. Waller Goodworth, of Islington, shows the next best performance. Of equal size with the preceding; fully coloured, according to the nationality of the islands, and not lacking the name of any stamp-issuing locality; it is not quite so neatly executed, neither is it so liberally provided with names, rivers, mountains, &c.

Third on the list comes Mr. Charles O. Power, of Twickenham. His map, like that first mentioned, is on cardboard, and prepared with equal neatness, though of considerably smaller size. Its bare appearance must not be considered a defect; because the artist has adhered strictly to the literal wording of the prize-conditions, viz., "showing all places issuing postage stamps." This has been easily contrived by representing no others; whereas the two previously mentioned mappers give no distinguishing evidence of postal powers so far as Central America is concerned.

Captain Beresford, of Leamington, adheres more strictly still to the "letter of the law." "Pen-and-Ink Map" are the words employed; and pen-and-ink are alone employed in the manipulation of the Captain's map. It is divided into two portions: that appertaining to Central America, and that for the West Indies. Both maps are well drawn and neatly shaded; and the deficiency of means for pointing out to an outsider which are the stamp-producing places, is managed, as in Mr Power's map, by noting no others.

Mr. O. B. Hake, of Canterbury, offers a small-sized, but very carefully executed, pen-and-ink representation, whereon all stamp-producing countries and islands are signalized by a red asterisk.

Mr. Reginald Walker, of Odenkirchen in Rhenish Prussia, gives a still smaller specimen of art. So far as it goes, it certainly is what the prize formula sets forth,—"pen-and-ink" and "showing." It follows these directions, and that is all we can say for it.

The last on our list, Mr. H. Gilliat, of Brighton, deserves credit for his wonderful ingenuity in following the said formula with as little expense of trouble as possible. It reminds us of the well-known representation of a man driving a dog out of doors by means of three strokes of the pen. No lines of longitude or latitude; no rivers, lakes, or mountains; but just a few bare outlines and names.

THE POST CARDS OF FRANCE.

ARRANGED BY THE REV. C. STROOBANT.

REPUBLIC (1870).

First Emission, 1870.

Siege of Paris.

1.—*OFFICIAL.*

Card.—Decree of 26th September, 1870.

Description.—Small sized (11 × 7 cm.) Maximum weight allowed, 3 grammes. No formula; requiring a stamp of 10 centimes.

No. 1. White.

Card.—Decree of 10th November, 1870.

Description.—Small sized. DEPECHE REPONSE, followed by instructions and columns for the answers. Black typographical impression on white card.

Nomenclature.—No value given (fr. 1.05).

1st Variety.—Seven columns. Instruction of *recto* in two parts.

No. 2. White.

2nd Variety.—Seven columns. Instruction of *recto* in one part. Instruction on *verso* longer.

No. 3. White.

3rd Variety.—Eight columns.

No. 4. White.

4th Variety.—Error. The *recto* of the 3rd variety printed on the *verso*.

No. 5. White.

2.—*UNOFFICIAL.*

Card.—*Description.*—Small sized. Five lines for the address: on the first M, on the third A, on the fourth PAR, on the fifth DEPT. Compartment for stamp at the left upper corner. Black typographical impression on white card.

No. 6. White.

Card.—*Description.*—Small sized. Emblems of Republic. To the left: PAR BALLON NON MONTE, and compartment for stamp, with instruction. To the right the 4th art. of the decree of 26th September, 1870. Four dotted lines for the address. French and German sentences on the four sides. Black typographical impression on white paper.

No. 7. White.

Printed also on yellow, grey, and lilac card.

Sheet.—*Description.*—On the top of the first page: PARIS LE 187 . On the fourth: PAR BALLON MONTE. Compartment for stamp, with instruction to the right. Four lines for the address: on the first M, on the third A, on the fourth DEPT. Black typographical impression on white paper.

No. 8. White.

Sheet.—*Description.*—The page for the address bears the emblems of the Republic. To the left: PAR BALLON MONTE. To the right: compartment for stamp, with instruction. Four dotted lines for the address.

At the bottom the 2nd art. of the decree. French and German sentences fill the rest of the page. Black typographical impression on bluish paper.

No. 9. Bluish.

SHEET.—*Description.*—On the page for the address: PAR BALLON MONTE. M. Compartment for stamp to the right.

No. 10. Bluish.

SHEET.—*Description.*—Two printed pages contain a short relation of recent events; the third is reserved for the correspondence, and the fourth for the address.

No. 11. White.

SECOND EMISSION.

Law of the 20th December, 1872.

Date of Issue.—1873, 15 January.

Description.—Small sized. Inscription: CARTE POSTALE, and formula printed in black. There are two kinds.

A. For circulation in the same town, or in the same office delivery. Value, 10 centimes.

B. From office to office in France or Algeria. Value, 15 centimes.

1.—*NATIONAL PRINTING.*

Nomenclature.—Two values.

A.

A. Compartment for two stamps, with inscription.

1. *Without stamp.*

NO.		
12.	10 centimes	white
13.	10 ,,	bluish

2. *With stamps affixed.*

14.	5+5 centimes	white
15.	5+5 ,,	bluish
16.	10 ,,	white
17.	10 ,,	bluish
18.	10 ,,	with advertisements on the *verso*.

B. Compartment for two stamps, without inscription.

1. *Without stamp.*

19.	10 centimes	white
20.	10 ,,	bluish

2. *With stamps affixed.*

21.	5+5 centimes	white
22.	5+5 ,,	bluish
23.	10 ,,	white
24.	10 ,,	bluish

B.

A. Compartment for one stamp, with inscription.

1. *Without stamp.*

25.	15 centimes	white
26.	15 ,,	bluish

2. *With stamp affixed.*

27.	15 centimes	white
28.	15 ,,	bluish

B. Compartment for one stamp, without inscription.

1. *Without stamp.*

29. 15 centimes white
30. 15 ,, bluish

2. *With stamp affixed.*

31. 15 centimes white
32. 15 ,, bluish

2.—*PRIVATE PRINTING.*

Nomenclature.—Two values.

A.

Compartment for two stamps.



1. *Without stamp.*

33. 10 centimes white

2. *With stamp affixed.*

34. 5 + 5 centimes white
35. 10 ,, ,,

B.

Compartment for one stamp.



1. *Without stamp.*

36. 15 centimes white

2. *With stamp affixed.*

37. 15 centimes white

THIRD EMISSION, 1874-75.

1.—*NATIONAL PRINTING.*

Description.—Same frames as the first. Compartment for one stamp. Value in large figures.

Nomenclature.—Two values.

A.

1. *Without stamp.*

38. 10 centimes buff

2. *With stamp affixed.*

39. 10 centimes buff, 3 shades
40. 10 ,, with advertisements on the *verso*.
41. 10 ,, marked 7.75
42. 10 ,, marked 10.75.

B.

1. *Without stamp.*

43. 15 centimes white
44. 15 ,, liliaceous

2. *With stamp affixed.*

45. 15 centimes white
46. 15 ,, liliaceous, 2 shades
47. 15 ,, marked 7.75
48. 15 ,, marked 10.75

2.—*PRIVATE PRINTING.*

Description—Frame composed of a line interwoven with cable pattern; ornaments at corners.

Nomenclature.—Two values.

A.

A. Compartment for two stamps.

1. *Without stamp.*

49. 10 centimes buff

2. *With stamps affixed.*

50. 5+5 centimes buff
51. 10 ,, buff

B. Compartment for one stamp. Without instructions.

1. *Without stamp.*

52. 10 centimes buff, 2 shades

2. *With stamp affixed.*

53. 10 centimes buff

B.

Compartment for one stamp.

1. *Without stamp.*

54. 15 centimes white

2. *With stamp affixed.*

55. 15 centimes white

FOURTH EMISSION, 1875-1876.

1.—*NATIONAL PRINTING.*

Description.—Same frame as the first. One card only for the three values: in France and Algeria; 10 centimes, for circulation in the same town, or in the same office delivery; 15 centimes, from office to office; 15 or 20 centimes, for the countries with which the exchange of cards is authorised, according to destination.

Nomenclature.—Three values.

1. *Without stamp.*

56. White, marked NOVEMBRE, 1875
57. Buff, ,, DECEMBRE, 1875
58. White, ,, JANVIER, 1876

2. *With stamp affixed.*

59.	10 centimes	white.	NOVEMBRE, 1875
60.	15 ,,	,,	,,
61.	10 + 10 ,,	,,	,,
62.	10 ,,	buff.	DECEMBRE, 1875
63.	15 ,,	,,	,,
64.	10 + 10 ,,	,,	,,
65.	10 ,,	white.	JANVIER, 1876
66.	15 ,,	,,	,,
67.	10 + 10 ,,	,,	,,

2.—*PRIVATE PRINTING.*

Description.—By decree of the Minister of Finances, dated 26th October, 1875, it is lawful for anyone in France to prepare post cards

according to his own design, within the limits of size (12 × 8 cm.) and weight (2 to 5 grammes) prescribed by the French post-office. The inscription on the front is to be printed according to the national card; any method of writing or printing may be adopted; any colour or material may be used. The franking is by an adhesive stamp, according to destination.

OUR FOREIGN CONTEMPORARIES.

IN addition to the accustomed descriptions and representations of novelties, &c., the *Timbre-Poste*, amongst other equally interesting matter, contains an ingeniously-imagined method of mounting envelopes, set forth in a paper by Mr. Casey, "Founder of the National Philatelic Society of New York." It would be difficult, without the accompaniment of the several illustrative cuts, to convey much idea of the way whereby this long mooted point is contrived; suffice it to say, the envelopes, so far as we can judge by the figures and directions, are carefully preserved, especially the embossed ones, in a binding expressly prepared. When required for inspection, they are exposed to view by a contrivance on the principle of the "lazy-tongs," an old fashioned convenience now rarely seen. An article on the 15 rappen Swiss of 1851 is commenced, and gives full means for identifying the ten varieties of type noticeable in that value.

We have not received the *Timbre-Fiscal* for July and August. The September number, and that for October, are before us. They are crammed with notices of fiscals from all parts of the earth; among others, with the mention of a 3 cent fiscal for Sarawak, type very similar to that of the current set, but of a much larger size. A great portion of these two numbers is devoted to an essay on our own fiscals.

Three numbers of the *Ami des Timbres* remain for notice: August, September, and October. They chronicle pretty much the same novelties, &c., which have been noted during the past months in this and other magazines, besides a few remarkable varieties, the knowledge whereof is due to the researches of the editor or his correspondents. With respect to the portion devoted to the fiscals, it may be sufficient to mention, in case any of our readers should be smitten with a *penchant* for collecting them, that a series of papers is commenced in the August number by a well-known English collector, who possesses one of the finest and completest collections of fiscal impressions. The subject is semi-interesting to British philatelists, being a catalogue of our own fiscals, illustrated with cuts. There seems a rivalry on this branch of stamp-collecting between the French and Belgian magazines.

The *Gazette des Timbres* has not appeared for some months, the editor having been lately engaged in affairs which promise a much richer harvest than philatelic literature.

The third number of the *Guida Illustrata del Timbrofilo*, published at Bologna, contains no matter particularly noteworthy. Full descriptions and copious illustrations of all recent appearances enliven the pages of this magazine. We were hoping to hear how the pretty quarrel between the proprietors and those of the Leipzig journal was being adjusted, but no inkling of the affair has transpired.

The numbers of the *Illustrirtes Briefmarken Journal* for October and November furnish us with several novelties which will be found chronicled in their proper place. A large wood-cut, representative of the Museum of the Imperial Post at Berlin, graces the former number; it gives a very good idea of the various models of buildings, steam-carriages, mail-carts, &c., exhibited; and a fully uniformed post-official, horn and all, is one of the most conspicuous objects in the representation. A lengthy article on the essays and adopted types of the Persian Empire, including a fac-simile of the expected new emission, is not the least interesting feature in the November number.

THE FRENCH TIMBROLOGICAL SOCIETY.

THERE was a meeting on the 5th of October last, under the presidency of Mons. Donatis. After the reading of several communications on philatelic subjects, and the exhibition and presentation of several novelties and rarities, M. Schmidt de Wilde offered certain catalogues, &c., for the Society's library, which M. de Bosredon declared to be in a satisfactory state. The stamps of Italy were the order of the day. Tuscany was declared to have been the first state thereof which emitted adhesives; although Sardinia, years before, had employed the well-known stamped sheet, whose officially postal character, after having been held in question by some, is now satisfactorily settled, that is to say, sufficiently so to render their admission into strictly philatelical albums quite indisputable. Nevertheless, they are stated to be incontestably of a somewhat fiscal nature like the adhesive stamps formerly affixed in certain Italian states to foreign newspapers; because, although sold at the post-offices, they served as a tax or payment on correspondence transported in any other way than per regular post. The difference between the dates of emission of the Tuscan stamps given by M. Moens and M. Natalis Rondot was commented on, and explained by the fact that the date of decree is chronicled by one, and that of issue by the other. The stamps of the provisional government were next taken, followed by the fiscals.

The Sardinian emissions were next taken up. It was shown that the 1819 sheets were unwatermarked otherwise than with the same watermarks which may be found on all administrative papers of the period, which are merely those of the manufacturer. The 1820 emission are officially marked. The several sets of Sardinia were then gone into, followed by the passport stamps of 1856 and 1858. The parliamentary proclamation of the Kingdom of Italy on the 17th of March, 1861, caused all stamps employed after that date to fall into the category of general Italian emissions.

POSTAL SCRAPS.

THE HIGHEST INHABITED PLACE on the globe is the post-office of Anconia, Peru, sixteen thousand feet above the level of the sea.

STAMP COLLECTING IN AMERICA.—"In answer to one of our subscribers," says the editor of *The Philatelic Monthly*, published at Philadelphia, "we can say that the most valuable collection of stamps in the United States is owned by a gentleman of St. Louis. The collection numbers 10,103 specimens, including 460 essays and proofs, 626 locals, 205 telegraph stamps, and 1,076 revenues. There are several collections in Washington, numbering from 3,000 to 5,000, and one containing 7,500

stamps. In Philadelphia and vicinity there are several large and valuable collections. One containing 4,296, several others numbering 4,000 to 5,000, and quite a number ranging from 1,000. One collection, which was commenced less than a year ago, numbers over 2,000 fine unused, and many of them very rare stamps. There are large collections in Boston, New York, and many other places, each numbering several thousands. We know of one collection in New York which contained 10,000 some three years ago; but this included revenues, match, medicine, tobacco, and other than postage stamps. As to the values of the various collections spoken of we are not at liberty to speak."

THE STAMP EXCHANGE.

NOTICE.

For the accommodation of those subscribers who may be desirous of exchanging their duplicate stamps, a portion of *The Philatelist* is set apart each month to facilitate exchanges.

RULES.

1. Advertisements must be accompanied by the cheque given with each number.
2. Advertisements to be addressed to "The Editor of *The Philatelist*, Preston Road, Brighton," and received not later than the 18th of the month.
3. The full name and address of the writer must be sent with each advertisement.
4. IF AN ADVERTISEMENT EXCEEDS 20 WORDS A CHARGE OF 6D FOR EVERY ADDITIONAL 10 WORDS WILL BE MADE.
5. *The Stamp Exchange* is intended for the use of amateur collectors only; notices from dealers cannot therefore be inserted.

E. H. GARDNER, Hempsted, Gloucester, England, has a large quantity of duplicates to exchange. Prefers foreign correspondents.

DAVID H. HILL, Treasury, Melbourne, Victoria, wishes to exchange unused stamps with collectors in Australian and other colonies.

C. W. KING, Rozare Cottage, Ipswich, requests offers for the following:—Bolivia, first issue, 50 c. orange; 100 c. blue (varieties of shades); set of four unused Luzon, 1870. Has many other rarities. Wants vols. i. to vii. of *The Philatelist*, bound. Colonial and foreign correspondence solicited.

JOSEPH J. CASEY, P.O. Box, 1698, New York, United States, has some rare Plympton envelopes, 6 c.; Swaim's Panacea; and unique proofs of private proprietary stamps. Will exchange for uncancelled and rare adhesives and envelopes. Philatelic literature wanted.

RISPOSTA, Longton, Staffordshire, an advanced collector, wishes to exchange his duplicates of used foreign post cards that have actually passed through the post, and of which he possesses numerous varieties; also unused post cards, entire envelopes, and rare postage stamps. All letters answered. Foreign correspondence solicited which can be answered in French or German.

THE EDITOR'S LETTER-BOX.

*** Correspondents sending specimens for inspection and return, are requested to enclose a stamped directed envelope.

W. H. H., Melbourne.—Due acknowledgments are rendered for your politeness in forwarding notice of novelty.

J. T. B., Norwich.—Thanks for intimation of the surcharged Hong Kong; but we had already seen and noted it.

A. M., Montreal.—Similar acknowledgments are most gratefully offered on the part of ourselves and the publishers for your interesting information.

J. M. S., Boston, Massachusetts.—Our gratitude for attention is not yet exhausted: enough still remains to testify our thankful acceptance of your information.

LIEUT. E. B. E., R.N.—Our subscribers seem to have been all contending which should afford the most valuable information on philatelic subjects for this month's magazine. Yours is not the least acceptable.

A. C. H. J., Brighton.—Many thanks for the varieties kindly transmitted; also for a sight of the new surcharged West Indians, and description of inedited specimens. We cannot give even an approximate idea of the immense number of existent and extinct postals proper, including all varieties of shade, watermark, and perforation.

C. O. N. P., Twickenham.—After receiving so many favours, it is a relief to be called upon to render some little information ourselves. You need not hesitate to place your Cashmere stamps in your album, they are all perfectly genuine. So likewise are your Venezuela and La Guaira specimens, and the 90 cents United States. The word *Kandersteg* on the Swiss is evidently employed as cancelling postmark. The pair of New Granadas are forged; this may be easily seen by counting the stars, which are eight in lieu of the proper number, *nine*. The Pacific Steam Navigation Company is a vile attempt at imitation of the exquisite engraved originals.

THE FIFTH ANNUAL DISTRIBUTION OF PRIZES will take place on Monday, the 15th of January next. Directions for sending in the cheques will be given in our next number.

OUR FAREWELL ADDRESS.

SO far as *The Philatelist* is concerned the above heading is applicable. We part from our readers in one respect, but like the blades of scissors "we part to meet again." For ten years we have been labouring to meet the requirements of the philatelic world, and may venture to hope those endeavours have been appreciated; and that the ten volumes of *The Philatelist* will form one of the standard works of one of the latest sciences. But the labourer is worthy of his hire, and when his emoluments are not commensurate with his exertions, he cannot be blamed, in the present prevalence of strikes, for striking. With grateful acknowledgments to those amateurs who have favoured us with their patronage for longer or shorter periods, we pen this brief farewell.

Le roi est mort; vive le roi. As with the greater, so with the smaller. Following the example of our Bath *confrère*, we do not feel inclined to withdraw from catering for postage-stamp collectors. It is purposed, therefore, to start a tri-monthly publication, for further particulars of which our readers are referred to the advertisement sheet of the present and last number of *The Philatelist*.

RECENT AND UNDESCRIBED EMISSIONS.

HOLLAND.

THE new set of low values announced at page 142 are now out, with an extra value not then noted. Value of course excepted, the type is the same in all; one of them being here represented. They consist of the following, according to the Leipzig magazine,—light brown, ½ cent; green, 1 c.; pink, 1½ c.; yellow, 2 c.; violet, 2½ c. The Belgian magazine omits the 1½ c. in its enumeration, and makes the ½ c. pink. Not having met with these novelties, we cannot determine the truth.



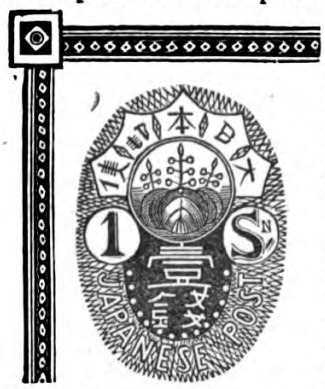
VICTORIA.

By favour of the President of the Philatelic Society, we are enabled to announce and describe a new emanation from this colony, which was issued on the 4th of October last, and first used for the home mail which started on the 5th. Broad rectangle; Queen's crowned head, something resembling that of the latest penny, turned to left within

circle on an engine-turned ground; with VICTORIA above, value in words below; both in light block letters on dark scrolls. The whole is printed in dark colour on a fancy rectangular form upon tinted paper. Dark on pale blue; 1 shilling. Watermark surmounting a crown. A new eightpenny is announced, and the provisional one, as well as the normal ninepenny, will consequently be discontinued. We presume the plate of the original eightpenny of 1865 is worn out.

JAPAN.

A pair of new post cards for this empire have lately come into use.



One of them is here figured; and the type, value necessarily excepted, being the same for the other, one cut will answer for both. The square form is dropped in favour of an oval; and, what is more strange, is the suppression of the conventional chrysanthemum, so long signalizing the Japanese impressions. The stiff trine of the Pawlonia Imperialis takes its place. Another change is the removal of the stamp to the right-hand side of the card, though by an error of our engraver this peculiarity is misrepresented. The impressions are in colour on thin white cardboard. Orange, 5 rin (½ sen); light blue, 1 sen.

PERU.

The *American Journal of Philately* gives an engraving of the new 10 c. for this republic, intimating the expected conformity of the remaining values therewith, and with the beautiful 2 c. already out, the type of which approximates the new comer. We agree with the editor in lamenting the consequent disappearance of the llama series, belonging, as it does, to a class unfortunately fast dying out. The Peruvian arms require a good sized field for display; but in the stamp now under description, the shield which holds them is very small and smothered with a display of flags. It is topped by a mysterious something, behind which blazes the sun. The whole lies within an oval frame, inscribed CORREO DEL PERU, and the value in words. Below is FRANQUEO. A fanciful frame completes the rectangular form of the stamp; numerals of value at the top corners. Red; 10 centavos.

PERSIA.

The enumeration of values for the reported new emission for this empire mentions a 3 shahi, black on green. This should have been 2 shahi, it being the very value depicted and accompanying the description last month. It is stated at page 129, that the 1 shahi of the current set had been changed in colour from vermilion to violet-carmine. It is now ascertained that the stamp last mentioned is another value, viz., 1 kran or 20 shahis, equivalent to a French franc.

COLOMBIAN STATES.

M. Moens figures a registration "cubierta" for this republic, which was used either in 1872 or the following year. It is about 3½ by 2 inches. Within a frame composed of double lines, with ornaments

at angles, is ESTADOS UNIDOS DE COLOMBIA SERVICIO DE CORREOS NACIONALES MEDIO PESO CERTIFICADO ANOTADOS, &c. Black on yellow; ½ peso. Our Bath contemporary notes an omission of name in our description of a certain variety last month. Surely ANTIOOUIA is sufficient to define its locality. If not, why not?

SWITZERLAND.

A post card of a novel description is employed by the management of the Western Swiss Railways. It is printed in black on green. Within a frame formed of a single line are inscriptions designating the destination and general purport of the said card, with a note to the effect that it may be utilized instead of a telegraphic message, and carried by the first train which starts, when no particular haste is needful.

AUSTRIA.

The new brown 2 kreuzer card has been probably issued of the same hue for all the dependencies of the empire. It is known to be so for the Italian ones; and the *Timbre-Poste* chronicles one for Illyria, misprinted DOPISNICA instead of LISTINICA.

GREAT BRITAIN.

The international 2½d. has just appeared with the small numeral 5, evincing the rapid exhaustion of the previous editions. The Keble post card alluded to last month, is simply a stout white card, devoid of frame, inscription, or aught save the arms of the College, embossed in colour, within oval frame, pointed above and below, and inscribed KEBLE COLLEGE, OXON, in old English characters, the words separated by crosses. Arms, letters, &c., bright vermilion. These cards do not pass the post, but are carried by private messenger. That whence our description is taken, was employed for reply to an invitation from a Christ Church collegian.

PHILIPPINES.

M. V. de Ysasi announces a high value which must be added to the 1874 set for these islands, viz., light brown, 1 peseta 25 centimos. M. Roussin gives two high values of the 1872 set on the authority of a correspondent, who catalogues the complete set of Amadeo as under:—

Issue of 1872.	16 centimos de peseta,	blue
	62 ,, ,,	lilac; also pink
	1 peseta 25 centimos,	blue on pale salmon
	2 ,, 50 ,,	pink
	5 ,,	grey
Issue of 1873.	12 centimos de peseta,	pink
	25 ,, ,,	lilac
	1 peseta 25 centimos,	pale brown

M. de Ysasi also announces a blue 25 c. de peseta, of which he possesses both a cancelled and an uncancelled example. He does not mention plainly to what set this unchronicled novelty belongs; but it forms apparently an addition to the impressions of 1874, which would thus run:—12 c. de peseta, lilac; 25 c. de p., blue; 62 c. de p., pink; and 1 peseta 25 c., brown. He notes, moreover, a 25 c. de peso, bluish green, appertaining to the current set.

SWEDEN.

The *Timbre-Poste* notes a change of mauve instead of lilac in the 10 öre card of this kingdom; also a dull brown 6 öre in lieu of the original lilac or violet.

PUNJAUB.

The same authority has lately received the whole set of these stamps, printed on thick bluish laid paper. He thinks they ought to bear the name of Rampour, that district of the Punjaub whence they emanate.

NEW ZEALAND.

We hear that an emission of post cards is in preparation for this colony. The design, situation of stamp, name, inscribed directions, &c., will be after the pattern of those of the mother country; but the value is to be double, viz., one penny. The colour is expected to be either blue, brown, pink, or lilac.

WURTEMBURG.

The expected new reply-card was issued on the 10th ultimo. The impression is lilac on buff, and the type precisely that of the one on bluish, except that the word ANTWORT replaces RUCKANTWORT in both cards. Those money-order envelopes which remain on hand with the values in gulden and kreuzer are now utilized by surcharging them with marks and pfennig respectively.

GERMAN EMPIRE.

The *Timbre-Poste* announces a similar change of RUCKANWORT into the shorter word for the post cards of the Empire; but cannot confirm the probability of the suppression of the final e of pfennige in conformity with the envelopes.

BRAZIL.

Some of the adhesives of this country have been manipulated by the American Bank Note Company, by means of their new rouletting machine, which the editor of the *American Journal* remarks they are doing whenever they get the chance. In such case, we may expect rouletted varieties of all the beautiful productions of that Company as the hole-perforated impressions become exhausted.

RUSSIAN LOCALS.

Gdov.—The 2 kopecks of this district is found both of a pale and bright ultramarine colour on very thin paper.

Livni.—The blue 5 kop. of 1875, with numerals at the angles, has also a fellow issue, differing from that of 1873 in the same particular, but of similar colour. The new red value is therefore presumably employed for letters, and the blue used as a *timbre-taxe.*

Toula.—The handstamp hitherto struck on the lower or closed flap of the envelopes in blue on the white paper, has given place to one which shows the characters white on a blue ground. The *Timbre-Poste* mentions three varieties of varying sizes on three different sorts of paper,—plain white; blue laid; and plain yellowish white.

NEWFOUNDLAND.

The original 5 cents seal-type of this colony was brown. Black was afterwards substituted; and a large batch being now in requisition for

international purposes, it has been settled by the postal authorities that the colour shall be again changed. The new ones are blue, and rouletted by the new machine of the American Bank Note Company.

LEVANT.

The same authority has been shown the red and blue 10 kopecks of this locality surcharged with the numeral 8 in black.

FINLAND.

The current 10 penni post card of this province is now printed in blue instead of lilac, and the word AINOASTAAN substituted for AINOASTANSA.

TELEGRAPH STAMPS.

AUSTRIA.

TELEGRAPHIC forms were issued in September for this empire, having, in large letters above, TELEGRAPHEN AVISO. The usual stamp on the left with the date of the present year; a square compartment on the right for that of the day; the whole in a double frame. A notice in German at back. Green on buff, 30 kreuzer.

OUR FOREIGN CONTEMPORARIES.

MONS. Moens' magazine for this last month of the year, besides the accustomed amount of novelties, resuscitations, &c., gives the translation of a decree issued at Cordoba in 1858, and another in 1864, which indirectly testify to the genuine character of the adhesives about which so much debate has taken place. The number concludes with the latter part of the articles on the Swiss 15 rappen, and some notices. The index for the whole twelvemonth, and the title page of the 14th year accompany the number.

In the *Timbre Fiscal* for August is a list of the different sorts of fiscals employed in Great Britain, which may be startling if uninteresting to our readers. They amount to so many as 29, viz., Foreign Bill; Draft or Receipt; Inland Revenue; Customs; Cards; Tobacco; Insurance; Life Policy; License; Gloves; Matches; Sewing Machines; Medicine; Admiralty; Bankruptcy; Chancery; Common Law; Probate and Police Courts; Justice Room; Ireland Petty Sessions; Judicature Fees; Matrimonial Causes; Patent; Civil Service; Companies' Registration; Land Registry; Register House, Scotland; and Public Records. The concluding number of this magazine is crowded with matter relative to its professed nature. Japanese, Italian, and Belgian issues, with those of the United States, Great Britain, &c., evince the careful research of the editor. The collectors of fiscals bearing but a small numeric proportion to philatelists proper, the publisher announces that the magazine devoted to such speciality will henceforth appear but once in three months only.

The October and November numbers of the French *Ami des Timbres* devote the lion's share of its pages to the countless fiscals of stamp-issuing countries. Strictly postal issues are included of course, and numerous illustrations of each kind diversify the work. More than a column of recriminatory expostulation with the rival fiscal editor is

interesting to the interested only. A prize offered for the best essay on the utility of collections of postage stamps in a geographical point of view, has been awarded to Mons. Augerard, of Caen, in Normandy.

From the Leipzig *Journal* we have gained much information respecting novelties, &c. Nearly six columns are devoted to the catalogue of German writers on philately, which will form a bulky addition to the contemplated second edition of Mr. Tiffany of St. Louis's general catalogue of philatelic authors.

The *American Journal* gives a brief list of novelties; but two of them were new to us, and transferred this month. Mr. Overy Taylor shines as usual. The Japanese character paper by Alpha is a useful item. Revenue stamps fill a large portion of the number. There are reviews and notices, and an approaching auction of rarities is advertised to take place on the 11th instant, when a large attendance of amateurs is expected.

THE SPUD PAPERS; OR, NOTES ON PHILATELIC WEEDS.

BY THE REV. R. BRISCO EARÉE.

LXIII.

Japan.

1875-6: 12, 15, AND 45 SEN.

AS the different values of these stamps have been separately engraved, I shall be obliged to take each value by itself. Some of the forgeries are not badly done, but I am able to give sufficient tests to enable our readers to distinguish between the false and the true without much trouble.

12 SEN, ROSE.

Genuine.—Engraved on thickish white wove paper; perf. 13. How these stamps are engraved I am unable to say, but they have all the appearance of *taille-douce* impressions; so that they may be readily distinguished from the lithographed forgeries. Of all the set, this 12 sen is the most difficult to describe, as the chief differences consist of variations in the forms of the Japanese letters; and I cannot explain these verbally. The other tests are as follows; there are 16 rays to the chrysanthemum at the top of the stamp; the s of SEN is much smaller than the EN; the legs of the bird are not visible; and its beak points to the N of SEN.

Forged.—Lithographed, on thinnish, yellowish wove paper, perf. 13. In these stamps the forged are almost as well perforated as the genuine. There are only 13 rays to the chrysanthemum, and they are not distinct like the genuine. The s of SEN is the same size as the other letters. The bird has very long legs;—almost in the style of the *grallatores*, in fact;—and this alone is a sufficient test. The beak of the said bird points to the E of SEN.



15 SEN, LILAC.

Genuine.—Engraved, as above; perf. 13. There are 16 rays to the chrysanthemum at the top. The two left-hand roses do not touch the

outer line of the circle. The bird's tail has the feathers almost parallel,* and four toes can be counted on the foot. At the bottom of the circle, between 15 and SEN, is a small figure 1, which is, I suppose, the plate-number.

Forged.—Lithographed, like forged 12 sen; perf. 13. There are



18 rays to the chrysanthemum, but they are very much blotched in most copies. The two left-hand roses distinctly touch the outer line of the circle. The bird's tail is somewhat fan-shaped. There are only two toes visible on the bird's foot. The plate-number is a sort of 4. The forgers have evidently mistaken the figure altogether; I suppose because the up-stroke of the 1 in the genuine stamps is rather too prominent.

45 SEN, RED.

Genuine.—Engraving, paper, and perforation, as above. It will be noticed there are sixteen rays in the chrysanthemum, which are even more distinct than in the other values. The roses in the top corners are the same size as those at the bottom. Below these roses, outside the circle, there are two fan-shaped ornaments;—the right has ten rays, and the left one has eleven. The two leaves which point to the chrysanthemum do not touch it, though they come very near it. There are nine feathers in the tail of the bird; and it will be observed there is a large white patch under its throat. The eye is visible, though very small.

Forged.—Lithographed, &c., as above. There are seventeen rays in the chrysanthemum,—nine in the right-hand fan, and eight in the left. The two top roses are much smaller than the bottom ones. The two leaves touch the chrysanthemum on each side. There are only five feathers in the bird's tail; there is no white patch under its throat, and moreover the eye is not visible.



Postmarks, &c.—The 12 sen, forged, is postmarked with a large circle, containing NAGASAKI in large black capitals. The 15 and 45 sen bear an imitation of our own postmark, without the central figures. I have not received any of this issue post-marked, so I do not know the genuine obliteration.

There is a very great difference between the genuine and forged in colour; but I do not lay much stress on this fact, as the originals are not always the same shade themselves. The colours of the stamps under consideration are,—

Genuine.—12 sen, rose; 15 sen, lilac; 45 sen, brown-red.

Forged.—12 sen, pinkish red; 15 sen, pale mauve; 45 sen, red.

The genuine are backed with thick yellow gum; the forgeries are ungummed, in sheets of 25, 5 × 5.

* The singular appendage pointing to the left is no portion of the bird at all; it would seem to appertain to a sort of building behind the bird. The fan-shaped ornaments noticed in the description of the 45 sen are chrysanthemums partially hidden by the circular frame.—ED.

OUR PRIZE ESSAYS.

A Descriptive List of Post Cards.

THE paper sent in by Mr. H. H. Gilliat, of the Lodge, Stock, Essex, is the best we have received on the above very difficult subject. In fact, if any reader will refer to the list of Finnish Post Cards, drawn up with such labour by Messrs. Joannis and Breitfuss, he will see how wonderfully numerous and puzzling the varieties are. This is, perhaps, an extreme case; but there are many countries whose post cards comprise many more variations than have ever been discovered, or perhaps are ever likely to be.

The list before us does not profess, we presume, to contain any but the primary issues, uninclusive of any but the most noteworthy varieties. For instance, the cards of Austria, the original issuer of them, are catalogued as comprising fourteen in all,—a very meagre instalment of the real amount. Baden gives us two only; Bavaria, half-a-dozen; Belgium, five,—none being chronicled later than 1873,—our writer having probably never heard of the black or the green ones. The Danubians and Denmark might receive additions. Finland, instead of some scores, is given a quartette only! France is assigned two, instead of more than a dozen. The German Empire is equally denuded of impressions. Great Britain surely ought to have its international chronicled. Heligoland, Holland, and the rest of Europe ought to have been assigned many more representatives. In Asia, the curious variety of the Java, with part of the inscription reversed, is unnoticed; and the post cards of Japan are quite ignored. The emission of Guatemala is omitted. That recently issued in Curaçoa is chronicled; but its companion in Surinam is unaccountably left out in the cold. We fancy the Grecian, Turkish, and perhaps some other emissions, did not exist when the writer made out his catalogue, which has been sent for examination some time, but, owing to unavoidable circumstances, together with the two other prize papers, not received attention.

A Pen-and-Ink Map of South America, Showing all Places Issuing Postage Stamps.

Of the half-dozen competitors for this prize, each may be found to exhibit some more or less distinctive excellence, so that it is difficult to place them in due order of merit. The designers have evidently taken much pains with their productions, and deserve the approbation of our publishers thereby, to whom we leave the responsibility of awarding the supremacy, contenting ourselves with a brief criticism on the matter before us.

There are two words in the short statement of what was expected in the competitive maps, viz., *all* and *showing*. The latter has been overlooked by the majority, the former by every one of the artists. Messrs. R. C. MacDonald, of the Cape of Good Hope, and L. C. Walton, of Hornsey, are the only ones who have underlined certain names, to *show* which are the stamp-producing places. In the course of our remarks it will be noticed that some one stamp locality, if not more, is ignored by all.

Mr. Albert Bruce Dobell, of 131, Upper Street, Islington, gives, perhaps, the most neatly-executed map. The boundary lines being coloured render it more distinctive, although the words "pen-and-ink" might be taken to imply that such extraneous adornment was unrequired. Messrs. R. W. Buss, of Finsbury, and MacDonald, have likewise employed colouring, the former for outline, the latter in full; and both the maps of these gentlemen being much smaller than Mr. Dobell's, although more elaborately filled in with names, &c., would seem to have required more time and trouble in their preparation. Mr. Alfred Herbert Tyler, of Bury St. Edmund's, has also coloured his map, but he has so strictly adhered to the "letter of the law," that he marks only such places as he knew of that issued stamps, and his map being much larger than any of the others, has consequently a very bare look. He has, however, in common with Mr. MacDonald only, taken the trouble to append a catalogue of stamp-producing names. We presume Messrs. L. C. Walton, of Hornsey, and J. T. Humphrey of Sunderland, are very youthful aspirants: their maps, although neatly manipulated so far as they go, especially the former's, are exceedingly meagre in appearance; yet, strange to say, Mr. Walton is the sole mentioner of the Argentine Confederation, &c.; and with Messrs. Buss and Humphrey above, gives Banda Oriental, thereby signalising the emission of the Republica Oriental. Mr. Walton is the only one who places the Argentine Republic on the map, although Messrs. MacDonald and Tyler both note it in their catalogue.

Both Messrs. Buss and Tyler omit the current appellation of New Granada, viz., United States of Colombia; Tolima and Cundinamarca are marked by Mr. MacDonald only; and Antioquia, though so much better known, is omitted by three of the six competitors. The habitat of the small stamps of Bolivar is ignored by everyone but the last-mentioned gentleman. Mr. Tyler, it is true, catalogues it, but appends a foot-note to the effect that he has in vain examined a large number of gazetteers, atlases, &c., without being able to verify its locality or that of Tolima!

Mr. Buss marks Curaçoa, which more properly belongs to the West Indies, but omits Surinam. Mr. Tyler notes the Falkland Island postmark. Mr. Dobell, and all but the two juniors, have not forgotten that Cordova has emitted locals; but no one except Mr. Tyler has marked Chorrillos, whose name appears on certain Peruvians.

A Pen-and-Ink Map of Central America and the West Indies.

By some inadvertence the production of Mr. Alfred Herbert Tyler, of Bury St. Edmund's, was mislaid, and consequently, unnoticed amongst those of his fellow competitors. Its appearance, on resuscitation, forbids it being left out in the cold. Like that of Mr. Buss, the prize-taker, it is carefully drawn, neatly filled in, and judiciously coloured, and certainly is entitled to the second place in point of excellence, between the said map and that of Mr. Goodworth, mentioned secondly in our critique last month.

The Health of Sir Rowland Hill.—We regret to learn that Sir Rowland Hill lies seriously ill at his house at Hampstead.

HOW TO LOSE MONEY ON A COLLECTION.

THERE are many ways of losing money, and no one needs to be taught how to do it in a general way. But how to lose money on a collection of postage stamps is a faculty which all collectors do not possess, or at least do not put into practice. It is a very easy thing to learn, and here are some of the rules to be followed: Buy torn and dirty specimens, and stick them very tight in a soiled book; buy stamps from persons who advertise great bargains, and very rare stamps for a few cents; never leave any margin around envelope stamps, and cut all the perforations off the adhesives. It may be that one has gathered together several hundred, or perhaps one or two thousand stamps, and a new album is thought of to put them in. Do not waste time in soaking the stamps out of the old book, but get them off any way, and do not mind a corner or even one quarter of a stamp. And just here is the advantage of having stamps gummed tight to the page: if they were hinged in they could be easily removed without damage, while, if gummed tight and peeled off, there is no difficulty in the world in tearing them in two or more places and leaving little pieces behind. A collection thus made up of "great bargains," which turn out to be counterfeits, and torn and soiled specimens of genuine stamps, the owner will readily lose money on should the time ever come when it is found necessary to dispose of it. Besides the loss of money, a collection made up in accordance with the foregoing rules will lose interest also to the possessor and will not be much of "a thing of beauty" to the friends who look it over. We are led to these remarks by the inspection of a collection of over 3000 which was offered us for less than two hundred dollars. Its owner becoming embarrassed, needs must sell it, but as he possessed the faculty of making a collection to lose money on he has succeeded admirably, and will not get half the amount he would have done had the rare stamps been genuine, in good condition, and the envelopes cut square.—*The Philatelic Monthly.*

POSTAL SCRAPS.

THE SALE OF COUNTERFEITS IN AMERICA.—The great increase in the number of counterfeits in small collections, which I have noticed lately, is directly traceable to the mushroom companies which are springing up in all the cities of the interior. These sometimes consist of one or two dishonest errand boys, who use the stamp business as a blind by which to account to their fathers for the possession of money stolen from their employers; others, perhaps, confine their stealing to their dupes in the philatelic line, and as they are not likely to get many orders from the same persons, change the name of the company every month or two. Thus, "The Great American Stamp Co." of to-day may be "The Great Centennial Stamp Co." of last month, and will most likely change to "The Consolidated European and American Stamp Agency," or some such concern, next month. Boys, have nothing to do with one who trades under a false name; there can be but one object in using it, and that is to avoid responsibility. There are now many respectable dealers; if one does not give you satisfaction, try another.—*The American Journal of Philately.*

A SUSPICIOUS STAMP.—A Modenese 9 centesimi, violet, has been recently discovered in some wonderful manner in the old offices of the Finance Minister at Modena. The peculiarity of this stamp is, that the value is not preceded by the letters B.G.; and it is asserted that it was about to be employed, when the raising of the rate to 10 centesimi rendered it unnecessary. There is a fierce contest over its value, the Italian journal, the *Guida*, stoutly defending it, the *Timbre-Poste* condemning it, and a stamp dealer of Modena writing to the Parisian Timbrological Society to complain

of the attacks to which he has been subjected in connection with it. The writer in the *Guida* says he has proofs that *all* the plates of the Modenese stamps were sold to a Bologna founder, and melted down long ago; and that, therefore, as it is materially impossible to reprint any of the values, the 9 c. must be an original. To these assertions M. Moens opposes the fact that the 5 c. was reprinted *in sheets* only four years ago, and from a careful comparison of fragments of those sheets with specimens of the 9 centesimi, he deduces that the latter have been obtained from the 5 c. plate. He finds the 9 c. to be identical with the 5 c. in every point except the figure of value, and concludes that it is a spurious reprint, a verdict in which everyone who reads the analysis will certainly concur.—*Alfred Smith & Co.'s Monthly Circular.*

OMNIBUS STAMPS.—During the Commune a number of so-called Parisian local stamps sprung up, which obtained some passing notoriety, but were soon recognised to be worthless. Other Parisian locals, genuine enough in their way, but scarcely worthy of a collector's attention, are likely to appear in connection with a novel enterprise bearing the title of the *Compagnie Générale des Transports Parisiens.* The company has obtained the sanction of the prefect of the Seine, and is to work in concert with the Parisian Omnibus Company. The latter has consented to allow it to attach a box at the back of every omnibus and tram-car in Paris, to receive small packages, circulars, notices of marriages or deaths, and newspapers. The Transport Company's officials will also be located in the Omnibus *Bureaux de Correspondance* and stations, and thus a very rapid delivery service will be organized. The idea of utilizing 'busses for the conveyance of parcels and printed matter is a novel one; and, as the 'busses make in all 9,000 journeys per day, the undertaking is likely to be successful and popular. Most probably prepayment will be effected by stamps, as affording the simplest means of collecting the charges, and we shall thus find ourselves in presence of labels which will be a cross between a railway consignment-note and a newspaper stamp. If the Parisian society prove a success, similar societies will no doubt spring up in the large provincial towns, and perhaps also in other countries. We may, therefore, some day—though, perhaps, it is looking too far ahead to contemplate the possibility—have to deal with the claims of some scores of series of omnibus stamps, more or less genuine, but all equally unwelcome.—*Alfred Smith & Co.'s Monthly Circular.*

AN AMUSING POST-OFFICE INCIDENT.—An exercise of the Vox Humana recently occurred at the Boston Post-office that was a little more amusing than musical.

An individual stepped up to the general delivery window, and, in a somewhat subdued tone, asked,

"Any letters for me?"

"What name sir?" said the clerk in attendance.

"Watt," replied the applicant.

"What name?" repeated the clerk, still louder, growing red in the face in his effort.

"Watt, sir, is my name," now shouted the applicant, in return.

"Yes," responded the man of letters, putting in all the power of lungs he possessed, and shouting like a new adjutant at the head of a raw regiment, "what is your name, sir?"

"Yes, I know it is," now screamed the other, red and excited. "Do you mean to keep me yelling at you all day in this manner? Give me my letters!"

By this time two or three clerks inside the window had come to the rescue of their comrade, and a small crowd had gathered around the excited letter-seeker outside, who was shaking his fist and denouncing the Post-office Department for placing a deaf man at the delivery window.

"What do you mean by calling me deaf?" said the clerk, who overheard this last remark.

"Why, you are deaf, ain't you;" asked his customer.

"Not a bit of it," said the clerk, "but you are, ain't you?"

"No, sir. I can hear a whisper a mile off."

"Then why do you keep saying 'What?' when I asked you your name?"

"Because Watt is my name—James Watt."

"O! I thought you said 'what' all the time, said the clerk.

"So I did; W-a-t-t, Watt."

At this, a fellow clerk suggested that they had better give old Watt's-his-name his letters; which was done, and the crowd, including several disappointed individuals who were in anticipation of a fight, instead of a laugh, dispersed.—*The American Journal of Philately.*

CORRESPONDENCE.

THE POST CARDS OF FRANCE.

To the Editor of "THE PHILATELIST."

DEAR SIR,—Mr Stroobant's list of French post cards, given in your last number, though the most satisfactory that

has hitherto appeared, is not perfect. He omits to notice,—third emission, national printing, 15 c., on bluish; and same emission, private printing, 15 c., without instructions, new border.

Yours truly

Aberdeen. P. J. A.

THE STRAITS SETTLEMENTS PROVISIONALS.

To the Editor of "THE PHILATELIST."

SIR,—Your correspondent "Cheth" enquired in *The Philatelist* for September respecting the three half cents of this series, which value it will be recollected was printed in red capitals, on the ordinary Indian half anna blue, and which he has seen surcharged with the figure 2 written on it. I have seen several of them, postmarked; but it so happens that I have never seen a three half cents postmarked, hence I am led to suppose that being found a useless value, it was utilized as a two-cent stamp till the supply was exhausted. The regular series which succeeded the now somewhat rare provisionals does not include a three-half cents, but commences with two cents.

Clifton. FENTONIA.

THE STAMP EXCHANGE.

NOTICE.

For the accommodation of those subscribers who may be desirous of exchanging their duplicate stamps, a portion of *The Philatelist* is set apart each month to facilitate exchanges.

RULES.

1. Advertisements must be accompanied by the cheque given with each number.
2. Advertisements to be addressed to "The Editor of *The Philatelist*, Preston Road, Brighton," and received not later than the 18th of the month.
3. The full name and address of the writer must be sent with each advertisement.
4. IF AN ADVERTISEMENT EXCEEDS 20 WORDS A CHARGE OF 6D. FOR EVERY ADDITIONAL 10 WORDS WILL BE MADE.
5. *The Stamp Exchange* is intended for the use of amateur collectors only; notices from dealers cannot therefore be inserted.

ARTHUR MONTAGU REIS, Lord Street, Liverpool, has many very rare duplicates to exchange for others, new to his collection.

R. R. BOGERT, P.O., Box 1438, New York, has a pair of U.S. Envelopes, 1857, 6 cents entire, to exchange for rare stamps.

BRYAN GEORGE BENTHAM, 5, Star Hill Terrace, Rochester, has a large number of good duplicates to exchange. Correspondence solicited.

ATHOL C. H. JOHNSTONE, Dyke Road, Brighton, has for exchange a quantity of rare duplicates, English and foreign. Correspondence requested.

H. FERRIERE, Napoli, per Pozzuoli, Italy, has 20,000 Italian stamps, well assorted, at 2/. per 1000 for rare stamps only in exchange. Has also many very good stamps to exchange.

T. STEPHENSON, Albemarle Lodge, Wimbledon Park, will give 2s. (exchange in stamps) for every 1,000 common foreign stamps any amateur likes to send. Has also a few good stamps to exchange.

THE EDITOR'S LETTER-BOX.

*** Correspondents sending specimens for inspection and return, are requested to enclose a stamped directed envelope.

V. de Y., Malaga.—Many thanks for your information.

H. F. C., St. Leonards.—Your stamp is certainly no forgery, because a non-existent stamp cannot be forged. It is simply a wretched attempt to gull the credulous.

A. C. H. J., Brighton.—The Japanese 20 sen of the large type, and 6 sen of the smaller have been long known in varying shades of hue. It is very probable that the higher values will be gradually changed in accordance with the current lower ones. We know nothing of the party about whom you request information.

Puck.—Your Montevideans are chronicled as genuine in Bellars and Davie's catalogue; and have been pronounced all right by some authorities. Others condemn them. The British Guiana provisionals are considered genuine, only when the straight lines forming the central compartment are *broken*. All yours are unbroken. The two Luzon stamps are perfectly trustworthy and valuable. The three Buenos Ayres are forgeries. The adjudication of prizes does not take place till the middle of January.

THE END.





