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STAMP-COLLECTOR'S MAGAZINE.

PHILATELIC GAINS OF THE YEAR
1867.

IN reviewing the year 1867 from a philatelic point of view, we are very much in the position of directors in a flourishing company, who come before their shareholders at their annual meetings with confidence and pleasure, having a satisfactory report to make and a good dividend to declare. Summing up the history of the stamp world, we have to report continued activity on the part of collectors, followed by gratifying results in the direction of increased knowledge and greater accuracy, and to declare a large addition, in the shape of new emissions, to the stamp capital. It is pleasant to find that the croakings of outsiders and the forebodings of the less-sanguine philatelists have not hitherto been realised in ever so slight a degree. Philately has not yet become the pursuit of a small and scattered band of students, but is still affected by large numbers of persons of all ages and conditions. This is a twice-told tale, which we are not sorry to repeat, and which we have substantial grounds for re-asserting.

Apart from the knowledge derived from our own particular sources, sufficient evidence of the fact is derivable from the continued emission of fresh editions of standard philatelic works, and the publication of new candidates for public favour.

The list of current albums in this country comprises the tenth edition of Oppen's, the fifth of Lallier's, the *Illustrated Album*, the German album, originally published under the same title, the lately-issued Mulready series for young collectors, and the well-known plain-ruled books sold by our publishers. Amongst these it is easy for any but the most advanced collectors to select one

which will answer their purpose. The correspondence in our own pages has shown that the "Album question" is regarded with much interest by all classes, and that considerable study has been given to the matter. Numerous suggestions of various excellence have been made, but none of the proposed plans appear to us superior to those of the albums now in use. We still hold the opinion that ruled albums, in general, place an injurious restriction on the number and classes of stamps collected, but we are not convinced that any of the systems described would be calculated to remove this restriction, and at the same time be generally acceptable on other grounds.

In view of the daily increasing number of stamps, and the increasing variety of many of the older series, it is worthy of consideration whether it would not be better to issue albums prepared to receive only stamps issued since some recent date, say 1857 or 1860.

Turning from this subject, we would wish briefly to refer to the suggested philatelic society. We have already hinted our own opinion as to the advisability of its formation, and further thought give us no ground for retracting it. The central society, meeting in the metropolis, would, it might be hoped, comprise some of our most experienced philatelists, whose united deliberations would be fruitful of good to the science; and in the provinces, we may be sure that in most towns intelligent and studious collectors might be found to form a nucleus, around whom the younger brethren might gather. We have reason to believe that the general knowledge concerning stamps is not large—that there are, in fact, very many who have never penetrated below the surface of philately, and who have contented themselves with a super-

ficial acquaintance with the contents of their albums. Beginning to collect comparatively late in the day they have had but little time, or perhaps chance of "working up" their knowledge, which consequently is a long distance in arrear. Such collectors, were they members of a philatelic society, would soon acquire, by intercourse with others and exchange of ideas, that familiarity with stamps which they cannot gain alone. And similarly, a comparison of observations by more advanced philatelists would lead to a settlement of doubtful points and to a general increase of information. We invite our readers to express their opinions on the point, with a view to further action if an agreement be arrived at.

The year has been signalised by a fair amount of study both in this country and on the continent. Interesting and instructive articles have appeared in the pages of our contemporary, *The Philatelist*; and of the papers in our own pages, we may specify those on the laureated series of New South Wales, on the stamps of the United States, on the collection of varieties, and on the Confederate States emissions, as worthy of attention.

The issue of a set of philatelic works has been commenced by the publication of Dr. Magnus's monograph on watermarks, and will be continued, we presume, by the issue of his essay on perforations, and that on reprints, the former of which appeared in *Le Timbre-Poste*, the latter in *Le Timbrophile*; and to these may probably be added his paper on the Moldavian stamps, the transference of which to our own columns (by permission) will be commenced in the next number.

We must not omit to mention, as one of the notable events in the stamp-collecting year, the publication of M. Berger-Levrault's new catalogue—a work prepared with extreme care, and with the most excellent results. We are happy to know that an English edition will soon appear, which will, doubtless, meet with a warm reception.

We conclude our notice with a passing reference to the stamps of the year. By the detailed list which appears in another part of the number, it will be seen that we have described, in round numbers, two hundred

stamps during the past twelve months. This addition, comprising nearly forty more than were noticed in 1866, consists almost entirely of new issues.

The emissions of the past year, as a whole, are not characterised by remarkable excellence of engraving, but the vivid colours of very many of the new stamps compensate to a considerable extent for this defect. We have specially to notice the series for Austria and its branch post offices; those for New Granada and Egypt; the peculiar stamps for the Virgin Islands, and the tri-coloured emission for Heligoland. The Chilian, Salvador, and Argentine Republic stamps, are the only productions of the Company during the year. Three labels have been issued for our own country, two of which show a pleasing variation from the established type. Spain has given us a couple of series, not much better or worse than its usual emissions, and the new Straits Settlements a series of provisionals, which we expect are by this time superseded by the regular set.

We need not further particularise the additions, and, space pressing, have pleasure in closing our paper with the time-honoured greeting to our readers of A HAPPY NEW YEAR.

LIST OF STAMPS FIRST NOTICED IN THE STAMP-COLLECTOR'S MAGAZINE FOR 1867.

THIS list contains only well-authenticated stamps issued under government sanction in the various countries to which they belong, and includes a few stamps inadvertently omitted from our last year's list.

Argentine Republic.

Same device as 5 c. of 1864. Col. imp., on thin paper, unwatermarked and unperforated.

5 centavos rose-carmine.

Portrait of Rivadavia in circle, inscribed REPUBLICA ARGENTINA, on scutcheon bearing large figure 5 in upper corners. Value below in scroll. Col. imp.; rect. perf.

5 centavos vermilion.

Portrait of Gen. Belgrano in oval, inscribed as above; small shield bearing the national arms at sides; numeral in angles. Col. imp.; rect. perf.
10 centavos green.

Portrait of Gen. San Martino in lozenge, inscribed as above, numeral in angles. Col. imp.; rect. perf.
15 centavos deep-blue.

Austria.

Head of Emperor, laureated, to right in circle, arabesque pattern in angles, value in lower margin. Col. imp.; litho.; rect. perf.

- 2 kr. yellow.
- 3 „ green.
- 5 „ rose.
- 10 „ blue.
- 15 „ brown.
- 25 „ lilac.

Head of Emperor, laureated, to right in circle, surmounted by crown, numerals in upper angles, and value on scroll label below; scroll ornaments at sides. Col. imp.; litho.; large rect. perf.

50 kr. salmon.

ENVELOPES.

Same design as adhesives (3 to 25 kr.). Col. imp.; litho.; rect.

- 3 kr. green.
- 5 „ rose.
- 10 „ blue.
- 15 „ brown.
- 25 „ lilac.

NEWSPAPER STAMP.

Winged head of Mercury in circle. No inscription. Greek marginal border. Col. imp.; litho.; rect. perf.

1 kr. lavender.

SERIES FOR FOREIGN BRANCHES OF THE AUSTRIAN POST-OFFICE.

ADHESIVES.—Same designs as above described for Austria. Col. imp.; litho.; rect. perf.

- 2 soldi yellow.
- 3 „ green.
- 5 „ rose.

- 10 soldi blue.
- 15 „ brown.
- 25 „ lilac.
- 50 „ salmon (large rect.)

ENVELOPES.

Same design as above described for Austria (3 to 25 kr.) Col. imp.; litho.; rect.

- 3 soldi green.
- 5 „ rose.
- 10 „ blue.
- 15 „ brown.
- 25 „ lilac.

Bavaria.

Arms and supporters crowned, in ornamental frame, inscription BAYERN, figures in angles, all in white relief. Col. imp., with thread vertically laid in the paper, rect.

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

RETURNED-LETTER STAMPS.

Same design as like stamps of 1866. Black imp. rect.

- Nurnberg (black).
- Augsburg (black).

Belgium.

Arms and crown with branches, on a ground of horizontal lines. Inscription POSTES. Col. imp.; rect. perf.
2 centimes bright-blue.

Bolivia.

Eagle on globe in oval, inscription—CORREOS, CONTRATOS, BOLIVIA—in surrounding border, figures in angles, ground shaded. Col. imp.; rect.
5 centavos dull-green.

Brazil.

ENVELOPES.

Embossed profile of Emperor to left in oval, inscribed BRAZIL and value, numerals in oblong side labels. Col. imp.; oval. Paper watermarked with inscription CORREIO BRASILEIRO.

- 100 reis green.
200 „ black.
300 „ vermilion.

Ceylon.

Head of Queen in circle, CEYLON above and value below in arched labels. Col. imp.; rect. perf. Watermarked c. c. and crown.

Threepence light and deep-rose.

Same device as issue of 1857-61. Col. imp.; rect. Watermarked c.c. and crown. Twopence yellow-ochre. Fivepence sap-green.

Chili.

Head of Columbus, with CHILE above and COLON below, in circle. CORREOS PORTE FRANCO in external border, numerals in upper, and star in lower angles. Blk. imp.; rect. perf.

2 centavos black.

Cuba.

Same device as issue of 1864, with new date (1867) added. Col. imp.; rect. perf.

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

PROVISIONAL.

Same device as issue of 1864, with figures "66" printed over the centre. Col. imp.; rect.
 $\frac{1}{4}$ real plata f. black.

Egypt.

Sphinx and pyramid in oval, Cleopatra's needle and Pompey's pillar at sides, Arabic inscription and values in upper and lower margin. A crescent and star impressed on back of stamp. Col. imp.; rect. perf.

- 5 paras yellow.
10 „ violet.
20 „ green.
1 piastre lake-red.
2 „ blue.
5 „ brown.

OFFICIAL STAMPS.

Arabic characters in centre, inscription POSTE VICE REALI EGIZIANE and name of issuing town in encircling border. Col. imp.; circ.

- | | |
|----------------------|--------------------|
| Alessandria | violet. |
| Mansura | „ |
| Atfe | deep-blue. |
| Gedda | bright-blue. |
| Benhaa | grey. |
| Birket-el-Saat | green. |
| Damanhur | „ |
| Zefta | „ |
| Cairo | black. |
| Jauta | bright-carmine. |
| Jbafi-el-Duar | yellow. |
| Mahalla | „ |
| Jook | red. |
| Tanta | rose. |
| Konstantinopoli | vermilion. |
| Same device in black | on coloured paper. |
| Benka | bright-brown. |
| Zagazig | deep-brown. |
| Jauta | deep-blue. |
| Birket-el-Sab | reddish-yellow. |
| Kafer-Zayat | chocolate. |
| Samanud | green. |
| Zifta | grey. |

Same device, but ground formed of horizontal lines. Black imp.; circ.
Alessandria rose.

Finland.

Same device as issue of 1866. Black imp.; rect. perf.

8 pennia green.

Arms and crown on white square, Finnish and Russian inscriptions at sides, EN MARK above and below, numerals in corners. Col. imp.; rect. perf.
1 mark light-brown.

France.

Head of Emperor, laureated, to left in circle, inscription EMPIRE FRANCAIS. Col. imp.; rect. perf.

- 20 centimes blue.
30 „ brown.

Germany, Northern States.

ENVELOPES.

Same design as issue of 1866.
1 kreuzer grass-green, deep chrome-green.

Great Britain.

Head of Queen in circle, POSTAGE in dark letters above on white ground, and large letters in angles. Col. imp.; rect. perf.; watermark, a rose.

Tenpence brown.

Head of Queen in pointed oval, with value and POSTAGE in surrounding border, florets in spandrels, letters in angles. Col. imp.; rect. perf.; watermark, a rose.

Two shillings bright-blue.

Head of Queen in circle, with broad Greek border and Greek pattern in angles. POSTAGE in upper margin, letters in four corners. Col. imp.; large rect.; perf.; watermark, a Maltese cross.

Five shillings rose.

Same device as issue of 1865, watermarked with a rose. Col. imp.; rect. perf.

Threepence rose.

Sixpence lilac.

One shilling green.

Hamburg.

Same design as issue of 1859. Col. imp. rect., perf.; watermarked with waved line.

2½ schg. bluish-green.

ENVELOPES.

Design of issue of 1866, watermarked with the city arms (castle) in front of envelope.

½ schg. black.

2 „ orange.

4 „ green.

Heligoland.

Embossed head of Queen, with diadem, to left in oval. Inscription, HELIGOLAND at sides. Rose and green; imp., rect., perf.

½ schilling (oval, green).

1 „ (oval, rose).

2 „ (oval & spandrels, green).

6 „ (oval & spandrels, rose).

Holland.

Head of King to left in circle, greek-patterned border at sides, and inscrip-

tion NEDERLAND above. Col. imp.; rect. perf.

20 cents dark-green.

25 „ dark-violet.

50 „ gold.

Holstein.

Numeral in centre, oval border with lace pattern. Col. imp.; oval, perforated square.

2 schilling blue.

India.

Head of Queen in octagon, inscription EAST INDIA POSTAGE, and value in surrounding border. Col. imp., rect., perf.; watermark, an elephant's head.

Six annas eight pies slate.

PROVISIONAL.

Same type as stamp of 1866, but imprint POSTAGE in rounder and more extended type. Col. imp.; large rect. Six annas lilac and green.

PROVINCE OF SCINDE.

East India Company's trade-mark and value in circular garter, inscribed SCINDE DISTRICT DAWK, impressed in white relief.

½ anna white.

Italy.

Head of King on lined ground in rectangle; inscription FCO. BOLLO POSTALE ITALIANO. Col. imp., rect., perf.; watermarked with crown.

20 centesimi light-blue.

Luxembourg.

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

37½ c. bistre.

Mexico.

EMPIRE.

1866. Head of Emperor Maximilian to left in oval; inscription IMPERIO MEXICANO. Col. imp.; rect., lithographed.

7 centavos brown, lilac-grey.

13 „ bright-blue.

25 „ yellow-ochre, orange.

50 „ light and deep-green.

(To be concluded in our next).

NOTES ON THE LATER STAMP FORGERIES.

BY DR. BOLEY.

CHILI.

1, 5, 10, 20 centavos.

Genuine.—The background is formed of a fine lace pattern; the cap is almost entirely shaded by fine lines; the letters are well-formed and regular.

Forged.—The background is not clear, and no distinct pattern can be made out; there is a triangular patch of white in the front of the cap; the letter o in COLON is not round, the base being flat; this is also the case with the 0 of the 20 c. in the stamp of that value.

DANUBIAN PRINCIPALITIES.

1865. Portrait of Prince Couza, head to right. 2, 5, 20 par.

2 par. *genuine.*—The sides are formed of very fine network; the lettering is very clear; the hair is waved, and the parting very distinct.

Forged.—The network pattern at the sides is very coarse; the lettering is not clear, and the parting of the hair cannot be seen.

5 par. *genuine.*—The network pattern at the sides of this stamp is larger than that of the 2 par; the spaces are lozenge-shaped, having a small dot in the centre of each. The figure 5 is well formed; the lettering clear; hair waved; a little shading only at the back of the neck; the central medallion does not touch at the bottom line.

Forged.—Network pattern and lettering very coarse and indistinct; the figure 5 badly formed, the lower half being very broad and out of proportion; there is a large blot of colour at the side of the neck; the ear is shapeless; and the medallion touches at the bottom.

20 par. *genuine.*—The network pattern is very clear, but there is *no* dot in the centre of the spaces.

Forged.—There is a dot in the centre of each space; the lettering is very bad, the top line especially, DOUA DECI PAR being almost impossible to decipher.

EGYPT.

The whole of the first issue has been forged; the execution, however, is very in-

different, and hardly likely to deceive any one who has seen the originals; the following are the chief points of difference:—

5 para, *genuine.*—The loops round the central ornament are fourteen.

Forged.—They are twenty or twenty-one.

10 par. *genuine.*—The round ornaments in the outer border of the central oval are twenty-eight. In the forgery they are twenty-seven. This is the best executed stamp of the series.

20 par. *genuine.*—There is a shading of fine perpendicular lines *over* the whole of the central ornament, which is of a bluish-grey colour, and not so white as the words and figures in the angles.

Forged.—These fine lines of shading are scarcely seen; the lines of the ornament are coarse, and as white as the figures and letters.

1 piastre, *genuine.*—The round ornaments at the *sides* of the stamp (which are very clear), counting from the extreme points top and bottom, are twenty-seven; at the top and bottom (not counting the ones at the extreme points, which are included in the sides) there are twenty-one; the total surrounding the whole stamp being ninety-six.

Forged.—They are very indistinct, but appear to be twenty-five on the left side, twenty-two on the right, twenty-one on the top, and about eighteen at the bottom; making, therefore, a total of about eighty-six. The forgery is a reddish-brown; the genuine, a light fawn colour.

2 pe. — The genuine is a light orange-yellow, with the ornaments and figures tolerably distinct. The forgery is a light yellow, in which the central ornament is almost invisible.

5 pe. — The genuine is light-rose; the forgery lake or light magenta. The figure 5 in the genuine is well formed, the upper stroke flat, with the end slightly turned *down* towards the body of the figure. In the forgery the figure 5 is badly formed, the upper stroke thin, and pointing *upwards*.

10 pe. *genuine.*—The innermost line but one surrounding the oval centre (which is thicker than the innermost) is divided into eight sections; the triangular white lines surrounding the figures and letters are all perfect.

Forged.—The two inner lines surrounding the centre are of equal thickness, and there are no divisions; the triangular lines surrounding the letters at the right-hand bottom corner are imperfect, the apex and part of each side being wanting.

NOTE.—These stamps are in a proper position when the loop of the central black inscription points upwards.

FRANCE.

Republic. Head of Liberty. 20 c. black.

Genuine.—The beaded border which surrounds the medallion is close to the edge of the inner circle; the beads almost touch each other.

Forged.—The beaded border is some distance *within* the circle, and the beads some distance from each other.

A counterfeit of the 15 c. black (a rare essay) may occasionally be met with chemically changed from the 15 c. green. The true 15 c. black *is* black; the counterfeit a dull grey, which, by being held to the light, will generally show more or less a shade of its original colour.

FRENCH COLONIES.

The whole set has been forged.

Genuine.—The groundwork of the centre is composed of fine horizontal lines. The base on which the eagle rests touches the sides of the circle at the lower part of the stamp.

Forged.—The horizontal lines are thick and coarse; the base does not touch the circle on either side.

NEW CALEDONIA.

These stamps being printed in sheets of fifty, no two of which exactly resemble each other, it is obvious that a detailed description of the numerous forgeries is of little value. We may observe, however, that they are generally met with postmarked; the genuine, which are now only to be met with in the form of reprints, are of course unused.

REUNION.

Of these also there are many forgeries. Those of the 15 c. for the most part are very unlike the true stamp. In the genuine 15 c. we find the round ornaments (of which there

are eight, connected by a kind of chain) surrounding the centre—each consists of three circles, the inner one partially shaded. None of the forgeries exhibit this clearly.

The forgery of the 30 c. is far better, and a very good imitation of the original. It may be detected by observing that the genuine has the inscription, ILE DE LA REUNION, in small letters, the I of ILE nearly touching the left-hand side of the stamp; also the accent over the *é* in "*Réunion*" touches the letter. In the forgery the letters are larger; the I in ILE is some little distance from the side, and the accent does not touch the *é*.

Although Reunion can boast of but a pair of stamps of the respective values of 15 and 30 centimes, the forgers have lately supplied her wants by liberally providing a complete set of six, of the values of 1, 5, 10, 15, 40 and 80 centimes. These curious nondescripts are *square* in shape, with a central circle containing an ornament, the middle of which somewhat resembles an heraldic rose. There is a long ornament at each side; the value is at the bottom, and the inscription on the top, which reads, REUNION JSLE.

GREAT BRITAIN.

V.R.

The old method of manufacturing one of these, by cutting out an A and inverting it, is now well known; but there is another and later mode of deception practised with these stamps, which is, not to cut the left-hand corner, but simply to scratch the letter out and print a v in its place, a stamp having the R in the right corner being, of course, selected. A good glass will detect this, showing the paper to be thinner in that part, and also, probably, some marks of the obliteration of the former letter. The print of the fictitious v, too, is darker, being more recent, and the letter a trifle larger than the R.

ENVELOPE, 1d. brown.

Is a stamp sometimes offered at a fancy price. No such colour exists. That it is a chemical change merely may be proved in the same way as the French 15 c., viz., by holding it up to the sunlight, when traces of the original pink will easily be detected.

(To be continued.)

THE HEAD OF QUEEN VICTORIA ON THE PENNY AND TWO PENNY STAMPS.

We have received the following information from Somerset House, and as it contains definite and precise facts relative to the history of the engraving of the Queen's head, we subjoin it for the benefit of our readers:—

“The head is introduced by a transferring process into the plates used for printing the 1d. and 2d. postage stamps. The mother block was originally engraved by Heath, the eminent engraver; in the year 1840; but the lines not being found deep enough, and the plates consequently wearing out too soon, about the beginning of the year 1855 a transferred impression from the original engraved head was put into the hands of an engraver, named Humphreys, who, without inserting any new line, or work of any kind, deepened the old lines; and this impression, so deepened, has since been used as the original, and all the plates since made for printing the stamps, have been transfers from it.”

We may call our readers' recollection to the paper on the various methods of engraving, and the history of the method of multiplying steel dies from a matrix or mother block, which appeared in our columns in vol. iv. (pp. 145, 161). No doubt this system has been adopted in the present instance.

NEWLY-ISSUED OR INEDITED STAMPS.

OUR *New-Year's* list opens with a *new* stamp for

NEW SOUTH WALES, of a *new* value, at least in that colony. By the annexed cut our readers will be able to make acquaintance with the design, which they will observe does not depart far from the usual colonial types. The execution is very poor, in evidence whereof, however, the stamp itself must be produced. It is printed lilac upon white paper, perforated, and watermarked with the figure 10 in italics. This value will be found very useful, and must have been long



wanted. Should the rumoured intention of the government to raise the postage of all letters to Australia, in consequence of the increased subsidy paid under the new arrangement to the Peninsular and Oriental Company, be carried into effect, all the ten-penny stamps would be placed *hors de combat*. We trust, however, that this intention will not be proceeded with, as the raising of rates has a tendency to decrease correspondence, and the reaction in this manner nullifies the benefit.

NORTH GERMANY.—We now place before our readers an engraving of the type adopted for the Confederation, and such further information as has come to hand since our last. Of the colours we have not yet received full intelligence. The values are as



follows:—

Silber groschen, $\frac{1}{4}$, $\frac{1}{3}$, $\frac{1}{2}$, 1 (rose), 2, 5.

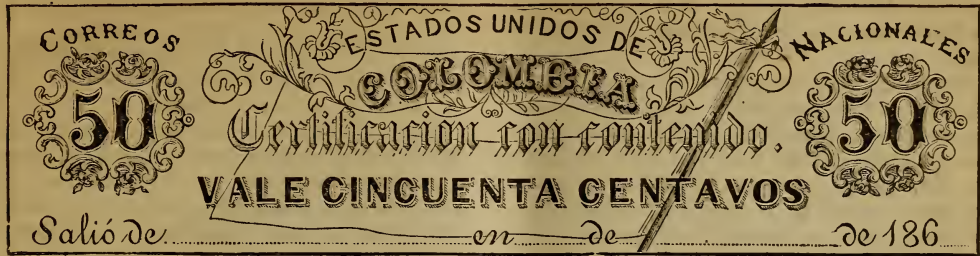
Kreuzer, 1, 2, 3, 7, 18.

It would seem that the kreuzer of the new series is not of the same value as the old, of which three were considered as equal to a silber groschen. If the 18 kr. and 5 s. gr. are equivalent values, then more than $3\frac{1}{2}$ kreuzer go to the s. gr.; perhaps our German friends can give us some information on this point, which involves also the question whether the 1 and 2 kr. are the nearest approximative values to the $\frac{1}{4}$ and $\frac{1}{2}$ s. gr.

We understand that only one envelope will be emitted, which will be of the value of 1 s. g. The Prussian postal administration intends following the example of our own post-office in the matter of envelopes, and will only impress the higher values to order.

SWITZERLAND.—A 5 centime envelope, colour bistre, and design the same as the 10 c., has been emitted. Like the latter it is also watermarked with a dove.

BELGIUM.—*Le Timbre-Poste* for December says: “The postal administration persists at present in delivering stamps not printed on paper but on card. To whom are we to attribute this ridiculous idea?—to the maker, selling his paper by weight, or to the administration, which augments its receipts by causing the balance of the weight of letters to fall



on its side? The 6 and 8 centimes are in preparation, and are reserved, we suppose, for New-Year's gifts—perhaps for those of 1869.

GUATEMALA.—The annexed is a representation of the proof or essay to which we referred last month, the authorship of which is attributed to M. Hulot, who, according to the article in *L'Evénement* (translated in our February number for 1867), has been commissioned by the republic of Guatemala to prepare the design for its stamps.



STATE OF MAGDALENA—NEW GRANADA.—Another resuscitation. The date of emission of this stamp is not known. The small stamps for the state of Bolivar, first noticed last year, were found to have been in existence some years previously; and this latest discovery probably dates back for a considerable period—to a time, in fact, when the postal arrangements of New Granada were different to what they now are, not longer ago, though, than 1867, as is evident from the inscription



ESTADOS UNIDOS DE COLOMBIA, which appears for the first time on the national series for that year. This stamp, it will be seen, bears the arms of the republic in an oval, with surrounding inscription: ESTADO SOBERANO DEI MAGDALENA (Sovereign State of Magdalena), and the inscription above noticed in the exterior frame. The colour of this stamp is a pale-blue, value 20 centavos. In all probability, it is not the sole value of this type, but forms one of a series. We should add, it is printed on

white paper, unperforated and unwatermarked.

NEW GRANADA.—The large vignette, value 50 centavos, issued a couple of years since, and still but little known, has been superseded by the design of which we here produce an engraving. It is similar in many points to its predecessors, but the red, yellow, and blue flag floats to the left instead of the right, as before. The inscriptions are disposed in an entirely different manner. The large space with florid border, intended for the address, has been replaced by another of the same size, but more simple, which we do not think it necessary to reproduce here. The ground is formed of undulating lines, enclosed in a frame of five or six straight lines, on which other serpentine lines are traced. At the left upper angle is the word REMITE. The impression is now black on white, in lieu of yellow and brown.

FRANCE.—To the laureated stamps has now been added the 10 centimes bistre, which was emitted on the 15th November last. The 20 c. of the previous type has not been withdrawn, and continues to be largely used. The 5 franc stamp may be expected to appear, according to *Le Siècle*, early in the present year. *Le Timbre-Poste* notes the existence of the 15 c. chiffre-taxe stamp *percé en ligne*, by a postmaster, without special authority. This variety should be classed with the stamps showing the La Susse perforations.

UNITED STATES.—The 24 cents is now printed violet-black; and the 30 c. dark-orange, of a shade closely resembling the 30 c. of the old issue. We may remark, that we have from time to time met with 24 c. stamps showing more or less variation from

the standard shade—one especially, which we took from a Californian letter, was greyish-black.

GERMAN STATES.—It appears that the postal administration has so far modified its decision not to permit the emission of 3 centavo stamps (type of the old $\frac{1}{2}$ baj.), as to allow the few sheets—a dozen or so—to be used; but no more are to be printed. This value, as it will have so limited a circulation, will doubtless become scarce; we would therefore recommend, in bill-poster language, “an early application, to prevent disappointment.” We should not be surprised if this value should happen to be reprinted, for the joint benefit of the Papal exchequer and the collectors of stamps.

PRUSSIA.—Notwithstanding the emission of the series for the North-German Confederation, and the decision that it is to include only one envelope, the Prussian series proper has just received an addition in the shape of a 3 pf. lilac, same type as the adhesive of corresponding value, and having the transverse inscription crossing the stamp. Is this little innocent destined, like the Papal 3 c., to be strangled at its birth?

EGYPT.—Our Belgian contemporary notes the existence of two types of the current Egyptian series, occupying alternate rows. The difference exists principally in the figures and inscriptions.

LA GUAIRA.—We have information from a private source, that the La Guaira stamps have been for some time discontinued.

NORWAY.—A new 8 sk. stamp, with value on both sides, has appeared, coloured a deep-pink; printed on white paper, and perforated.

LUXEMBOURG.—We omitted last month to chronicle the appearance of a new value—20 centimes brown, on white paper, perforations following a coloured line.

ANTIGUA.—The one penny of this colony is now printed vermilion; paper and watermark remain as before.

PORTUGAL.—We have to notice the issue of the 5, 10, and 120 reis of the current type, perforated. The blue of the last-named is of a lighter shade than in the earlier specimens.

HISTORY OF THE POSTAGE STAMPS AND ENVELOPES OF WURTEMBERG.

BY M. OSCAR BERGER-LEVRULT.

ADHESIVE STAMPS.

First emission, 2nd September, 1851, with secret marks, impressions in black printing ink, the paper (a fine letter paper) was of the following colours: chamois, 1 kr.; yellow, 3 kr.; green, 6 kr.; rose, 9 kr.; violet, 18 kr. (the last named was issued only in 1852).

The impression of the second edition of stamps was commenced in April, 1852. It was soon evident that the paper was not maintained of one uniform shade by the makers, particularly that of the yellow, green, and violet. The yellow is found of a very light and also a very deep tint; the green has more or less of a bluish shade; the violet has sometimes a tinge of red, sometimes of blue, the colours changing even after the impression. It is the green above all which passes most easily into blue, so much so as to cause the public to believe that there were also blue stamps of the 6 kr.

In May, 1853, the impression of the third edition of the 1, 3, and 6 kr. was commenced on another sort of paper not quite so good, and for this working a different printing ink was employed.

In May, 1854, the fourth edition of the 1, 3, and 6 kr. stamps, and the third of the 9 kr. was printed, and it was then resolved to use a stouter paper than on the previous occasions.

In May, 1855, the fifth working of the stamps of 1, 3, and 6 kr., and the fourth of the 9 kr. stamps took place.

In May, 1856, the sixth edition of the 1, 3, and 6 kr. and the fifth of the 9 kr. was commenced, and it was decided to substitute for paper made half of hemp and half of cotton, a paper fabricated entirely from hemp-fibre.

In April, 1856, the question of adopting stamps on white paper with coloured impressions in relief was raised, and on the 1st November of the same year the design for these stamps was presented.

By an ordinance of the 30th April, 1857, a new series of stamps was authorised upon paper with a silk thread, of the following

colours and values (*second principal emission*): 1 kr. chocolate-brown, 3 kr. orange, 6 kr. bright-green, 9 kr. crimson, 18 kr. blue; the paper white, and traversed by an orange-coloured silk thread. The impression of these stamps commenced in the month of August, 1857. In July and August, 1857, the 1, 3, 6, and 9 kr. of the first series were again reprinted upon coloured paper. The new stamps were placed in circulation for the first time on the 22nd September, 1857.

In December, 1858, it was decided to introduce perforation and to do away with the silk thread.

On the first January, 1859, the old stamps, black on coloured paper, were finally withdrawn.

The *third principal emission* took place, according to official statements, on the 9th November, 1859, when the stamps on white paper *without* the silk thread, but perforated, were placed in circulation. These stamps were in all other respects the same as those of the second emission. But, in fact, the first perforated stamps on strong white writing-paper, without thread, were not emitted until May—July, 1860.

The perforating machine (which was also used for the Baden stamps) was, however, often out of order, and in consequence it became necessary to issue temporarily the stamps on white paper, without silk thread, *unperforated*. There exist therefore both perforated and unperforated stamps of the third emission, but there is no possibility of determining the exact time at which the unperforated kind was placed in circulation; and it is to be considered as a variety only, and not as a distinct emission,—not as an emission proper, because it was only accidental.

In February, 1861, it was decided to use a thin, entirely white, pressed paper, made of pure thread, in fact the best sort of letter paper.

In March, 1861, it was proposed to adopt the same colours for the same values throughout the German postal union: namely, for the 1 kr., green; 3 kr., red;* 6 kr., blue; 9 kr., brown; and for the 18 kr., orange.

* The writer uses the generic term *red* to describe throughout the hue which we recognise as *rose*.—Ed.

These stamps were in preparation accordingly from March to May, 1861, upon paper without silk thread, and were issued solely with perforations, forming the *fourth principal emission*. In July, 1862, it was finally decided that only these stamps should be printed and sold (official notice, dated 8th September, 1862).

In September, 1864, it was decided to print a small quantity of the oldest stamps (first emission) for sale to collectors, and for exchange with other postal administrations, for which purpose casts were taken from the original blocks.* In this manner 1200 stamps of the 1, 3, 6, 9, and 18 kr. stamps were prepared, of which only a few now exist.

In the autumn of 1864 the Wurtemberg stamps were printed, for and at the cost of an Englishman, from the old first dies, upon all sorts of coloured papers, on condition that none of them were to be employed for postage. In the same manner, for other stamp collectors, and notably for one or two, the current 1 kr. stamp was worked in brown, violet, green, &c., and upon all possible species of paper, they paying the printing expenses and the facial value of the stamps.

In May, 1865, a special perforating machine was ordered from Berlin, and in August of the same year the perforation of the stamps after the Prussian method was commenced. The first stamps showing this new style were emitted in October, 1865.

Present issue. Stamps in sheets of 60; form of paper $64\frac{1}{2}$ by 100 lines (the twelfth part of an inch); paper of the finest kind, made from pure thread, white and glossy; impressions in relief; coloured green (a little yellowish), 1 kr.; red (rose), 3 kr.; blue, 6 kr.; brown, 9 kr.; orange, 18 kr.; perforated with small cuts.

ENVELOPES.

The introduction of envelopes was for the first time proposed in Wurtemberg in 1858. In 1859 the envelope manufacturer, Helfferich, prepared, without order, samples of envelopes bearing a round stamp of the size of a florin, but his specimens were rejected by the finance minister.

* Amateurs must understand that the frames differ a little.

In 1862 the question of the emission of envelopes was again brought forward, and this time the finance minister gave his sanction to the proposal. The royal approval was given, under date the 10th February, 1862, for 3, 6, and 9 kr. envelopes in two different sizes. An inscription in very small type (technically termed 'pearl'), crossing the envelopes at the right corner, and printed green, was also resolved on, and stamps authorised of the following values:—3 kr. red, 6 kr. blue, and 9 kr. brown.

The minute inscription in pearl was printed by a press from casts in a private printing-office, but the result was not considered satisfactory.

The dies of the stamp were prepared by the engraver, Schilling, of Berlin, but that artist had inadvertently spelt the word WURTEMBERG with one T only, and had accordingly to make fresh dies. Pending their arrival the defective dies were used to test the stamping machines, and it is said that proofs from these dies were also taken at Berlin and have been sold to persons engaged in the stamp trade. The test proofs were never placed in circulation. After the arrival of the correct dies the stamping of the envelopes was commenced. The paper employed for these envelopes was entirely white, highly pressed, glossy, and rather soft. The embossed stamp is the same for all the values; form octagonal.

By a decision of the 8th September, 1862, it was ordered that they should be emitted on the following 1st October. Soon after their issue it was remarked that the pure white paper of the envelopes permitted the writing beneath to show through, and consequently recourse was had to a blue paper only slightly pressed by the machine. This paper was first used in the month of December, 1862.

In January, 1863, it was resolved not to make any more envelopes of a large size on account of the slight demand for them, but instead samples of very small size, termed "ladies envelopes," were tried for the 3 kr.

In February, 1863, the printing of the inscription was confided to a better organised printing-office; the characters were re-engraved in another type, and, galvanised

copper casts being taken, the impression was executed by a printing-machine. The shade of green varied, nevertheless, with each working, being sometimes bluish and sometimes yellowish-green, and similarly the colours of the stamps underwent frequent changes—the brown especially, of which from three to six shades were successively emitted.

After the 1st March, 1863, the stamping of the envelopes was entirely conducted by the administration (*Druckmaterialien-verwaltung*), and in March, 1864, it was resolved that the printing of the inscription should also be done by the post-office. In consequence, a machine for the purpose was ordered, which commenced working in December, 1864, and produced a better and more equal impression than could be obtained from the typographical method.

From the month of December, 1864, the following colours were employed for the pearl inscription: black for the 3 kr. red, yellow for the 6 kr. blue, and green for the 9 kr. brown. The first emission of envelopes thus printed took place in the month of January, 1865.

A royal decree of the 27th December, 1864, authorised the emission of envelopes of the value of 1 kr. The printing of the inscription for these envelopes commenced in April, and the impression of the embossed stamps in May, 1865. The pearl inscription for this envelope traverses the left angle (for the 3, 6, and 9 kr. the right), and is coloured violet, the stamp itself green. The embossed stamp on the flap consists of a posthorn with the figure 1 in the middle. The emission of 1 kr. envelopes commenced on the 1st June, 1865. In April, 1865, it was resolved to use the same flap ornament (posthorn with corresponding figures) for the 3, 6, and 9 kr. envelopes. The first emission showing this alteration took place in July, 1855.

Current envelopes—1st January, 1866, 1 kr., envelope, small size, lilac tinted, pressed paper, pearl lettering in violet, crossing the left angle; 3, 6, and 9 kr., envelopes, all of the middle size (the large size and the very small "ladies envelopes" being no more made, there being no demand for them), bluish, pressed paper, pearl inscription crossing the right angle, coloured black for the 3 kr., red

for the 6 kr., and green for the 9 kr.; the stamps impressed just under the inscription at the right side, red for the 3 kr., blue for the 6 kr., and brown for the 9 kr. It is not possible even now to obtain perfectly identical shades of the latter. Design of seal on the flap, similar as for the 1 kr.

Stamps for sealing returned letters (Retour-briefe) of the well-known type were placed in use from the 1st June, 1862.

For the *post-office-order envelopes* a number of specimens were prepared during the month of September—November, 1865, upon white, green, and red paper of two different sizes, with red stamps for the 3 kr., violet for the 4 kr., blue for the 6 kr., yellow for the 7 kr., and brown for the 9 kr.; official stamp, black, ordinary typographical impression.

As to the introduction of the post-office-order system in Wurtemberg, we have not any definitive order before us; nevertheless, it is probable that the system projected for the postal union will also be adopted in Wurtemberg.

REVIEWS OF POSTAL PUBLICATIONS.

The American Stamp Mercury. Boston, Mass.: F. Trifet.

THE second number of this periodical is before us, and bears evidence of carefulness in its "get up." It contains eight pages, of which six are occupied with readable matter, including (in the copy from which we write) an editorial article entitled "Thanks;" a paper on "Newly-Issued Stamps," in which we observe our description of the Argentine series has the honour to be quoted at length; answers to correspondents; a long narrative, entitled "The Winter Mail Service across the Straits of Northumberland, from Prince Edward Island to the main land of New Brunswick," which we may be able to transfer to our columns on a future occasion, and a page of miscellaneous items. We find we have further to add a list of United States revenue stamps on the seventh page.

We wish our contemporary every success; and as he states that he has "come to the conclusion to make it *the* stamp paper of America, or perish in the attempt," we do not doubt but that, with such a resolution, he

will obtain all the prosperity he could wish. The American stamp public must surely be able to support two magazines so cheaply priced as this and the *Stamp-Collector's Record*. We should like to see in both a better class of writing than has hitherto characterised the American periodicals, and believe that, were our friends in the States to study their stamps, they would soon find sufficient matter for interesting original articles.

The Postage-Stamp Collector's Hand Book.
Boston, U. S.: S. Allan Taylor.

THE circumstances connected with the preparation and printing of this book give it a sad and peculiar interest. The author, a young man of three or four and twenty, compiled this book without assistance, and, furthermore, himself set up the type from which it is printed. We are not aware whether he was by profession a printer, but, in any event, the labour thus involved was very considerable, and, as it proved, wrought fatally on his constitution—which, according to the *Stamp-Collector's Record*, had always been delicate—causing his death, after eight days' illness, on the 8th August, 1867.

The facts we have narrated disarm criticism, but were it otherwise we should still have much room for praise in reviewing this book. The descriptions are concise and sufficiently clear for the guidance of collectors; they also appear to include all the standard colours, but not the varieties; in this respect, as in some others, following the example of Dr. Gray. The spirit in which it has been compiled may be inferred from the following extract from the preface:

The want of a proper text-book has been one of the weightiest disadvantages under which the American stamp collectors have laboured for two or three years past, and accounts in a great measure for the comparatively slow progress which the science of timbrophily has made in this country, when compared with the progress which it has made during the same period in Great Britain and on the continent. The British works on the subject, apart from their high prices, are usually of such an elaborate character, that the technical phrases of mathematics and the more abstruse technicalities of "heraldry," used by their compilers, serve more to perplex and mystify the young collector, than to afford him any real, available information.

No doubt the non-existence of a book-post until a recent date has rendered it impossible for American collectors to obtain English

philatelic works at anything like the moderate prices at which they are published; but this drawback no longer exists, and whilst we hail the appearance of the work under notice, we think American collectors will find it to their benefit to collate it with the standard books on this side, which are now placed within their reach. Its completeness, and, so far as we have been able to discover, its general correctness, will be great recommendations to it, and we doubt not it will circulate largely in the States.

The objections made to the descriptive terms used in British works seem to us hardly tenable, as only such mathematical or heraldic phrases are employed, as any educated person, devoid of special knowledge of these sciences, could understand; and we are loath to believe that "our American cousins" are so far behind us in education as to be unable to comprehend them.

That we may not, however, conclude our review with anything approaching to blame, we would call our readers' attention to the commendably low price at which the book is published, and suggest even to English philatelists the propriety of obtaining a copy, as it is the latest, and, in some respects, the best American catalogue published—certainly the one which shows most originality in description.

POSTAL CHIT-CHAT.

THE NEW ORLEANS STAMPS are noticeable, from the fact that, although originally made in 1846, and issued for a short time then; they were, upon the breaking out of the rebellion, resuscitated and reprinted to do duty with the stamps of Mobile, Memphis, Baton Rouge, and other provisional stamps of the Confederacy.—*The Postage-Stamp Collector's Handbook.*

OCEAN PENNY POSTAGE AGAIN.—A penny postage between Great Britain and America is one of those desirable things which we have often thought of, but deemed of remote likelihood; and yet the matter is not only on the tapis, but seems very close on its accomplishment. The National Steamship Company has, it is said, offered to the post-office authorities to carry the mails one day in each week to America at the rate of a penny per half-ounce for letters.

NEW AUSTRIAN POSTAL ARRANGEMENTS.—A postal convention has been entered into between Austria and the Northern Confederation, which will greatly reduce the postage of letters in Germany. Throughout the whole Austrian empire a single letter costs only one penny, but from Austria to other parts of Germany threepence was the sum paid. By the new arrangement, to begin with the new year, a letter from Vienna to Hauburg or Cologne will only cost one penny, the same as in the Austrian territory. Small packages are to cost threepence.—*The Standard.*

THE TELEGRAPH AND THE POST-OFFICE.—Government have proposed to purchase and take up the telegraph lines; and if they had the railways as well as the telegraphs, the natural place for the post-offices and telegraph-offices would be the railway-stations. The postmaster and his staff might perform the functions of ticket-issuer and forwarder of telegraphic messages, in addition to their present duties. The mails would be sorted immediately upon arrival. The vehicle which brings the mails from the train to the post-office would, in such case, bring the letter-carriers with their bags. All telegraphic messages might be paid in stamps, and the telegrams either sent to the stations or deposited in the letter-pillars or wall-boxes, which could be emptied every hour. This consolidation of several duties would be a great public convenience and a considerable saving of expense.—*Waterford Mail.*

THE PLAINT OF THE POSTAGE STAMP.*

BY GEORGE ARNOLD.

I'm a very dirty little stamp;

My back is gummed, my face is dimly blurred;
And yet I am, in commerce, cot, and camp,

Familiar as that well-known household word.

Yet oh, to think that I should ever be
Converted into legal currency!

Now on an envelope, I'm not so bad,

And I take letters through both cheap and neat;
Sticking to one thing was a way I had,

But now I stick to everything I meet;

And oh, to think that I could ever be
Passed in the place of metal currency!

To do my duty I did ne'er refuse;

But woe is me! for I have fallen low;

I'm passed for vulgar drinks and oyster stews,

And dirty shaves—'tis that that sticks me so!

Alas! alas! that I should ever be

A victim to the dearth of currency!

Thumbing and gumming have quite worn me out;

I'm drab and dingy now, instead of red;

My back is weak, and soon, without a doubt,

If I am passed much more, I'll lose my head.

Oh, sorry day, when I did chance to be

Put to the use of baser currency!

(Extracted from *Mason's Magazine.*)

A HINT TO STAMP DEALERS AND COLLECTORS.—Collectors are proverbially dishonest, and entomologists are no exception. A short time ago a collector in Germany, who had a fine collection of beetles, prided himself on possessing a couple of Goliath beetles of great value. One day, to his dismay, he found one of the beetles had disappeared out of the drawer. He made out a list of the persons collecting such objects, who had lately inspected his collection, and then set out to visit their collections. He called on No. 1 and No. 2 without any result, and looking through the cabinet of No. 3, there was a Goliath of the kind he missed. He said, "So you have got that species at last?" "Yes," said the collector No. 3; "I had to pay a large price for it." "Pray let me have it in my hand, and examine it more closely." "Oh, certainly," said the collector No. 3. As soon as he had got it fairly in his hand, he broke the specimen in half, that is, between the body and thorax, and holding the broken ends up to the collector, showed him a label, gummed on the inside of the body, on which was written, "Stolen from Mr. R." Foreseeing such an event might happen, he had placed such a label in the body of each of his specimens. It is to be wished this could be done in other cases.—*Athenæum.*

* Written during the late rebellion, when P. O. stamps were in general use for currency.

CORRESPONDENCE.

SUGGESTIONS FOR THE IMPROVEMENT OF
LALLIER'S ALBUM.

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

SIR,—As I think it probable that we shall be having a new edition of Lallier's album, before that much-to-be desired "universal" one appears, which shall satisfy every one, I think some defects in the above should be pointed out to the compiler of it, with a view to their correction.

The numerous errors in the designation of the stamps, in the spaces set apart for them—not corresponding with the list on the opposite page—must be well known to all who use this album, and is, I know, sometimes a source of bewilderment.

I think most will agree with me that it adds much to the appearance of a page of stamps to have a slight space between each stamp, be it ever so small, and that nothing looks worse than to have them crowded and overlapping each other. Now in many cases the allotted spaces in this album are so miserably small that it is impossible to arrange the stamps without crowding, or even overlapping; as for instance, in those of Austria, and more especially, Austrian Italy. "Keep your margins as wide as possible," say those who advise us on stamp collecting. "Cut off your perforations to make your stamps fit together neatly," would seem to be that of M. Lallier.

Compare a page of Austrian stamps, or of Swiss, with one of Turkey, or Mecklenburg-Strelitz, or of Spain, page 69, and the difference of effect will be evident.

In some cases, again, the spaces are to an unsightly degree disproportioned, as those for the St. Thomas stamps; in others, the forms are erroneous, and might mislead a beginner, as the circles for the oval envelopes of Hanover, and the early issues of our own stamps.

In a new edition, too, it is much to be desired that no spaces should be specially allotted for those vile productions, the Hamburg locals, which add a disfigurement, and no beauty, to any stamp album. If any one is greatly desirous of collecting them, let a limbo be provided for them at the end of the book, but without names or spaces, so that those who do not care for them may appropriate the space to better purposes. The same remarks would apply also, I think, to the stamps of private firms, Smith, Elder, & Co.; Brown, Jones, & Robinson; *et hoc genus omne*. The double stamps also of our own, which are but little better than an imposition on collectors, should be henceforth omitted, and the space applied to better uses.

One other point also, I think, should be submitted to M. Lallier's polite consideration. If in this country we were to publish an edition of a stamp album for the use of Frenchmen, I think we should put the stamps for France *foremost* in it; will not M. Lallier, in a new edition for this country, exercise a like politeness towards us, and place our country first in it? Surely he will not be behind us in politeness in this matter.

Wicksuorth.

F. H. BRETT.

THE NEW STAMP EXCHANGE.

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

SIR,—Having noticed in a recent number of your valuable magazine a notification respecting a "New Stamp Exchange" in the city, I, as a constant attendant at the same, hasten to corroborate in a great measure the facts of the case as narrated by your correspondent. The meeting in the Royal Exchange appears, however, to date from a much earlier period than he imagines; for although it is

true that this autumn we received an access of strength in consequence of the breaking up of the Cullum street "congregation," still our attendance in that building, as I am informed, really dates from the cessation of the Birchin Lane Exchange in 1862, and has consequently continued, on and off, for nearly five years.

This year the locality is in the immediate left-hand corner on entering from the portico, last year it was in the immediate right hand, and in 1865 in the extreme right ditto. Here my information fails me, but I am given to understand that we have been all round the building, which, from the fact of its affording shelter in wet weather and seats into the bargain, is admirably adapted for the requirements of such a meeting.

I should have thought that the information afforded to your readers would have tended to increase our numbers, but I have seen no new comers. The attendances, regular and irregular, since I have been there have at times gone as high as 50 or 60 in number, it is often, I am sorry to say, more generally a dozen or so.

With respect to the regular attendance, I may remark that it is small as compared even with Birchin Lane in the latter part of 1862, only some half dozen regularly attending from one till two o'clock (Saturdays excepted), all of whom, however, are collectors of long standing in the city, and most of them of the old English school—the exception existing in a few isolated cases where accredited locals (*i. e.*, those having government sanction) are considered.

The best collection represented is 1800, another numbers 1600, both allowing the above innovation, my own (strictly government emissions) follows in the wake with 1400.

As you may suppose, stamps soon find their level as to price on 'change. If you want to sell it must be for almost nothing or not at all; but it is a good place for buying. As an instance of this I may mention a Peru, *first issue*, 1 p. red, bought for 2d.; 2d. *block* Mauritius also bought for 2d.; 6d. yellow Victoria (value in ovals) for ½d.! and Sydney views, 1d. and 2d. (clouds and no clouds), for 6d. a piece, as many as you like to have.

I suppose this winter season we shall as usual slacken in our attendance during the inclement weather, but only to resume in, I hope, still greater force next spring.

Trusting the above particulars may interest your readers, I subscribe myself,

Yours truly,

TAN.

London.

P.S.—I presume that "J. H. Greenstreet" is not aware that gum-fragacanth two or three years after use turns quite *brown* in colour; being an entomologist I know so to my cost, for many of my mounted specimens of coleoptera are quite spoilt by it. I can confidently recommend *white* starch to collectors: it leaves no gloss on the paper; does not affect thin paper stamps by showing through them; and although it secures the stamp, does so only to such an extent as to render removal at any time much easier of attainment.

M. BERGER-LEVRAULT ON THE ENVELOPE
QUESTION.

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

DEAR SIR,—I observe in your number for November last the letter of "Doubtful" (Waterford), entitled "How are envelopes to be mounted?" wherein the writer arrives at the following conclusion, which I for one can by no means adopt:

"I think, unless one of your correspondents can clearly

show how entire envelopes can conveniently be included with the adhesives, I shall choose the cut copies."

All earnest collectors who adopt these conclusions will, I feel sure, regret very much having admitted the principle which they contain.

It was after that principle that I commenced my own collection. I used to cut the envelopes myself in 1861, and amongst others, three which I had received entire, and which it is now impossible for me to obtain again in the same condition, viz:

Prussian envelopes, 1851, on the "Dickinson" paper—
4 and 6 sgr. oct., and

1857—4 sgr. oct., with black inscription.
I know that I am not the only amateur in whose collection these envelopes are wanting uncut, and above all unused, and I have frequently regretted not having, in 1861, observed the proverb, "*Dans le doute abstiens toi.*"

To my view, the logical consequence of "Doubtful's" remarks, and that which would most please me, should be: "Unless it can be clearly shown that it is completely useless to collect the entire envelopes, I shall choose the complete copies." For myself, I have made the firm resolve never at any time to cut the complete copies.

To prove that the necessity for collecting such copies exists, it is sufficient to indicate the Wurtemberg and Thurn and Taxis envelopes, the two emissions of which present each a different watermark in sharp relief on the flap, the oldest bearing a *rosace*, the other a posthorn.

It only remains to say to "Doubtful" that more than one good method of putting the entire envelopes in the album is known, but I must admit there are none with which I am completely satisfied. It is an open question, the solution of which I, in common with others, shall endeavour to find. Meanwhile, I keep all my entire envelopes in a box.

"Doubtful" will easily comprehend that if he now takes the cut copies, and should afterwards recognise the absolute necessity of having the entire copies, he may then have to pay tenfold the present price for them.

I repeat: to my view every amateur who is in earnest in his work is necessarily bound to take the entire copies. I do not say that every amateur is necessarily bound to take a second (cut) copy, but I think that no one who has his heart in the study will regret having marked in his album, with such copies, the precise places of the envelopes. In truth, I do not think it is possible to discover a practicable plan for placing the entire envelopes along with the stamps; it will always, it seems to me, be necessary to reserve special pages for them. For the rest, it is not much more expensive or difficult to collect the envelopes in duplicates than to get one complete copy.

It is not needful to buy entire envelopes to cut up, and the envelopes which he speaks of, 12 and 18 kr. Baden, &c., are a good deal rarer new and entire than cut. It is easy to obtain them cut square, and when such copies are not attainable, used ones might be taken provisionally. I may add, that I do not speak of the Geneva envelope; it is very easy to find it cut square and complete unused, and no one, I think as yet, has found an entire used copy.

I am, yours respectfully,
OSCAR BERGER-LEVRULT.

THE ALBUM QUESTION.

G. O. F., Hackney, considers that "SIGMA" runs entirely away from the subject, when in the course of his letter (published in our December number), he suggests that the new album should be completed to the end of

1867. How, he asks, can an album up to that date be a permanent stamp album? It will not do to have half France in one album, and half in another. The album should be capable of taking all new issues, in any size or quantity. G. O. F. thinks that there would be much difference of opinion as to the system of arrangement; he for one would prefer the division by continents.

Another correspondent calls our attention to G. O. F.'s communication to *The Philatelist*, containing his plan for an album, which is as follows: The album to be oblong; paper, srong single sheets, unruled; the sheets to be eyelet-holed with brass rims, and thus readily bound and unbound at pleasure. Stamps to be fixed by means of a moveable machine (a piece of cardboard will answer the purpose), pierced with regular squares, and laid on the page intended to be filled.

ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS.

E. T. P., Kilburn.—Your stamp is one of a pair issued by a Russian Steam Navigation Company, and prepays postage between certain ports in the Levant.

H. P., Port Elizabeth.—The two-cent stamp you describe, having a codfish in oval, belongs to the series in present use for Newfoundland.

H. BARNES, Nova Scotia.—The first volume of *The Stamp-Collector's Magazine* is out of print; but vols. 2, 3, 4, and 5 may be had of our publishers. For particulars see advertisement in present number.

LOCAL, Nottingham.—The "Bell" stamps of Montreal are fictitious.—Berger-Levrault's is the only catalogue which contains a discriminating list between true and false locals.

R. L., Bristol.—The old Turkish series has not been reprinted.—Your 1 piastre on thick paper is one of the later emission, comprising that value and the 20 paras yellow.—The Constantinople locals will most probably *not* be re-issued, in consequence of the resumption of the local postal service, as we understand it is not in the same hands as formerly.

SCANDINAVIA.—The first Norwegian stamp, the 4 sk. blue, was issued in 1854.—The circulation of the Drontheim stamp is stated to have commenced on the 15th March, 1865.—Levrault recognises two sets of the first issue, Sweden; one consisting of pale, the other of deep impressions. As this difference in shade is noticeable in all the values, it points to the fact of there having been two emissions, or, as M. Levrault terms it, "editions." The italic and large-figure Brazil furnish similar instances of lightly and deeply-impressed series—a peculiarity noticed long since by Dr. Gray.

X. L. SIOR, London, wishes to know how to make a good collection. For this end he must acquire a large number of clean, well-selected stamps, and—if he does not already possess it—a habit of perseverance and patience. By a judicious outlay at the commencement, he may secure a large number of stamps cheaply, though we would warn him not to be deceived by the advertisements of dishonest dealers, who offer the greatest rarities for a song. Let him take as a guide the price catalogue of some respectable firm, and invest first in the cheaper stamps; he will thus make a good show at the commencement; and if he arranges his purchases with care and neatness in one of the albums suited for beginners, their appearance will encourage him to further steps. But we would observe, that if our correspondent wishes to become a philatelist in the true sense of the word, he must not be content with *buying* stamps and mounting them in his album—he must also study them.

THE STAMPS OF MOLDAVIA AND ROUMANIA.

BY DR. MAGNUS.

(Translated by permission from *Le Timbre-Poste*.)

ON the eastern confines of central Europe is a people whose history consists of a recital of invasion and subjection on the one hand, of victory and independence on the other. Situated to the north of the Danube, it occupies two provinces, Moldavia on the north-east, Wallachia on the south-west, separated the one from the other by the Sereth. It is in this country, the greater part of which formed the Dacia of the ancients, that Trajan established his colonies of legionaries, destined to restrain the barbarians, who at that epoch were surging towards Rome. Under the feeble successors of that prince the barrier was overthrown, and these countries formed part of the dominions of the Goths, Huns, and other conquering tribes successively, and then was occupied from the ninth to the fourteenth century by the Tartars and the Mongols. Later on, the Poles and Turks disputed for possession of the land, and it was finally left under the government of the Hospodars, who recognised the sultan as suzerain. After Poland, Russia claimed possession, succeeded in securing certain districts, and even held the entire country for a short time. The last occupation took place in 1854. The successes of the allies in the Crimea led to the signature of the treaty of Paris by Russia, whereby the constitution of the two principalities was settled on the basis of their forming two separate states under the suzerainty of Turkey. The election of Prince Couza by both principalities, and their exhibition of strength, obliged the Porte, after a long time, to recognise their reunion; and after the overthrow of that prince, and the election of Prince Charles, of Hohenzollern, in 1866, that reunion was confirmed anew. The country is, however, without doubt destined to fall to one of the heirs of the celebrated *sick man*, if the progress of these peoples continues to deserve the sympathies of civilised Europe.

Of the two principalities which to-day

constitute Roumania, one alone before the union used stamps. At a later date their usage was extended to Wallachia. Our plan leads us first to review the stamps of Moldavia. Before doing so we need but to remark that the Roumanian post only transmits the home correspondence of the country. Letters for foreign countries are forwarded by the post-offices of those countries, of which there are branches in the principal towns, and these employ their own stamps.

MOLDAVIA. ISSUE OF 1854.

No agreement has been arrived at as to the precise date of emission of these stamps. M. Rondot, in the *Magasin Pittoresque*, reports that the use of postage stamps was introduced into Moldavia in 1854, during the Crimean war, and professes to have seen letters of 1855 bearing stamps of the issue of which we are about to speak.

As the stamps of that emission do not present an absolute identity—by which we mean not only stamps of different values, but also stamps of the same value—we commence by giving a general description.

GENERAL CHARACTERISTICS.—Round stamps, 20 millimetres in diameter, engraved, printed in blue, with a hand stamp, on coloured paper.

DESIGN.—Bull's head, surmounted by a star, above a posthorn in a circle.

INSCRIPTION.—On the inner edge of circle, PORTO SCREISOREI, in Russian letters. Value in figures in centre of the circle of the posthorn.

VALUES.—54 paras green, 84 paras blue, 108 paras rose.

SPECIES AND VARIETIES.—It is here that the uncertainty commences with respect to the authenticity of a certain number of species. Are we to accept one sole type for each value, and pitilessly reject as false all which are not in accordance with the admitted type?—or would it be well, with M. Rondot, to admit that each value was engraved two or three times (or more), and that this repeated engraving involved little differences in design? According to the accounts with which we have been furnished, the different types which are known owe their existence to the fact, that the post-offices of some of the principal

towns of Moldavia had their own hand stamps, which they used in proportion to their requirements. All the applications of M. Moens, both at Jassy and Bucharest, failed to elicit any further particulars. We think then it will be the best plan to give a description of all the types known to us, accompanied by a critical examination of those whose origin renders them liable to suspicion.

STAMPS OF 54 PARAS.*

FIRST TYPE.—(Diameter $19\frac{2}{3}$ mill). †

1.—Forehead more than half covered with hair.

2.—Horns visibly concave, the top of the right horn turning a little out, the left nearly straight, and rather longer and more slender.

3.—Ears very open, transversely directed, of triangular shape, the lower external angle rectangular, but the top rounded, the superior angle pointing directly upwards.

4.—Eyes large, looking directly forwards, with traces of eyebrows.

5.—Nose of almost equal length and breadth, with numerous hairs in the upper part.

6.—Nostrils forming two curves, and a sort of parenthesis.

7.—Cheek-bones prominent, cheek thin, and separated from the muzzle by a strong depression.

8.—Upper-lip very large, lower touching the circle of the post-horn.

9.—Star of five branches pointing directly upwards, the lower angle very open.

10.—The inscription comes within $\frac{1}{2}$ millimetre of the extremes of the post-horn.

* In the following descriptions we shall speak of the right and left sides of the stamps, with relation to the actual face of the stamps, and not of the sides as viewed by the reader. We have also to observe that more must not be expected from the engravings than that they give a reproduction approximating to the type. It will be understood that all our descriptions are made upon an examination of the stamps themselves.—AUTHOR.

† We purpose giving shortly a fac-simile of a drawing in the *Tinbre-Loste* of a simple apparatus for measuring by millimetres, whereby our readers will be able to make accurate measurements themselves.—ED.



11.—The post-horn is nearly 13 mill. from end to end by 6 mill. vertically. It is very extended below the mouth of the horn, and at the greatest diameter of the oval almost vertical.

12.—The figures it contains are as follows :—the 5 has a smaller body than the other types, and a head formed of a line legibly concave. The 4 has the first line very thick and plainly curved, the second and vertical line is quite upright and smaller than in the other types.

This type is on laid paper, yellowish-green.

SECOND TYPE.—(Diameter 20 mill.)

1.—Forehead square, with two tufts of hair decreasing in the centre; the top of the head appears bony.



2.—Horns very like those of the preceding type.

3.—Ears oval shaped, and obliquely projecting.

4.—Eyes smaller than in the preceding type, and visibly oblique, and covered with a very thick eyelash.

5.—Nose indicated by a very distinct line on the left, by a slighter line on the right, and by a dash beneath. No hair in the upper part.

6.—Nostrils indicated by two small lines turning outwards.

7.—Cheek-bones prominent, separated from the cheeks by a hollow; a second depression between the cheeks and the muzzle.

8.—Upper-lip rather large, lower touching the circle of the post-horn.

9.—Same star, with five branches more spread, transversely.

10.—Inscription comes within $\frac{1}{2}$ mill. of the extremities of the post-horn.

11.—The post-horn is $12\frac{1}{2}$ mill. in length by 5 mill. in height. The mouth is placed as in the first type, but the opening is narrower at the extremities, and its greatest diameter is at an oblique angle of 45 degrees.

12.—Figures: the 5 is very similar to the first type; the 4 has the left line thick, very heavy, and both lines of the same height.

This type is on laid paper, delicate green.

THIRD TYPE.—(Diameter 21 mill.)

This type is that which has the largest head.

1.—Forehead, the upper part covered



with hair, which falls vertically. Temples large and exposed.

2.—Horns curved inwards. On close observation the little point of that of the left will be seen to turn a little outwards.

3.—Ears triangular, not so large as in the first type, nearly horizontal.

4.—Eyes looking downwards in oblique directions, rather large. The left eyebrow more marked.

5.—Nose very large, nearly 2 mill., equal in breadth throughout its length, with some hairs at the top.

6.—Nostrils indicated by two little crochets forming a parenthesis.

7.—Cheek-bones flattened. The swelling of the cheek itself preceded and followed by a depression.

8.—Upper-lip very large, lower-lip small and resting on the horn.

9.—Star with five branches, flattened and more extended than in the preceding type.

10.—Inscription, commencing at 2 mill., and finishing at 1 mill. above the horn.

11.—Post-horn, $13\frac{1}{2}$ mill. in length by $5\frac{1}{2}$ mill. in breadth. The opening of the mouth-piece very large, and having its greatest diameter in an almost horizontal direction.

12.—Figures: the 5 is very thick and "hunch-backed." The head is constituted by a simple line slightly curved. For the 4, the second line is strongly curved on the outside.

This type is on paper coloured of a delicate clouded green.

(To be continued.)

LIST OF STAMPS FIRST NOTICED IN THE STAMP-COLLECTOR'S MAGAZINE FOR 1867.

(Concluded from page 5).

Mexico.

EMPIRE.

1866. Head of Emperor Maximilian to left, in oval; inscription IMPERIO MEXICANO. Col. imp.; rect., engraved.
 7 centavos light lilac-grey.
 13 „ blue.
 25 „ yellow-orange.
 50 „ deep-green.

REPUBLIC.

Provisional Series.

Inscription on inner edge of circle FRANCO EN GUADALAJARA, value and date (1867) in centre. Black imp.; circ.

$\frac{1}{2}$ real white.

1 „ white, dark-blue, light-blue, slate, bluish-violet.

2 reales white, dark-green, light-green (watermarked with cross lines).

4 reales white, flesh (perf.)

Device of first issue (head of Hidalgo) reprinted for provisional issues. Rect. unperf.

2 reales black on lilac.

4 „ rose on blue.

Natal.

Queen's head in oval, inscription NATAL and value in surrounding border, florets in angles. Col. imp.; rect. perf.

One shilling green.

Nevis.

Same device as issue of 1861. Col. imp.; rect. perf.

One penny bright-red.

Fourpence orange.

One shilling sea-green.

New Granada (or Colombia).

Arms and stars in octagon, lace pattern in border, inscription E.E. U.U. DE COLOMBIA, CORREOS NACIONALES. Col. imp.; oct.

5 centavos yellow.

Arms in circle, surmounted with stars, in sinuous frame, same inscription as above. Col. imp.; rect.

10 centavos lilac.

Arms surmounted by eagle in circle, inscription as above, in scrolls. Col. imp.; rect.

20 centavos blue.

Arms on pointed shield, with stars disposed on larger shield, with inscription at sides, and numerals of value above and below. Col. imp.; rect.

50 centavos green.

Arms supported by flags, and surmounted by eagle in oval, inscription (as above) in scrolls, numeral at each angle. Col. imp.; rect.

1 peso vermilion.

STATE OF BOLIVAR.

1864 (?) National arms and inscription ESTADOS DE BOLIVAR in square, inscription CORREOS DEL ESTADO ES. US. COLOMBIA in margin. Col. imp.; small rect.

10 centavos rose, green.

1 peso red.

New South Wales.

Design of 1861, watermarked with figure 5. Sixpence purple-lilac.

New Zealand.

Same design as issue of 1855. Col. imp.; rect. perf.

Threepence bright-violet.

Norway.

Arms on shield with crown, inscription NORGE FRIMERKE, numeral of value in lower angles, ground of diagonally crossed lines. Col. imp.; rect. perf.

2 skg. nankin-yellow.

4 „ blue.

Peru.

Two llamas on ledge of rock, in oval, with numerals at sides, inscription CORREOS DEL PERU above, and value below. Col. imp.; rect. perf.

10 centavos vermilion.

Same design, and inscription in oval buckle, and numerals in angles. Col. imp.; rect. perf.

20 centavos brown.

Portugal.

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

10 reis yellow.

25 „ lake-pink.

50 „ green.

100 „ lilac.

Prussia.

Arms on circle with labels extending to sides bearing numeral, inscription PREUSSEN above. Col. imp.; oct. perf., square.

1 kreuzer green.

2 „ orange.

3 „ rose.

6 kreuzer blue.

9 „ bistre.

ENVELOPES.

Same design, with lines of print transversely crossing the stamp from left to right. Col. imp.; oct.

1 kreuzer green.

2 „ orange.

3 „ rose.

6 „ blue.

9 „ bistre.

Queensland.

Same device as issue of 1852. Col. imp.; rect. perf.

Fourpence mauve.

Five shillings pink.

Roman States.

Designs of the series of 1852, as follows, with altered denominations of value. Black imp., on glazed paper.

2 centesimi green (type of 2 baj.)

3 „ light-grey („ $\frac{1}{2}$ „)

5 „ light-blue („ $\frac{3}{4}$ „)

10 „ vermilion („ 8 „)

20 „ dark-blue („ 4 „)

40 „ yellow („ 6 „)

80 „ deep-rose („ 1 „)

St. Domingo.

Same device as issue of 1862 (value in italics.) Black imp.; rect.

Medio-real rose.

Arms on shield in oval, inscription CORREOS, and value in surrounding border, numerals in corners. Col. imp.; rect.

2 reales carmine.

Salvador.

Volcano and eleven stars in oval, ground formed of minute repetitions of value. Inscription CORREOS DEL SALVADOR, numerals in angles. Col. imp.; rect. perf.

$\frac{1}{2}$ real blue.

1 „ vermilion.

2 „ green.

4 „ brown.

Serbia.

Arms on shield in circle, inscription in Greek characters above. Col. imp.; rect.

1 para green on pale-rose } several
 2 ,, red-brown on mauve } shades.

Shanghai.

Imperial dragon in ornamental frame; different design for each value. Col. imp.; rect. perf.

1 candareen brown.
 3 ,, orange.
 6 ,, neutral-grey.
 12 ,, brown-grey.

South Australia.

Medallion bust of Queen to left, in circle, SOUTH AUSTRALIA above and value below. Col. imp.; rect. perf.

Fourpence mauve.
 Two shillings carmine.

Spain.

January, 1867. Head of Queen with diadem in oval, ornaments in angles, inscription, CORREOS DE ESPANA. Col. imp.; rect. perf.

2 cuartos brown.
 4 ,, blue.
 12 ,, orange.
 19 ,, rose.

10 centesimos de escudo green.
 20 ,, ,, lilac.

July, 1867. Numeral in circle, inscription FRANQUEO IMPRESOS; border inscribed CORREOS ESPANA and value, numerals in angles. Col. imp.; rect. perf.

5 milesimas de escudo green.
 10 ,, ,, brown.

Head of Queen with diadem in oval, inscription CORREOS DE ESPANA in surrounding border, ornamental exterior frame. Col. imp.; rect. perf.

25 mil. blue, centre rose.
 50 ,, pale-bistre.

FRANK STAMPS.

National arms, and inscription CORREO SENADO in single-line oval. Col. imp.; oval.

Blue.

Arms in oval, inscription CONGRESO DE LOS DIPUTADOS, CORREO, in border with double line. Col. imp.; oval.

Black.

Straits Settlements.

Type of the current Indian series, with imperial crown printed above the portrait, and value in large letters below. Col. imp.; rect. perf.

2 cents, imprint red, on 1 anna brown.
 3 ,, ,, blue ,, 1 ,, "
 4 ,, ,, black ,, 1 ,, "
 6 ,, ,, purple ,, 2 ,, orange.
 8 ,, ,, green ,, 2 ,, "
 12 ,, ,, carmine ,, 4 ,, green.
 24 ,, ,, blue ,, 8 ,, rose.
 32 ,, ,, black ,, 2 ,, orange

Switzerland.

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

10 centimes rose.
 30 ,, blue.
 50 ,, deep-mauve.

ENVELOPES.

Dove bearing letter, above shield of arms, surrounded by 22 stars, and figure of value below. Oval; watermark, a dove with letter.

5 centimes light-brown.
 10 ,, light and deep-rose.

Turks Islands.

Head of Queen in oval; inscription TURKS ISLANDS and value on dark curved labels, reticulated ground pattern covering the stamp, corners truncated. Col. imp.; rect. perf.

One penny red.
 Sixpence dull-black.
 One shilling indigo.

Uruguay.

Figure of value, crossed by a transverse bar, inscribed CENTESIMO, and arms on scrolled oval, inscribed REPUBLICA ORIENTAL DEL URUGUAY. Blk. imp.; rect.

1 centesimo black.

ENVELOPES.

1866. Large numeral, inscribed CENTECIMOS, and arms in white relief in oval, inscription REPUBLICA DEL URUGUAY, MONTEVIDEO; flap ornament, sun rising over sea. Col. imp.; oval.

5 centecimos blue.

10 " green.

1867. Same device, but denomination of value altered to centesimos.

5 centesimos blue.

10 " green.

Virgin Islands.

Figure of virgin with lamps, inscription VIRGIN ISLANDS. Col. imp.; rect. perf.

(figure in oval) one penny green.

(" in square) sixpence carmine.

Figure of virgin on globe, in circle, inscription as above. Col. imp.; large rect. perf.

Fourpence red-brown.

Figure of virgin on globe, printed black on a mural back-ground, inscription as above, in arched label. Col. imp.; large rect. perf.

One shilling rose and black.

Same device with broad external margin. One shilling carmine and black.

THE STAMPS OF CASHMERE.

ON the 4th September last our publishers, desiring to obtain accurate information respecting these stamps, addressed the British resident at Cashmere, requesting that he would favour them with a reply to the following inquiries:—

Are the stamps (the square and the round) actually used in Cashmere?

Do they prepay to the frontier of the state?

Is there any regular communication between the post-office of Cashmere and that of India?

Upon what system is the former post-office managed?

Who is at the head of it?

How long has it been organised?—and,

When and by what instrument were the stamps authorised to be emitted?

With their letter was sent a copy of the magazine containing an engraving of the round stamp and also a cut of the square.

Philatelists are indebted to the resident for the detailed answer which he has been kind enough to make to these inquiries, and for which we take this opportunity of tendering their and our best thanks. The following is his reply:—

Rawul Pindee, Punjáb, 10 November, 1867.

Messrs. Alfred Smith & Co.,

Foreign Stamp and Crest Depôt, Bath.

SIRS,—In reply to your letter, dated 4th September last, I have the pleasure to send you samples of the post-office stamps used by the Cashmere government, and to reply to your queries as follows:

1.—These stamps are actually used in Cashmere.

2.—They prepay to the frontier of the state only.

3.—There is regular communication between the post-office of Cashmere and that of India throughout the year; that is to say, during the cold season (from 15th Oct. to 15th April), via Syalkote to Lahore only, and during the hot season (from 15th April to 15th Oct.), when the Hon. the Lieut.-Governor of the Punjáb resides at Murree, both via Syalkote and Murree.

4.—The system on which the Cashmere post-office is managed is very simple. A writer, called a *moonshee*, is appointed by the Cashmere government, to whom letters are sent, and these are forwarded by means of runners posted two miles apart on the postal lines. It has been organised as long as the state has existed. I am not aware of any particular instruments having been issued, calling it into existence.

During the summer months the British government deputs a postmaster, on a salary of about 60 rupees (£6) *per mensem*, who carries on the duties under the supervision of the resident, or representative of the British government, in respect of all letters to and from European residents, travellers, and their dependents.

The amount of postage charged by the Cashmere government to and from the frontiers of the state is, by agreement with the British government, one half the inland Indian postage charged in British India; and in the case of letters to and from Europe, the Cashmere government is allowed to charge a uniform rate of one anna ($\frac{1}{2}$ shilling), irrespective of weight.

The Cashmere stamps are current only in Cashmere. Hence it follows that letters received from British India are not stamped for Cashmere, and are paid for by cash to the British postmaster, who, through the resident, hands over the proceeds to the Cashmere government.

Having, I trust, supplied the information you require,

I remain, Sirs,

Your most obedient servant,

J. E. CRACROFT, Major.

Late Resident in Cashmere.

The first point to be noticed in reference to this letter is, that all the stamps sent with it are square ones. Major Cracroft takes no notice of the round varieties, and does not seem to be aware of their existence. They are, however, generally accepted as genuine impressions, and we can only account for their being overlooked by the writer of the above from the fact of their being (as we understand from an article in *The Philatelist*, to which we shall presently refer) authorised local stamps only.

With regard to the square stamps, we have to observe that their authenticity, upon which some doubts have been thrown, is now placed beyond question. The set so obligingly forwarded by Major Cracroft

(which is probably the only complete one in the kingdom) consists of six values:—

- 3 pie (= $\frac{1}{32}$ of ls.) dull-black.
- 6 „ (= $\frac{1}{16}$ „) bright-blue.
- 1 anna (= $1\frac{1}{2}$ d.) orange-red.
- 2 „ (= 3d.) light-yellow.
- 4 „ (= 6d.) green.
- 8 „ (= 1s.) deep-vermilion.

The design is pretty accurately represented by the annexed cut. The star appears at the top of each, and the inscription contained in the oval border is the same in

all the values, but the central inscription (probably the denomination of value) differs in each. The external square border, and also the small spandrels, show lines of indistinct white dots. The impression is execrable,



and the colour being unevenly laid on, some portion of the stamps are only smeared. On comparison, it appears that each value is from a separate block; probably, like the original Shanghai stamps, the design is cut in ivory dies and hand stamped. The diameter of the inner oval varies considerably, and the characters are not found in exactly the same position on any two values. The paper used is laid, with the lines of the *verguire* running vertically, except in the 3 pie and 4 anna, in which, in the specimens before us, they are found running horizontally. Most likely, however, there is very little care used in placing the paper; and copies of all the values will be met with exhibiting both varieties. The stamps we have received are thinly gummed, and, as may be supposed, not perforated.

The rarity of these stamps in this country no doubt arises from the fact that there are comparatively few English in Cashmere, and if prepayment by stamps is not compulsory they probably prefer to pay the amount of the postage of their letters direct to the official. The one anna should, however, be the commonest, that being the value uniformly charged by the Cashmere government on letters for Europe.

Major Cracroft is not aware of any instrument calling the Cashmere post-office into

existence, nor, we assume, of any document authorising the emission of stamps. They were created, however, to pay the Cashmere charges on letters to British India, and, therefore, subsequently to the agreement with our government as to the rates to be paid by senders—these rates being based on those now current in India—which were established but a few years since. We may be certain from this that the stamps do not date earlier than 1854, and we should place the time of their emission at least ten years after, as we doubt that any stamp could remain in existence for a lengthened time without becoming known to collectors.

The *Philatelist* account of the Cashmere stamps does not rest on any stated authority, and is disproved in some points by the one now given. Thus our contemporary states that there are *two* square black stamps of the value respectively of half and one anna, and are both for use in Sirinagar. It now appears there is only one stamp of that colour, that its value is three pie, and that it pays the postage through Cashmere of letters which would be rated at a half-anna in British India. We quote, therefore, with some reserve, the statement that there are *two* blue circular stamps; one, value one anna, for Jumnoo; the other, value four annas, “for Jumnoo and Sirinagar;” and that the circular black stamp is for Jumnoo, and value half-anna. Respecting these stamps we require further and well-authenticated information.

THE NEW STAMP FOR KUSTENDJIE AND TCHERNAWODA.

We have received from a correspondent upon whose veracity we can rely, the following interesting account of this stamp, which, in view of the writer's position as an employé of the company by which it has been issued, may be accepted as sufficient proof of its authenticity. As “suspicious characters” continue to make their appearance on the stage occasionally, we were naturally suspicious of a stamp which reached us with so little guarantee as to its value, but are happy to find our doubts dispelled. As our correspondent does not refer to any other than the one described by us (20 paras), we presume that none other exist at present.

"The Danube and Black Sea Railway and Kustendjie Harbour Company, Limited. Constantinople, November, 20, 1867.

"To the Editor of

The Stamp-Collector's Magazine.

"In your last magazine of November 1st, you mention and give a sketch of a new Turkish local stamp, marked D.B.S.R., and make certain remarks regarding the stamp itself, and its initials. I see, however, that you have been led into error by the information sent you on this issue, and hasten, therefore, to give you the required details, the accuracy of which you can rely upon, seeing that we hold the agency of the Danube and Black Sea Railway and Kustendjie Harbour Company, Limited, by whom the said stamp has been issued for its local postal service between Kustendjie, on the Black Sea, and Czernawoda, on the Danube.

"First, with reference to the initials, they are the Company's initials, D. B. S. R., *i.e.*, Danube and Black Sea Railway.

"Kustendjie and Czernawoda, on the right, are the two termini of the railway.

"The device itself represents the harbour of Kustendjie, and the railway train.

"The obliteration you mention of 'Kustendjie Lloyd agence,' is owing to the fact of letters at Kustendjie being sent for transmission to Europe, to the Austrian Lloyd's steamers' agency, who obliterate the stamp and send on the letter. I believe, but am not certain, that the Austrian Lloyd's agency at Kustendjie have entered into some local postal agreement with the railway company for the conveyance of mails.

"Kustendjie is not in Candia, but, as stated above, on the Black Sea. It occupies the site, and retains, with slight alteration, the name of an ancient town called Constantina in the time of the Byzantian emperors. The foundation of this place is attributed to the emperor Trajan.

"Tchernawoda, or Czernawoda, is a small town on the Danube, formerly of little importance, but now gradually obtaining development, owing to the transit traffic carried on by the railway.

"The stamp's not bearing any Turkish characters is accounted for by the fact of its being issued by a private company, which,

though Turkish, is entirely in the hands of Europeans (English).

"The Danube and Black Sea Railway Company obtained its concession from the Sublime Porte in the year 1857. The line was finished in the year 1859, and has been working ever since; the harbour somewhat later.

"NOTE.—Owing to the company not having been able to enforce payment of certain port dues conceded by the Turkish government, and for which a claim against the Porte for a large amount of arrears is now pending, the result of the enterprise is not so satisfactory as it might have been, if the company had been able to enforce the payment of its rights, but the beneficial effects resulting to that portion of Turkey (the Dobrudja) by the establishment of the railway, are proved by the fact, that whereas the local growth of grain, before the establishment of the line, never exceeded 15,000 quarters, it amounted last year to very nearly 600,000 quarters.

"I remain, dear Sir,

"Truly yours,

"A. B. P."

NEWLY-ISSUED OR INEDITED STAMPS.

WE commence our list for the present month with a description of the two highest *bona-fide* postal values yet emitted. They are for

NEW GRANADA, and consist of 5 and 10 peso stamps, equal in value exactly to £1 and £2 respectively. The honest tar, who, as related in a tale which we reprinted in a recent number, wouldn't "spend less than five shillings on his mate, Bill Jenkins," would have an opportunity of showing his friendship by a much larger outlay in stamps, were he now to write to his friend from New Granada. There is something quite



amusing in the idea of requesting a post-office clerk to let you have "a sheet of 10 peso stamps, if you please," though we allow the idea of handing over a £50 or £100 note, according to the size of the sheet, in payment, is not altogether equally pleasant.

What is the precise use for which these

stamps are intended we cannot say, for even in a country like Colombia, a letter requiring more than one or two pesos for prepayment, must be rare. In this country the one-peso stamps fetch their facial value used, which proves their rarity. What the 5 and 10 pesos will be worth we can hardly imagine, but we should strongly advise the dealers in stamps not to speculate too largely in unused impressions.

Our engravings will inform our readers the design of the new, and will, perhaps, lead them to think that, considered facially, there is not enough for the money on either of them, in which opinion we agree, whilst admitting the "passableness" of the type. They are distinguished from all the other stamps of the republic, by being printed on glazed paper, but are both black impressions. The colours of the paper are, for the 5 peso, green, for the 10 peso, vermilion; both are without watermark and unperforated.

Since writing the above we have received information of the emission of a new SOBREPORTE stamp, value 50 c. It is simply designed, and printed in black on pale-green paper.



In the upper part appears the usual shield, with the nine stars following its curves at the sides, and the value above; below, in a curved line, is the

word SOBREPORTE, and beneath this, touching the lower margin, two branches crossed. The ground consists of horizontal lines widely spaced, and a black line forms the outer rectangle. The name of the republic does not appear.

STATE OF MAGDALENA.—Our readers on perusing our description of the stamp just emitted for this state, must have been rather puzzled whether to accept it as a serious account of it, or as a rather indistinct joke. In fact, we must confess to having committed something, according to Talleyrand, worse than a crime—a blunder, and, under these circumstances, can but crave the mercy of the court. Our description was written without a view of the stamp, at a distance, indeed,



from all stamps and stamp connections, and upon rather indefinite information, which did not include any mention of the fact that the date of emission appeared on the stamp. The improbability of any kind of separate postal administration for each or any of the various states composing the republic of Colombia, appeared to us to be so great, that we did not for a moment suppose that the stamp could have been recently issued, and based all our remarks on the assumption that it was, if we may so term it, an "exhumation." To make confusion worse confounded, the printer mistook our figures, and our remark that the stamp could not have been emitted "longer ago than 1862, it is evident from the inscription," became nonsense by the alteration of the date to 1867. We trust this explanation will satisfy our friends; and with regard to the stamp, we cannot as yet replace our inaccurate hypothesis by more reliable information. All we possess at present is that which the stamp itself affords, viz., that it is issued by the State of Magdalena, but whether postal, or otherwise, we know not—probably *not*, as the word CORREOS is not found in the inscription. We hope, however, to have details shortly, which will place the matter beyond doubt.

STRAITS SETTLEMENTS.—The permanent series for this colony has now made its appearance, and will be welcome for its neatness of design, and delicacy of colour. We say the series, but as we have not yet seen representatives of some of the values provisionally issued, these may be yet to come. We have before us two designs, one for the three lower values, and one reserved for the highest alone. The first consist of the diademed head of queen to left, on a lined disk, enclosed in an oval band, inscribed STRAITS SETTLEMENTS POSTAGE, the value appears in a marginal label below, and the spandrels are ornamented. The entire stamps are rectangular, and of the following colours:

Eight	cents, orange.
Twelve	„ blue.
Twenty-four	„ green.

The same head is employed for the remaining stamp, but appears on this in a rectangular disk, with STRAITS SETTLEMENTS at sides,

POSTAGE above, and 32 CENTS below. This is a rather tamer device, but the colour counter-balances, and renders it attractive. We note this stamp as the

32 cents, vermilion.

We say a great deal towards describing the stamps, when we state that they are engraved by De la Rue. This, if not a guarantee for the highest excellence, is at least a sure testimony that nothing gaudy will characterise the device or the colours, but that both will be in tone.

WURTEMBERG.—We note, for the guidance of collectors, the fact that the type of the envelope stamps of this country has been again utilised to represent the fee paid to the post-office on money-orders. The value, 7 kr., is printed in blue, on a thick piece of yellow paper, inscribed with the form of the order on one side, and the "payee's" receipt on the other, and again, two impressions of the 7 kr. in *brown*, representing the value, 14 kr., on other and similar sheets. These series do *not* defray the postage of the letter containing the order, they represent solely the amounts paid as fees; the 7 kr., for orders for less, and the 14 kr. for orders above 25 thalers.

PRUSSIA.—We have to add to the 3 pf. envelope, noticed last month, another, as we should suppose, moribund individual—viz., the 6 pf. orange, of the same type as the equivalent adhesive, and having the usual transversal inscription. The Belgian journal gives some particulars respecting two envelope stamps used by a private society named the *Victoria Invaliden Stiftung*. The first value, $\frac{1}{3}$ s. gr., corresponds in type with the new 4 pf. Prussian envelope, with this difference, that the transversal inscription crosses the envelope on the left (as we understand it, *above* the stamp), and consists of the words VICTORIA NATIONAL INVALIDEN STIFTUNG. In consequence of its large correspondence the society has obtained a reduction of the postal rates in its favour; hence the emission of this envelope. The second our contemporary states to be also of the value of $\frac{1}{3}$ s. gr., and he assumes it to be the successor of the first-named design. This stamp is identical in type with the new s. gr. series for the confederation.

It is printed on large-size envelopes (5 by $7\frac{1}{2}$ inches) in the upper right corner, and is not crossed by any inscription, but on the lower left margin of the envelope are the words, VICTORIA NATIONAL INVALIDEN STIFTUNG. We do not see what necessity there was for the emission of two envelopes of the same value almost simultaneously.

THE NORTH GERMAN CONFEDERATION.—We have now the entire adhesive series, both in kr. and s. gr. before us. Of the latter we gave the type last month, and are now able to describe the kreuzer series from ocular evidence. The numeral of value occupies a small central oval enclosed in a wreath, outside of which is an oval border, inscribed NORD DEUTSCHER POSTBEZIRK, and value in words. The corners are filled in with the horn and winged wheels alternately. Both series have a pretty effect, and are rather superior examples of the style of design, in which the numeral of value is the principal feature. The colours and values of the *groschen* series are as follows:—

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

Respecting the employment of these stamps, our esteemed correspondent, Mr. Max Joseph, affords some further and interesting information in a letter which we publish in the correspondence.

The kreuzer series has one value less than its companion, consisting, as it does, of the following:

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

A stamp has also been issued for the special use of the city of Hamburg. Its general design is that of the new kr. series, but the inscription runs thus: NORDDEUTSCHER POSTBEZIRK STADTPOSTBRIEF HAMBURG. This fills the oval band, which is narrowed to admit of its insertion. The central oval does not present the figure of value, but is occupied only with a reticulated ground, nor

is the value shown on any other part of the stamp. We are ourselves unacquainted with it at present, but presume that it does not exceed 1 schg. The colour resembles that of the new $\frac{1}{4}$ gr., and like all the other stamps, it is printed on white paper, and perforated *à la Prusse*.

ST. HELENA.—We are informed by a trustworthy correspondent, that an addition has been made to the provisional (!) series for this island, in the shape of three new values:

Twopence, light-yellow.

Threepence, dark-purple.

Five shillings, orange.

All these stamps are printed in copper-plate from the old die, the primary value, sixpence, being ruled across, as in the 1d., 4d., and 1s., and the new values printed above in black. The colour of the 3d., we are informed, is something approaching that of the current 6d. Western Australia. A portion of the supply has left England, and we may anticipate being shortly in possession of specimens. All the stamps, we should add, are coloured impressions, on white paper, perforated, and probably watermarked with c c and crown.

VICTORIA.—The new watermark, as will be seen by the annexed cut, represents the crown and letter v in place of the letters cc, which, as indicating crown colony, would be inapplicable to many of the colonies in whose stamps they appear. Excepting Victoria, it is as yet only



used on the tenpenny New South Wales, but its employment will doubtless be extended as time goes on, and the existing stock of paper with the older watermark is exhausted.

SANDWICH ISLANDS.—Pending the manufacture of a fresh supply of the 5 c. with head, the 5 c. figure has been re-issued, but the word INTER ISLAND on the left, in lieu of HAWAIIAN postage.

MEXICO.—The provisional series for the republic, with head of Hidalgo, has received two additions in the shape of a half-real greenish blue and one real blue, both on bluish paper.

HOLLAND.—The 5 c. blue and 10 c. carmine of the new type were placed in circulation on

the 28th or 29th December. In reply to our inquiry, the Dutch postmaster-general informs us that he is unable to say at what date the 1 c. will be issued.

BERGEN.—A correspondent writing from Bergen informs M. Meens that the stamp for that city was issued by a company which became extinct about two years since, after an existence of six months, as the public did not encourage the enterprise. The inscription BY-POST signifies "city post." The value of the stamp was 2 skilling. Its use was circumscribed to the city and environs. Since its withdrawal, the manager of the company has left the country.

BOLIVIA.—A correspondent informs us of the emission of a 50 c. orange for this republic, of the same type as the 5 c. green lately noticed.

SOUTH AUSTRALIA.—The tenpenny stamp for this colony is now impressed deep-yellow, instead of orange-red as previously.

REVIEWS OF POSTAL PUBLICATIONS.

Le Timbrophile Journal de la Collection Timbro-Postale et Fiscale. Paris: PIERRE MAHE.

We have pleasure in again noticing this excellent magazine, which has done so much to establish philately on the continent. At the commencement of its fourth volume it comes before us printed on better paper, and in the now-fashionable "old-face" or "elzevir" type. We can cordially recommend it to our French-reading subscribers.

A note-worthy feature of the new volume is the introduction of descriptions of revenue stamps, in accordance with which it will be observed that the title has been altered. The last two pages of the number before us are devoted to these stamps, under the heading "Partie Timbro-fiscale," and contain an introductory article, bearing the editor's initials, a description of newly-issued individuals, and the first published price-current of this species of stamps.

The inclusion of revenue stamps in a postage-stamp magazine is a striking proof of the advance which has been made towards their collection by continental amateurs, and will, no doubt, tend considerably to establish

this branch of collecting. That it will ever become so popular as the accumulation of postal emissions is very questionable. The high values of many of these stamps would be a bar to their collection unused, and few persons would, we imagine, care to have them defaced with written inscriptions. We are far from recommending our readers to add revenue stamps to their albums, but such as already possess a *penchant* in that direction will find an excellent guide to their study in the pages of *Le Timbrophile*.

With the new volume a present is made to subscribers of a copy of M. Mahé's new *Guide Manuel*, which forms the subject of the succeeding review.

Nouveau Guide-Manuel du Collectionneur d'après un plan nouveau. Paris: PIERRE MAHE.

No ordinary amount of labour has been spent on this book, which contains eighty pages of closely-printed matter. Nearly 4000 stamps are described, and the prices of most are annexed. The experience of the author, M. Mahé, has been brought to bear to make it, as he states, a veritable guide, for which purpose it contains notices of all stamps issued, including varieties of shade, colour, inscription, perforation, &c.

The author is far from binding collectors, however, to the collection of all the stamps named. On the contrary, he gives direction for the inclusion or exclusion of various classes of specimens, according to the plan upon which collectors form their albums.

Thus he proposes, taking as an example the North German stamps, that if the question of economy presides in the formation of a collection, the amateur should omit Nos. 36 to 39, being the envelopes with lilac inscription, and take only those of the ordinary kind. Similarly, if he wishes to collect the stamps perforated, he will take only those which show the original perforations, and not Nos. 34 and 35, which are merely varieties. Upon this principle also he suggests the collector should choose the primitive shade of colour of stamps, of which several shades exist, and accordingly would take the two ordinary shades of the one fr. French Republic, and neglect the vermilion,

which is accidental, and a pure curiosity. Some stamps of great rarity, he further recommends, might be represented by office reprints, which are exactly of the same types, and are printed from the original plates.

In conformity with this latter suggestion, M. Mahé distinguishes between, and catalogues separately, original impressions and reprints. To complete his list, he also inserts a number of stamps which he is unable at present to price, and by plain descriptive headings indicates the value—as government emissions, private emissions sanctioned by government, and unsanctioned private emissions—of all stamps comprised in his book, which, in conclusion, we would beg to recommend to all our readers as a valuable addition to their philatelic library.

POSTAL CHIT-CHAT.

WHEN IS A POSTMAN LIKE A PRINTER? When he distributes his letters.

WHY must a telegram be slower in transmission than most letters? Because it must go by so many posts before it reaches its destination.—*Fun.*

LATEST FROM THE EMERALD ISLE.—The other day an Irishman walked up to a pillar letter-box, dropped in a letter (unstamped), and after it a shilling. He stood for some time knocking, and getting no answer, he cried down the pillar, "Plaze, can I get my change?"—*American Paper.*

THE HEAVIEST MAIL, perhaps, ever carried from London to Ireland, has been conveyed from Holyhead to Kingstown, by the steamer *Connaught*. It amounted to 160 bags, and was chiefly a literary freight, being Christmas gift-books and publications, in infinite variety, consigned to Dublin publishers and to individuals.

WURTEMBERG POSTMARK.—We observe that a new postmark has been adopted for the Wurtemberg stamps, evidently copied from the design we lately described as in use in Switzerland, but less neatly finished. The circular border is inscribed K. WURTT above, and BAHN POST below, and is divided by a transverse bar bearing the date, the space between the bar and the border being filled in with shading.

PNEUMATIC DESPATCH TUBES.—*Le Petit Journal* announces that the administration of the Parisian telegraphic service has laid down atmospheric tubes for the transmission of despatches from one part of the city to another, and adds: "It is permissible to suppose that the postal administration, following the example of those of London and Berlin, will shortly adopt the atmospheric system for forwarding the correspondence from one office to another in Paris."

MAILS FOR ABYSSINIA.—The Government of Bombay having taken steps to establish an army post-office in connection with the Abyssinian expedition, mails containing correspondence addressed to persons serving in the field force will be forwarded from England by each mail despatched to Suez, for conveyance thence by the mail packets proceeding to Bombay or Calcutta, which will be intercepted on their passage to Aden. Correspondence

intended to be sent in these mails must be specially super-scribed "Field Force, Abyssinia," and it will be liable to the same rates of postage and the same regulations as correspondence addressed to Aden.

THREE MILLION VISITING CARDS.—Some said, remarks the Paris correspondent of the *Daily Telegraph*, that the Parisian custom of sending cards on New Year's Day was gradually dying out; but this season it seems to have become a greater *furor* than ever. In fact it is a capital modest way of gently reminding grand acquaintances of one's existence; and of making party givers understand that the sender is ready to dance, eat dinners, and is in every way open to invitations. Since the 1st, no less than *three millions of cards* have been posted and delivered! A tangible proof, *v'est-ce pas*, that the practice is not about to fall into desuetude! [To this we may add that these cards are sent in unsealed envelopes, at the rate of 5 centimes, from one part of a town to another, or 10 c. from town to town, being half the rates for the carriage of sealed letters.—*Ed. S. C. M.*]

DEATH OF THE CANINE POSTMAN.—The famous retriever dog Sailor, belonging to Mr. R. Nash, churchwarden of Otford, whose extraordinary sagacity and docility made him a general favourite in this locality, and whose exploits as a letter-carrier have been chronicled, died on Friday, at Broughton farm, to the great regret of his master and family, to whom he was a most faithful servant. Sailor was for many years "home postman" to Mr. Nash. Regularly every morning he watched for the postman as he came from Sevenoaks into the village, and followed him into Mr. Troughton's shop, where the post-office is kept, and sat patiently watching while the letters were being allotted out, and when Mr. Nash's letters were ready for him he jumped up gaily to the counter and took them in his mouth, going directly home and delivering them to his master. He was about ten years old.—*South-Eastern Gazette.*

CORRESPONDENCE.

A SPANISH RARITY.

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

DEAR SIR,—I have in my collection a two-reales 1851 Spanish stamp, *blue*, of exactly the same shade as the six-reales of the same date. It is obliterated with the ordinary postmark, and was received direct from Spain with a lot of other stamps, which, to me, is evidence of its not having been subjected to the action of any chemical agency. I do not find this colour—which is so very distinct from the usual red of that value—mentioned in any catalogue to which I have access, not even in Berger-Levrault's French edition. May I ask you, or the readers of your valuable magazine, to inform me whether they know anything of the stamp described?

I am, dear Sir,

Your obedient servant,

Cheltenham. A LOVER OF RARITIES.

THE LATER STAMP FORGERIES.

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

SIR,—In Dr. Boley's "Notes on the Later Stamp Forgeries," speaking of the v. r. 1d. black, he says: "There is another and later mode of deception, which is, not to cut the left-hand corner, but simply to scratch the letter out and print a v in its place, a stamp having the r in the right corner being of course selected." Now what does this mean? Making such a statement, one can hardly believe that he has ever seen a v. r. Everyone knows that (excepting the v. r.) none of the black 1d.

have letters in the four corners, but only in the lower ones, and Maltese crosses in the upper corners. If then there are no letters in the upper corners, how can the doctor say, "of course select a stamp with the r in the right corner?"

Again in the "Notes on the Chilian Forgeries," the surest test for them is quite ignored, viz., the water-marked and rough hand-made paper. The same remark applies to the Egyptian first issue, all of which are water-marked, and on rough hand-made paper, excepting the one piastre.

Trusting the above remarks may be of use,
I am, yours truly,

W. T. W.

Reading.

THE PRIVATE FIRM STAMPS.

"To be, or not to be?"

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

DEAR SIR,—I hope I shall not trespass too much on your valuable columns by giving you my ideas respecting these intruders (?), as some people call them. I think a little time ago the line was drawn between "Stamp Collectors" and "Postage-Stamp Collectors;" now I very much fear this last sect will have to divide again on the question, very simple as it may appear, but full of importance,—What are postage stamps? My answer is, They are labels, of various prices, colours, shapes, and sizes, made by sanction of government, to frank letters and packages through the post. Therefore it remains to be found out whether these Hamburg, English, Scotch, Constantinople, and American private-office stamps are sanctioned by government, and, if they frank letters, I am of opinion that they are postage stamps. However, it ought to be settled before the *Permanent Album* comes out (when?—echo answers, when?). It might be done by a letter or two being addressed to a few of the firms to see if they can produce a sanction. I am half inclined to think that the reason they are to be rejected is because they are badly executed; if that be the case, we ought not to collect Cashmere, woodblocks, &c., &c.

And now to revert to the old quarrel of railway stamps; would any kind friend,—specially Mr. Pemberton, Mr. Camoens, or some other well-known philatelist,—inform me as soon as possible *why stamps are collected*. When I receive an answer, I shall be very happy to give a few arguments in reference to the collection of all sorts of stamps. I remain, dear Sir, apologizing for having trespassed so much on your space,

Your obedient servant,

Worthing.

IOTA SUBSCRIPT.

[Our correspondent's letter suggests the necessity of rendering some general information on local stamps, which, at the risk of repetition, we purpose doing next month.—*Ed.*]

THE SOCIETY OF PHILATELISTS.

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

SIR,—In your article on "Philately gains in the year 1867," in the January number of *The Stamp-Collector's Magazine*, you refer to the proposed philatelic society, which you are pleased to speak of favourably. As the proposer of the society in *The Philatelist* some few months ago, it was suggested by some correspondents of that magazine that I should draw up a series of rules for the society. I did so, and sent them to *The Philatelist*, in the January number of which they were inserted.

Thinking perhaps that their publication in your magazine also might tend to make the scheme more widely known amongst philatelists, may I request the favour of your inserting them in the next number of your excellent periodical. Earnestly hoping that your correspondents

will favour me with any suggestions they may have to make,

Walmer.

I am, Sir, yours, &c.,
T. HENRY BULLOCK.

RULES OF THE SOCIETY OF PHILATELISTS.

I.—That the society be called the Society of Philatelists.
II.—That the head society be established in London, with branches in the chief provincial cities and towns.

III.—That the affairs of the society be managed by a president, two vice presidents, secretary, treasurer, and council of eight members.

IV.—That all stamp collectors be eligible as members. Every candidate to be proposed by a member of the council, seconded by a member of the society, and voted for at a general meeting, by show of hands.

V.—That the entrance fee be—, and the annual subscription—; to become due on March 1st.

VI.—That meetings be held monthly for the election of members, and for reading papers on philatelic subjects, and discussion thereon.

VII.—That a report of the proceedings at every meeting of any branch society be sent to the parent society in London, as soon as possible after such meeting.

VIII.—That a digest of the proceedings be reported, monthly, in *The Philatelist or Stamp-Collector's Magazine*.

THE NEW NORTH GERMAN STAMPS: THEIR VALUES, &c.

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

DEAR SIR,—I hope you have received my letter of the 26th ult., containing some additional information about the new North German stamps. In the mean time I am in possession of the December number of *The Stamp-Collector's Magazine*, and I hasten to answer the questions you have put to me.

1.—The postage of any inland letter (Prussia) weighing more than 1 loth, is 6 s. gr. (quite as much as for a parcel of less than 3 lbs. weight) for the longest distance (for instance, from Eydtkuhn to Saarlouis). A letter running only 10 miles or less, weight 1 loth or less, pays 1 s. gr.; one exceeding 1 loth, or a parcel under 3 lbs., for the same distance, double that amount, viz.: 2 s. gr. Letters running from 10 to 20 miles, single postage (under 1 loth), 2 s. gr.; double (above 1 loth), and parcels under 3 lbs., 4 s. gr. At 20 miles' distance begins the highest rate, viz.: 3 gr. for the single, and 6 for double postage, and parcels under 3 lbs. It is clear, then, that the highest interior postage in Prussia cannot be more than 6 s. gr. for any letter (parcel) under 3 lbs. I should add, that any parcel may be accompanied by a letter, free of postage. On the other hand, foreign letters are excepted from these rules, the postage is increased in the same measure as the weight; for instance, a single letter to England (under 1 loth) is charged 5 s. gr.; double (from 1 to 2 loths), 10 s. gr.; triple (2 to 3 loths), 15 s. gr.; and so on. If the latter were only to go as far as the Prussian frontier it would pay but 6 s. gr.

2.—I have not been deceived in my supposition: the 3 s. gr. stamps and envelopes will actually be abolished. The highest interior (North German) postage will henceforth be made up of 2 gr. stamps, any foreign postage will easily be composed of the stamps to be issued. As to the new 5 gr. stamp, it will exclusively be used for foreign letters. The official 10 and 30 s. gr. stamps still remain in circulation.

3.—One Prussian loth is equal to half an English ounce. Your Hamburg correspondent is not quite right in stating that the *kreuzer* series of the present Prussian stamps is "exclusively used in Frankfort-on-Maine and its

environs." Within Prussia, it is used in the province of Nassau and the former landgraviate of Hesse-Homburg; out of Prussia, in that part of the grand-duchy of Hesse-Darmstadt belonging to the North German Confederation.

I beg to remain, dear Sir,

Yours respectfully,

MAX JOSEPH.

[We are obliged to our correspondent for his elucidative letter, which clearly explains several points. We understand from it that there is only one rate for all letters above 1 loth and less than 3 lbs. Small parcels are allowed to be sent through the Prussian post-office, and a very weighty letter would come under the denomination of a parcel. We believe it was proposed a little time since that our own post-office should include in its business the transmission of small parcels, but this was dropped, we presume, because it would clash with the interests of the railway companies, who are in a more independent position here than abroad.]

THE LARGE-FIGURE ARGENTINE.

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

SIR,—What appeared to you a conclusive argument in favour of the genuineness of the large-figure Argentine stamps, did not satisfy me. I had not been a believer in them, except just at first, and all your arguments had failed to convince me. The discrepancy between the statements of Col. Espejo and Don Supere, was more than enough to decide me that they were a recent fabrication, and that these two gentlemen, writing without collusion, contradicted each other, threw doubt in my mind over the so-called official figures. Your article of December last being based on these figures, and proving nothing except that they did not agree with the statements of either Col. Espejo or Don Supere, went no further with me than the original communications from these gentlemen. On looking over the article again, it struck me that it would be easy to discover whether any combination of sheets of 192 & 216 stamps would produce the totals, both of sheets and stamps as given. If it would not, then the figures, according to your own argument, of the extreme improbability of there having been fractions of sheets printed, would prove their own falsity. If it would produce such results, it would be strong evidence in favour of the large-figure stamps being a genuine original impression, and we should get at the respective numbers of the large and small-figure stamps. I give you the result of the calculation, which I confess surprised me, not only at its exactness, but at the proportion of the 10 and 15 c. sheets, the 10 c. sheets being in both cases double the number of the 15 c. The much larger proportion of the 5 cent stamps, large-figures, probably accounts for this stamp having been previously known.

4995 sheets of 216 stamps produce	884,520
476 " " 192 " " "	91,392
4571 " " 10 cent stamps.	975,912
1202 sheets of 216 stamps produce	259,632
104 " " 192 " " "	19,968
1306 " " 15 cent stamps.	279,600
601 sheets of 216 stamps produce	129,816
52 " " 192 " " "	9,984
653 " " 10 cent stamps.	139,800

No doubt a great deal more may yet be said on the subject, but I leave it without further comment at present.

Remaining truly yours,

Hartlepool.

JAS. J. WOODS.

[We will not quarrel with our correspondent for arriving at the same conclusion as ourselves by a different road. His proof was all that was required to confirm our view of the nature of the large-figure stamps,

and we would, therefore, direct our readers' special attention to it. We are concerned, however, to point out one mistake into which Mr. Woods has fallen. He states there is a contradiction between Señor Espejo's and Señor Supere's account, but this is not the case. As far as Espejo goes, he agrees perfectly with Supere, and there is no apparent error in Supere's further statements, but only a presumed inaccuracy.—ED.]

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

DEAR SIR,—In your reply to my letter of November last, you have explained two or three discrepancies in the wording of the *Official Intelligence* published in May last, but I still consider that this *Official Intelligence* relates solely to the small figures. You now say that it relates to both sets, that the 5 c. of both types was used, but by some oversight (as extraordinary as *Fentonia's* plea of "carelessness" of the Austrian officials who systematically objected to obliterate yellow Mercuries), the 10 and 15 large were never issued. It is curious that your own statistics should refute your own assertion, that both sets of stamps are included in the official returns. We all know the 5 c. large was in use, and you are therefore obliged to acknowledge that the returns of the 5 c. stamps sold should include both types, *i.e.*, by your own showing, for you say, the statistics include both. We are told that in December, 1857, sheets of 5 c. were issued, numbering 975,912. In December, 1858, 3741 sheets of 5 c. stamps were returned to stock, making 796,632 specimens. Now, if we subtract the amount returned to stock in Dec., 1858, from those circulated in Dec., 1857, it is quite evident that the result will give us the number of stamps used during that period, therefore we find:—

Issued, Dec., '57,	4571	=	975,912
Returned, Dec., '58,	3741	=	796,632

Difference	830	179,280
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We may take it for granted that sheets of large figures invariably contain 192 stamps, but it very strangely happens that 830 sheets (the number sold) when multiplied by 216 (the number of specimens acknowledged as never existing otherwise than to sheets of small figures), it is, to say the least, a singular, miraculous fact that 830 by 216 should give an exact result of 179,280, thereby proving that number to have been of the small-figured type. On Feb. 22nd, 1860, the accounts were closed, and of 5 c. 3126 sheets, containing 663,370 stamps, were returned to the post-office; if we add to these the stamps sold up to Dec., 1858, we get a result of 3954 sheets, and 842,650 stamps, which being deducted from the amount of 5 c. put in circulation in Dec., 1857, will give us 617 sheets, and 133,262 specimens as the number sold between Dec., 1858, and Feb., 1860,—multiply 617 by 216 and the result is 133,272, or ten too many. Supposing one single sheet of 192 stamps (*i.e.*, large figure) to have been included here, it will make the amount 14 stamps short, and the more sheets of 192 you took the more the total of stamps would be lessened.* The total number of sheets sold between Dec., 1857, and Feb., 1860, is shown to be 1447; this multiplied by 216 results in 312,552, the number within ten as shown by yourselves; so that if we take it for one fact, that large figures are never more than 192 to the sheet, and that your statistics include the large figures for another fact, then we arrive at the conclusion that the 5 c. was, in common with the 10 and 15 c. large figures, never issued. That the 5 c. large was used, every one knows, therefore the only solutions to the riddle are, that the accounts are altogether false, or, that they allude solely and entirely to the small-figured series. I do not for a moment imagine that they are false, but I do think

they have reference to the small figures alone. In fact, since the 5 c. is known to have been in use, and is not a stamp of the very highest degree of rarity, and your statistics, said to include their issue, will not, on close investigation, bear out your assertion, I think we may reasonably set the *Official Intelligence* on one side, as utterly foreign to the point at issue, which is the validity of the large-figured Argentine. Statistics said to relate to one issue, but which examination proves to belong to another, can have no interest in connection with the disputed issue, and I therefore set them altogether on one side as worthless, and will now examine the stamps themselves.

The 5 c. large figure had been in the market unused for some time before the 10 and 15 c. to match made their appearance. The very first set of large-figured 5, 10, and 15 c. which I saw (a year ago now) I compared long and carefully with a very old used stamp, and with an unused one from a very old collection, in which it had been for some time; I found the 5 c. newly-arrived of a thicker paper, with a very slight bluish tinge (by which I mean that it was not a full white paper); the paper of the original 5 c. I found more yellow and of less substance, and the colour decidedly differing. The 5 c. having been in the market for some time, and being proved a reprint, and the 10 and 15 c. being on the same paper, the latter two are *possibly* reprints from old dies, but much more likely printed from new dies manufactured for the purpose. I am not singular in these views. Every collector of note who is at all a judge thinks with me. I believe Dr. Magnus adopts these views, and I trust you may not again accuse me of want of courtesy, because I unfortunately advance arguments which cannot be removed. You see we have a proved difference in the paper of the 5 c. recently offered and that of the original, and we have 10 and 15 on paper identical with the suspicious stamp; from these *facts* I have not the slightest hesitation in again repeating that "I consider the unused large-figured 5, 10, and 15 c. Argentine Confederation, now in the hands of every dealer, to be reprints;" and no manner in which the *Official Intelligence* can be read would alter that opinion, for I have proved it beyond a doubt to have no reference to the large-figured 5 c.; statistics for this we must seek for elsewhere. Your correspondent, G. B., equally proves the 10 and 15 c. used to be only of the small type, but that two sized sheets were issued is certain, if the statistics are perfectly correct.

In your reply to me you remark, *en passant*, that I appear to consider the words of Col. Espejo, which you italicise, as proof that he believed all the stamps printed were of the *large*-figured type; this is quite incorrect. I said, "that they were all of the large type we have no proof but the Colonel's recollection, after a lapse of ten years; and here I think is your error," &c. You first stated that Col. Espejo's letter referred to the large-figured series: what I said in November, and what I again say, is, that no part of this *Official Intelligence* has relation to any large-figured stamps; it is from first to last an account of the small figures, although you now state it as your opinion that both series are referred to therein.

Yours truly,
Birmingham. EDWARD L. PEMBERTON.

[Mr. Pemberton's argument proves, at most, the inaccuracy of the official statistics, in reference to the 5 c. large figure. He is unable to disprove, by their assistance, the validity of the higher values. As the 5 c. are known to have been used, the official statement is shown to be incorrect respecting them, but the inaccuracy in this particular cannot be accepted as vitiating the whole account. We admit that with regard to the figures, we are at the mercy of the copyist from the records, and are compelled to base our arguments on the assumption that his transfer of the entries is correct;—so also, we allow, are the opponents of our

* [The accuracy of this criticism cannot be admitted until our correspondent shows that the total number in question contains no possible combination of the numbers of 192 and 216 respectively.—ED.]

theory. But it is worthy of note, that whilst the proof that 5c. small figures alone were used, is derived solely from one account, the proof as to the entire number of stamps issued (which numbers, as we demonstrated last month, evidence on division, the fabrication of sheets of two sizes) rests on the concurrent evidence of two persons, and may therefore be with the greater certainty relied on. The two higher values stand the test of division, either as to the number first issued, or as to the number finally returned into store.

That both sizes contained small-figure stamps there is not an atom of evidence. We ourselves prefer to believe the official statement incorrect in one particular, than to believe that as a whole it refers only to small-figure sheets of 216 and 192 impressions. The sheets of 192 small figures, exist, as far as present information goes, only in Mr. Pemberton's imagination. Up to the present date no one appears to have ever seen or heard of them, whilst the sheets of 192 large figure are tangible evidence of their own material existence; and their character cannot be denied on, as it appears to us, a baseless hypothesis.

Mr. Pemberton's comparison of the supposed reprint of the 5c. large figure with old used and unused copies, is far from conclusive. That the paper of the known originals should be yellower, might be expected, considering the fact that they were printed ten years back, and it might even appear after such a lapse of time, and wear and tear, less substantial than the copy carefully preserved in store.

Our correspondent ridicules the idea of the accidental tearing in stock of the large figure, but this might result from so trivial a cause as the placing of the folds of sheets of this type, when the whole of the supply was handed to the post-office, below the sheets of small figure. The latter would then, being uppermost, be taken first, and as a large remainder was returned, it is not surprising that in such case the sheets placed below were not reached. That the non-issue of the large figure was due to accident we fully believe, and more than one probable and reasonable accident may be supposed the cause.

Again Mr. Pemberton relates his belief that the Argentine stamps are reprints—reprints, we ask, from what—from the original lithographic stones?—then if such stones were prepared, it is reasonable to suppose, impressions were taken from them at the time of their preparation, and with corroborative evidence before we are justified in assuming that the known 10 and 15c. stamps are these original impressions. If not reprints, they are nothing more than valueless fabrications, resembling in type the 5c. large figure. But by whom could these stamps, if fabrications, have been executed? To print them it would be necessary to prepare a lithographic stone with 192 impressions, identical with the 5c. in type, a work, if possible, extremely difficult. More than a twelve-month has passed since the 10 and 15c. stamps were first brought to light, during which period our magazine has enjoyed a considerable circulation among the philatelic community at Buenos Ayres, yet no one there has discovered the fabricator, though at the same time the forger of the "ganchos" is well known there. So notable an imposture could not long be kept secret. That the Argentine government has authorised the preparation of stamps, or that having the original stones in stock, it recently directed the printing of a supply from them, there is not a shadow of proof. Were this the fact, it would be known by this time and admitted, and these values catalogued as official reprints.

Here are the sheets of 192 stamps—how are they to be accounted for? We have given what appears to us a reasonable and well-founded account, and consider that those who do not accept it are bound to furnish a better one—namely, which shall prove circumstantially, the falsity of these stamps. Until such a controvertive account appears, we shall continue to believe the large figure—to be originals.

[Since the above was written we have received a communication from Mr. James J. Wood, which we give above, and which affords conclusive proof, to our mind, of the genuineness of the large figures.—ED.]

ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS.

H. S., Dorchester.—There is no 2 soldi Venetian envelope of any series in existence.

G. W., Dover.—The watermark varieties of the New South Wales stamps have all been noticed, and are well known.

CHARACTERS.—The article on "The Stamps of Cashmere" in the present number will give the information you ask for.

A. W. S.—Our article on the stamps of the United States, in the number for April, 1867, contains full information on all the emissions, including that of 1851.

A SUBSCRIBER.—Any respectable firm of stamp dealers would, we should imagine, examine your collection, and mark off any forgeries you may have. There is no special office for this purpose.

C. VAN RINSUM, Amsterdam.—The "Jura Industriel" stamps, with figure of value and steam-engine beneath, small rect., are well known, but are of no postal value: they are only railway labels.

A. P. H.—From your rather slight description, we should imagine your stamp must be the large square one issued by the Russian Black Sea Company, which it is asserted is or has been used to frank letters.

TRAVELLER, Guernsey.—The $\frac{1}{2}$ grana, Sicily, is known to exist of a very light-yellow, as well as of the ordinary deeper shade.—Your 40 c. French colonies, with corners and lines of background indistinct, we take to be an exceptional impression, but not a variety, properly so called.—The postmark, M Q E., is an abbreviation of the word *Martinique*.

ICH DIEN.—Your 40 c. French republic *brown* is doubtless an ordinary red one changed by the action of time and the air. Other red and orange stamps, notably the 1d. New South Wales, laureated, are frequently found thus changed.—We refer you to vol. ii., p. 90, of *The Stamp-Collector's Magazine*, for Mr. Pemberton's recipe for distinguishing between true and forged bear-in-tree stamps.

Mrs. E., Liverpool.—We are obliged by your sending Bergen stamp for our inspection, and beg to refer you to our remarks in "Newly-Issued Stamps."—Your diamond-shaped stamp, inscribed *LETRE DE VOITURE*, is a Genevese fiscal placed on the railway invoices of charges on goods, or, as the inscription purports, on "letters of carriage." All *lettres de voiture* of goods sent over the French railways, in like manner bear an impressed circular stamp, value from 20 to 50 centimes.

Dr. BOLEY, the author of the articles, "The Later Stamp Forgeries," writes thus in reference to a correction of ours in his last paper:—"I observe in the last number, you substitute the word 'essay' for 'stamp,' in the description of the 15 c. black French republic. Here I must contend that I was right. I spoke of it as a rare *stamp*. Probably as an essay or proof it is no rarer than those of the other values, but that the 15 c. black has been in circulation (although I have never seen it given in any catalogue) is certain, as I have an excellent specimen of so distinct a black, as to exclude all idea of chemical change, which has the ordinary gridiron postmark, and I remember some time ago to have met with one other, but no doubt they are very rare."—We deemed the terming of the 15 c. black a *stamp* a clerical error, no properly authenticated stamp of this nature having come under our notice, or been catalogued. Accepting Dr. Boley's account of his specimen, as proving its genuineness, we can only assume that it was an *erreur d'impression*, resulting from the accidental placing of a cast of the 15 c. in the "forme" of the 20 c. black.

J. H. R., Scarborough.—We are obliged by your drawing our attention to some minor omissions in our descriptions of stamps, and are flattered, by the evidence thus given, of your attentive perusal of our magazine. The neglect to state the colours of the stamps you mention, has been atoned for in the list which, as you anticipated, we are now giving of the stamps noticed last year. The omission of the Glasgow $\frac{1}{2}$ d. and $\frac{1}{4}$ d., the Edinburgh and Leith reddish-violet, and 1d. dark-brown, must be placed to our contributor's account. The yellow South Australian 10d. we fully believed we had noticed, but on searching the last three numbers, find no mention of it—this we rectify in the present number. The new issue Chili 5, 10, and 20 c., which you observed in a catalogue, must have been included in advance. The 3 pf. Prussian envelope we noticed in our last, and refer to the 6 pf. in our present number. The 30 c. Swiss envelope we have heard of, but understand it to be a post-office-order envelope.—The higher values of the Spanish "milesima" series, have not yet appeared.—The St. Thomas 3 cents, rose on white, is genuine, and has been known for more than a twelvemonth.—The green 3d. Tasmania is a bill stamp; the 2, 6, 5, and 10 Tasmanian, all, we think, bear the figure of St. George and the Dragon.—There is no 3 grana Neapolitan, but it was once believed in.

ON "LOCALS" AND THEIR VALUE.

BY THE EDITOR.

IN spite of all that has been from time to time written upon local stamps, there still seems to exist considerable misapprehension as to the relative value of the different classes. Some collectors take fright at the mere name "local," and a stamp which, rightly or wrongly, has acquired it, is in their eyes not worth obtaining. Now, whilst admitting that there are many of this genus of doubtful fame, we must urge that there are also many varieties highly respectable and very well connected. Others, again, occupy a middle ground; concerning such no exact data are procurable, and their position is consequently unsettled. To guide our friends in their valuation of the different kinds of locals, we purpose giving some details respecting them, and to this end shall enumerate them under five divisions, viz. :—

I.—Stamps issued by the state for local use.

II.—Stamps issued by private companies under a postal contract with the state, or under special government sanction.

III.—Stamps issued by private persons, or companies, without government sanction.

IV.—Stamps termed "locals" issued by private companies, but not used for postal purposes.

V.—Sham "local" stamps.

The stamps included in the first division would, as a matter of course, be accepted by any collector, however strict might be his exclusion of other locals. And we contend that those forming the second division are of equal value, as companies under a contract with the state to carry on its postal service, become the representatives of the state whilst their contract lasts. Of the stamps composing the third and fourth divisions we, of course, do not press the collection; and in the fifth, all that are undeniably "vermin" are included.

I.—Stamps issued by the state for local use.

MADRID.—3 cuartos, bronze, issued 3rd November, 1852; 1 cuarto, bronze, issued 15th December, 1853.

These stamps were issued by the Spanish post-office immediately upon the establishment of local postal rates for Madrid. The 1 c. superseded the 3 c., and remained current until the 1st November, 1854, when the 2 c. green of the 1854 series, bearing the national arms, took its place, the rate having been meantime altered. The 1 cuarto may now be obtained without much difficulty, Spanish dealers having of late years been on the alert to secure specimens. The 3 cuartos is much the rarer of the two, though in use longer, and can scarcely ever be obtained except at the break-up of a good collection. There is also a 2 c. essay in gold, of which a number of copies has been discovered within the last year or two. This was prepared for circulation, but the 2 c. of 1854 prevented its emission. The rate of 2 cuartos being extended to all the Spanish towns for the postage of letters delivered within the district, a stamp bearing the national arms became the most appropriate to be used upon this service.

STOCKHOLM.—Inscription, FRIMARKE FÖR LOKALBREF. Black, 1 skilling banco (1855); brown, 3 öre (1862). These stamps were issued by the state post-office to defray the charge on letters posted and delivered in the capital. We believe the current 3 öre is used not only in Stockholm, but in the other principal towns.

SHANGHAI.—We place the stamps issued for this town in the first division, as they are, in fact, emitted by the highest local authorities, under a peculiar state of jurisdiction. Our government, to secure the very large amount of British property in Shanghai from rebel forays, established, some few years since, a kind of protectorate, extending over the town and the surrounding district, within a radius of thirty miles; and under the influence of this protectorate much improvement has taken place in the local administration. The municipal council, which we take to be the highest local body, if not composed of Englishmen, has at least an English secretary, Mr. Alexander Johnston, and, perhaps at his suggestion, the several series of stamps have been issued under its authority. The Peking government has not, we suppose, been asked to sanction

the emission, and under the circumstances the Shanghai stamps take rank with the issues of the Free Cities of Germany.

UNITED STATES.—We refer our readers, for a full description of the stamps issued by local postmasters prior to the emission of an authorised series for the entire republic, to our article at p. 49, vol. v. For completeness' sake we mention now that they consist of the following:

New York Post-office.—5 cents black (head of Washington).

Providence Rhode Island Post-office.—5 and 10 cents, black (inscription).

St. Louis Post-office.—5 and 10 cents black (city arms). At the time of our writing the article referred to we had not seen the two latter,—we are now able to present engravings of both. The design is peculiar and not unpleasing, though we must



acknowledge there is a reminiscence of the bear's-grease label about it. On comparison, it will be observed that the two values are not exactly similar in type. The words SAINT LOUIS are differently sized, and the figure 10 is relatively smaller than the 5; the flourishes are also differently disposed. The paper of the 5 cents is thin and of a greyish colour. For a long while these stamps were scarcely believed in, but their authenticity is now established.



CONFEDERATE LOCALS.—The stamps known under this name were the emissions of individual postmasters, but as there were, at the time of their appearance, no stamps for general use in the confederacy, the Confederate post-office being then in embryo, they may be looked on as the legitimate predecessors of the authorised series. They cannot well be placed under any other division than this, although they occupy a special position. It has been affirmed that some of the varieties were issued by the local postmasters during a dearth of small change, as a sort of fractional currency, but no confirmation of this statement is found

in the details furnished by a Confederate postal official, and published in our number for August last. He states, on the contrary, "that they were used for convenience in prepaying postage during the period which intervened between the 1st July, 1861, and the date when the department was enabled to supply the several post-offices." The generally-recognised Confederate locals are those of Baton Rouge, Memphis, Mobile, Nashville, and New Orleans. An American contemporary has recently stated that those for the latter city were made and used in 1846, and resuscitated for provisional employment in 1861, upon the establishment of the confederacy. Berger-Levrault also describes a stamp inscribed P. O. COLUMBIA ST., bearing a figure 5 in the centre, and impressed by hand in blue on white; and also a 5-cent stamp for Charlestown, likewise bearing a central figure and the name of the post-office; typographed, blue on white, and on yellow. We have not seen either of these, and are not in a position to pronounce an opinion respecting them. The Buck's Richmond express are fabrications.

(To be continued.)

THE STAMPS OF MOLDAVIA AND ROUMANIA.

BY DR. MAGNUS.

(Translated by permission from *Le Timbre-Poste*).
(Continued from page 19).

MOLDAVIA. ISSUE OF 1854.

STAMPS OF 54 PARAS, *continued*.

FOURTH TYPE.—(Diameter 20½ mill.)



1.—Forehead showing four locks of hair covering a third part of its surface. Temples exposed.
2.—Horns strongly curved, and thicker and longer than in the third type, the left one visibly twisted at the point.

3.—Ears oval, terminating in a point directed horizontally, although slightly pendant.

4.—Eyes very oblique, small and without brows.

5.—Nose triangular, very large, and without hair at the bridge.

6.—Nostrils indicated by two points.

7.—Cheek-bones somewhat prominent, connected by a slightly-depressed line with the muzzle.

8.—Upper-lip narrower than in any of the preceding types; lower, overlapping and covering the circle of the post-horn.

9.—Star of six branches, each ray pointing in a different direction.

10.—Inscription commencing $2\frac{1}{2}$ mill. from the opening of the post-horn, and finishing at $1\frac{1}{2}$ mill. from the mouth-piece.

11.—The post-horn is 13 mill. by 6, including the portion covered by the lip.

12.—The figure 5 is very like that of the third type. The 4 has its second line more strongly curved than in the third type, and the left end of the horizontal line clearly shows a crotchet.

This type is on paper tinted of a delicate green, and also upon greenish-yellow woven paper.

FIFTH TYPE.—(Diameter 20 mill.)



1.—Forehead large, and partly covered with some tufts of hair turning to the right.

2.—Horns narrow and short, but having a double curve.

3.—Ears oval, terminating in points, and horizontal.

4.—Eyes somewhat similar to those of the first type, with brows rather marked.

5.—Nose very like that of the second type, with two lines of hair on the upper part.

6.—Nostrils like those of the second type.

7.—Cheek-bones flat, connected by a slightly undulating line with the muzzle.

8.—Upper-lip ordinary, and lower touching the circle.

9.—Star of five branches, spread out as in the third type.

10.—Inscription commencing $1\frac{1}{2}$ mill. from the opening, and ending at 1 mill. from the mouth-piece of the horn.

11.—Post-horn $12\frac{1}{2}$ mill. long, by rather more than 5 mill. broad.

12.—The 5 shows great resemblance to that of the second, and the 4 to that of the first type, save in the form of the first line.

This type is on ordinary paper, yellowish-green.

STAMPS OF 81 PARAS.

FIRST TYPE.—(Diameter $19\frac{1}{2}$ mill.)



1.—Forehead rather narrow, the upper part covered by a large rounded tuft of hair. The top of the head is depressed.

2.—Horns almost straight, but with a double inverse

curve.

3.—Ears oval, short, and clearly raised.

4.—Eyes very oblique; eyebrows very marked and curved.

5.—Nose indicated on the left by a line, on the right by the extremities of a line; some hairs near the commencement of the right eyebrow.

6.—Nostrils formed by two crotchets, if they may be so termed, turning outwards.

7.—Cheek-bones a little projecting; cheeks formed by a line with two depressions, one above, and one below.

8.—Upper-lip very large; lower encroaching slightly on the circle of the post-horn.

9.—Star regular, the largest among the types of the 81 paras.

10.—Inscription commencing at $1\frac{1}{2}$ mill. from the opening, and ending at 1 mill. from the mouth-piece of the post-horn.

11.—The post-horn measures 12 mill. by 5, the greatest diameter of the oval being in an almost vertical direction, the extremities slender.

12.—The figure 8 is large, and $2\frac{1}{2}$ mill. in length, whilst the 1 is but 2 mill.

This type is on "clouded" paper.

SECOND TYPE.—(Diameter $19\frac{1}{2}$ mill.)



1.—Forehead large and showing two thick tufts of hair.

2.—Horns almost straight, but with the two ordinary curves.

3.—Ears slightly oval, and directed downwards at an angle of 45 degrees.

4.—Eyes a little oblique, and rather open; eyebrows very marked.

5.—Nose large, marked by a line on the left, and some traces on the right, hairs on the upper part.

6.—Nostrils formed, the right by a straight line, the left by a crotchet curving outwards.

7.—Cheek-bones not visible; cheeks flat, depression above the muzzle only.

8.—Upper-lip very thick; lower forming a crescent.

9.—Star a little irregular, the uppermost point less developed.

10.—Inscription commencing and finishing within a little less than a millimetre of the extremities of the post-horn.

11.—The post-horn measuring 13 mill. by 5. The greatest diameter of the oval opening is rather more slanting than in the other types.

12.—The figures are very large, both are $2\frac{1}{2}$ mill. in height.

This type is upon paper of a pale-blue tinge.

THIRD TYPE.—(Diameter about 20 mill.)



1.—Forehead raised, and abundantly garnished with hair covering a third of its depth.

2.—Horns almost straight, but both having a double curve like the first type of the 54 paras.

3.—Ears very open, transversely directed, and almost exactly like those of the first type.

4.—Eyes wide open and prominent, eyebrows less marked.

5.—Nose wide and protuberant.

6.—Nostrils very distinct, and in form of a parenthesis.

7.—Cheek-bones rather prominent, and continued by a flowing line to the muzzle, above which is a marked depression.

8.—Upper-lip larger than in the preceding types; lower lip irregular, and higher to the right than to the left.

9.—Star irregular and somewhat flat.

10.—Inscription almost touches the post-horn, coming within half a millimetre.

11.—The post-horn is 13 mill. by 6, and its lower edge touches the enclosing circle.

12.—The figures are the largest of any of the types of the 81 paras; they are nearly 3 mill. in height.

This type is on pale-blue machine-made paper.

FOURTH TYPE.—(Diameter $19\frac{1}{2}$ mill.)

Nearly resembling the second type.



1.—Forehead smaller than in the second type, and uncovered near the roots of the horns.

2.—Horns: the right is rather less, the left rather more curved than in the second type.

3.—Ears smaller, an interval of nearly a millimetre between the roots of the left horn and the ear.

4.—Eyes slightly oblique, rather open; eyebrows very pronounced.

5.—Nose: same disposition as in the second type.

6.—Nostrils formed by a double crotchet and parenthesis.

7.—Cheek-bones more marked; the lines of the cheek separated from the muzzle, especially on the left, by a very strong depression.

8.—Upper-lip very thick, lower flat.

9.—Star irregular; the uppermost left point appears more developed, the lower on the same side less.

10.—Inscription commences and finishes at about 1 millimetre from the extremities of the post-horn.

11.—The post-horn is nearly 13 mill. by $5\frac{1}{3}$. The oval of the opening is less slanting than in the second type.

12.—Figures about $2\frac{1}{2}$ mill. in height; the 8 always appears larger than the 1.

This type is upon paper tinged blue, and upon pale-blue machine-made paper, with a slight rose tint.

FIFTH TYPE.—(Diameter 20 mill.)



1.—Forehead uncovered, some thick tufts of hair on the upper part.

2.—Horns almost straight, but with double curve, and shorter than in preceding types.

3.—Ears oval, and having a horizontal direction.

4.—Eyes oblique; eyebrows marked and continued to the lines of the nose.

5.—Nose large and protuberant; three groups of hair upon the side, near the bridge.

6.—Nostrils very wide and but slightly marked.

7.—Cheek-bones less prominent; cheeks

well marked, depressions above and below, dividing them from the cheek-bones and from the muzzle.

8.—Upper-lip very large; lower, overlapping the post-horn, and covering half its width.

9.—Star regular, rather small, and similar to that of the third type.

10.—Inscription commencing at $1\frac{1}{2}$ mill., and ending at less than 1 mill. from the post-horn.

11.—The post-horn is $12\frac{1}{2}$ mill. by $5\frac{1}{2}$. The oval of the opening resembles that of the fifth type of the 54 paras.

12.—The figures are very small. The 8 is 2 mill., and the 1 only $1\frac{1}{2}$ mill. in height.

This type is on pale-blue machine-made paper.

(To be continued.)

A FEW REMARKS ON THE ENGLISH AND FRENCH SCHOOLS OF PHILATELY.

BY PENDRAGON.

As the dogmas of the English school of philately have lately been most warmly and unjustly assailed, on all sides, by collectors of the French and other continental schools, I think it high time that one of us took up the cudgels in its defence. Asking, therefore, the kind attention of the philatelic community at large, I will in this paper endeavour to belabour its assailants to the full extent of their deserts.

Much is said in the present day as to the impropriety of attempting to lay down rules for the guidance of collectors, it being the prevailing opinion that each man should be left to judge for himself.

This is all very well in its way, and I do not seek to tie up any collector with rules of my own, or any other person's concocting. I simply wish to show that the English and continental schools are distinct institutions, altogether foreign in character to each other, and materially differing as to the method of studying and collecting things mutually esteemed by each; and in doing so, it is my earnest desire to point out the absurdity and futility of the extremes practised by the latter, and thereby prevent the introduction

of such pernicious doctrines into the science of English philately.

I may however remark, *en passant*, I have but little doubt that when those who have deserted from our ranks to the French school, have had their fill, not only of the extent of, but also of the expense attendant upon the study of perforation, paper, and watermarks, they will quietly and cheerfully return to the old standards of collecting, as they existed "in the beginning," in Birchin Lane, 1861.

Dr. Gray is the only catalogue-compiler who has faithfully adhered to these standards, and I trust that he will always continue to do so. Mount Brown, from the very commencement of his work, gave place to the innovations of the new school; indeed, after the fourth edition, he went to such an extent, as regards locals, proofs, essays, varieties, &c., that even he appears to have had enough of his hobby. The fact, that since the publication of the 5th edition, he has discontinued it altogether, and that the addenda to that edition, written for this magazine, abounds with the absurdities of the new style in a still more exaggerated degree, is sufficient evidence, in our mind, as to the state of uncertainty he must have been in with regard to the limitations of that method of study.

Now philatelists of the true English school, hold that the collection of postage stamps should be nothing more nor less than the accumulation of the printed designs, and that in consideration of the beauty of such designs, or of any singularity or historical or geographical interest which may attach to them.

Anything which materially affects the character of the design is allowable, as in cases where, by government authority, it is printed on any other coloured paper than white, provided the colour be distinct; or where the engraving is slightly altered, such being indicative of a separate issue; also when threads are introduced into the paper on which the stamp is printed, which essentially alters the appearance of the impression—and in fact, everything which interferes with said impression, is duly noted. Apparent varieties of colour, not

characteristic of any individual issue, are simply classed as *varieties*; and locals, if collected at all, are preserved in a separate volume.

The innovations (previously alluded to) recommended by the French school, and which are now practised by them, are distinctions quite irrelevant to the design altogether, merely affecting the paper on which the impression is printed. In the first place, they divide stamps which are cut from those that are perforated, although perforation is only a mode of separation (as Dr. Gray has before set forth); and again, with regard to the perforated specimens, maintain that those which are perforated by machines or roulette, are to be classified separately, and that where differences occur in the size or number of the holes, such are to be held as distinct phases of the stamp.

Secondly—They admit variations as to watermark in the paper; and hence we have the present 1d. Victoria watermarked correctly with 1, and incorrectly with 2, 4, 6, and 8, consequently occupying five spaces in connection with this difference alone. The absurdity of such practice must be manifest to any unprejudiced observer, letting alone the fact that if the stamp is properly secured for preservation in the collector's album, after the manner in which it was first intended to be secured, a knowledge of the watermark is utterly impossible of attainment.

Thirdly—Distinction is made as to the make of the paper, whether woven, laid, or otherwise, and with regard to the colour of the paper, every variety of tint, besides those admitted by ourselves, is allowed by them. Thus we have yellowish, dull-white, and bluish papers, and rose, lilac, and buff tints for the English envelopes.

Fourthly—As to varieties, and especially with respect to the stamps last mentioned, they hold that if two impressions appear on one envelope, making up a composite value, they are to be catalogued as that value, whereas we take each stamp upon its own merits. Why should not five penny adhesives placed undivided upon a letter, be considered a 5d. composite stamp also, if this rule is applied at all?

It can therefore be easily understood, that where we recognize and catalogue in our private MS. but sixteen hundred stamps as the number emitted between 1840, and the end of 1865, the French school, with the perforation, paper, and watermark varieties, and the locals, make up as many thousands [?], thus rendering the collection of postage stamps an endless, and at best, laborious pursuit, and expensive in the highest degree, instead of a pleasant pastime, open in a measure to all comers.

I have, however, another object in view, though a secondary one, viz., to answer a paper which appeared in the December number of this magazine, and contained some of the more bigoted notions of the school to which the writer of it belongs. I mean with respect to the collection of envelopes entire.

He alleges in support of his opinions, that it is not necessary, or even advisable, to have all the stamps of one country together. I ask any philatelist who considers the historical associations of his specimens in any degree whatever, if such an innovation will ever be complied with on his part? Moreover, although he holds that every collector must have the envelope entire (he decidedly appears, though he affects otherwise, to consider the destiny of the stamp itself a matter of very little moment), and that in every variety of size, and with every variety and position of inscription, flap ornaments, and threads, he does not, with reference to a very similar case, venture to propose a scheme, whereby collectors of newspaper stamps may preserve the whole of the newspaper on which their stamp appears entire and uncut, in their albums, and that in every form and combination of the same.

Let me add, for his edification, that collectors of the English school do not notice the envelope inscriptions any more than they do the inscription round a sheet of our penny adhesives, as it does not affect the design in any way, unless by government authority it crosses it in every individual specimen of an issue, as in the case of the later Prussian envelopes, where we make a distinction. And it is very immaterial to them whether the stamp appears on the right

or left of the envelope, or even on the flap, as it is the impression only they look to, and secure for their albums.

Of course "A Philatelist" preserves the whole of the New South Wales newspaper wrapper, which, by-the-bye, has, I understand, a very elaborate watermark.

The consideration of flap ornaments is absurd in the highest degree (notwithstanding that we have an extremely elegant and interesting design on our own 1d. envelope). Were there not interesting and elaborate designs printed round the old Austrian adhesives, infinitely superior in character to the flap stamps? They were chronicled at one time certainly, but it was when philately was in its infancy: who bothers his head about them now?

In conclusion, let me touch upon the collection of proofs and essays, still adhered to by the French school, but the trammels of which *we* have long since thrown off. As an instance of the ridiculousness of the idea, I note a novelty—and by-the-bye, a great treat for the "variety-mongers" (an excellent appellation borrowed from the pages of a contemporary)—viz., the set of Dutch essays, numbering 700 varieties. With regard to the collection of locals, in which the French school goes to an alarming extent, and as a warning to the too-enthusiastic of those among ourselves who still esteem them, I may mention, by way of a new dish, the set of Austrian locals recently issued, comprising 55 varieties, and over again in a different style, for private purchase by collectors only, in all 110 specimens.

Alas for our fallen brethren, when will they see the folly of their ways? Trusting in the course of time we may be able to convince them of their errors, I must bid the philatelic public adieu for the present.

[We insert this paper on the principle *audi alteram partem*, and are very far from sharing in many of our contributor's opinions, or from approving of his strictures on those who differ from him. Still less can we allow him to appropriate the phrase "we" and "English school" to his own peculiar ideas.—Ed.]

THE POSTMAN'S KNOCK is an English institution. On the continent the important *facteur* rings the bell like ordinary mortals, for the very sufficient reason that few doors are adorned with knockers. He little knows how much of dignity he loses by his inability to announce his arrival by a loud rat-tat.

SIX O'CLOCK AT THE GENERAL POST-OFFICE.

FROM *Fun*.

ONE of the sights of London which you should always take your foreign friends to see is the General Post-Office at the time when the last great rush is made to catch the evening mail. If your foreign friends have been rather a bore to you of late you had better quietly allow them to become entangled with the crowd. If you do this adroitly you will see nothing more of them for hours; indeed, they will be lucky if they don't get into the wrong box and find themselves despatched with other unconsidered trifles to remote parts of the United Kingdom, not to say the world. We once heard of a small boy who was taken to witness the scene at St. Martin's-le-Grand, and became inextricably mixed up with the rush. His agonised parent saw him disappear, and he was not heard of again until he was returned from a place in the north of Scotland, where he had been refused on account of the excess of postage charged on him. This may seem improbable—in fact, we think it very likely it does appear so, but that is no fault of ours; all applications on the subject may be made to the Postmaster-General, and, by the way, there is no necessity to enclose a stamp for the reply.

As it approaches six, the idler, by lounging in the immediate neighbourhood of the receiving department, and throwing himself in the way of the general public, will be able to gather the public's opinion of him with great ease. This is a mode of study we can hardly recommend to those who possess sensitive minds, as under the circumstances the public is apt to be candid. If the lounger prefers, he can gather some insight into the internal workings of the department by tapping at any of the little doors and engaging the clerks within in a friendly conversation about the recent meteors, the length of Mr. Falconer's new drama, and the probability of Lord Derby's retirement. He must make the best use of his opportunity of getting an insight into the workings of the department, as we cannot disguise the fact that he will probably only get a very brief glimpse of the interior.

Some amusement may be got out of the window where the newspapers are posted. It may be refined into a highly-ingenious and seasonable game, which you cannot obtain of Asser & Sherwin, Parkins & Gotto, or Cremer junior. You must first of all insert a notice of your own birth, death, or marriage—or all three at once—in one of the principal London papers. You must then buy up the whole edition, pack up the copies separately, and direct them to all your friends and acquaintances—and everybody else you don't happen to know. This may be easily done with the help of a few directories. Having packed and addressed your papers, you employ one or two men to carry them, and when the window opens you amuse yourself by pelting the clerks inside with them. With a little practice you will be able to hit your man to a certainty—and even seriously injure him, if there happen to be a heavy article in the paper, which is frequently the case.

NEWLY-ISSUED OR INEDITED STAMPS.

THE stamp harvest may be considered to take place in the spring of the year. It is then that the various series decided on in the previous summer or autumn come forth, complete and beautiful (or the reverse), from the manufacturers' workshops. For months the work of fabrication has been in progress: the engraver has laboured on the design in the first place; the paper-makers have been employed in preparing the special quality of paper which the high and mighty in the post-office have decided shall be used; the printers have been day after day laying on colours and rolling off sheets; and into the sheets the perforating machine has been fixing its teeth with ceaseless regularity; ream upon ream of the perfect stamps has been carefully laid aside, until the whole stock has been finished and checked, and then, and not till then, are our instructive little favourites ready to commence their career as soon as the postal decree permits. We naturally, then, look out for an influx of novelties in the spring, and though the "harvest" is not so good a one as last year, we cannot complain of any scarcity of

subjects for notice. The first to "come and be chronicled" is a set of stamps for

CUBA.—The design is, in its general features, a reminiscence of the 1866 series for the mother country, but a moment's examination will show that in several points it differs. The spandrel ornaments are not the same, the armorial bearings being omitted. In their place, copying this time from England, we observe corner letters.



They are the same in all the stamps, and are not varied on the sheets, so as to form an effective check on forgery. The four letters read thus, C. O. R. R., would appear to be an abbreviation of the word "Correos." The inscription

ULTRAMAR must also be an abbreviation of a Spanish word answering to our "ultramarine," to indicate that the stamps are for use beyond the sea. The face of the Queen has a very silly expression. The values and colours of the new series are the same as those of their predecessors:—

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

The stamps are printed on white unwatermarked paper, and perforated.

NORTH-GERMAN CONFEDERATION.—We refer again to the recently-emitted stamps for the confederation, in order to give a representation of the type of the "kreuzer" series, which a delay on the part of our engraver prevented our inserting before. Varieties of these stamps are already noticed. M. Moens chronicles the 1 and 3 kr. undentilated. Our Brighton contemporary speaks of the values of the kr. series as approximations to those of the silber-groschen, but if 2 kr. be an approximation to half a silber-groschen, 3 kr. can hardly be considered as *very* nearly representing an entire silber-groschen. He also says, that the 7 and 18 kr. are the *exact* equals of the 2 and 5 s. gr., but this seems to be not *quite* the fact. If



7 kr. make 2 s. gr., then 17½kr., and not 18, should be equivalent to 5 s. gr.

HAMBURG.—In addition to the foregoing, we can now insert a cut of the new confederation stamp for the *ci-devant* free city. Its facial value is ½ schilling; and our readers will be still better able to inform themselves of the design by the specimen presented with



the number.

STRAITS SETTLEMENTS.—We have to add another value to the provisional, and another to the permanent series. The first is a rather odd denomination, being “three half-cents;” this, however, just equals a half-anna, and was, no doubt, much required. It is, indeed, impressed (in red) on the ordinary half-anna blue. Our Brussels contemporary chronicles this value as “3½ pence,” whatever that may be. The addition to the permanent series is the



96 cents, grey-green,

of which we give annexed the type (which it shares with the 32 cents), and also the type of the three lower values. The 18 and 24 cents differ from the 12 solely in the corner ornaments; the 8 and the 12 are the only two of the series having the value entirely expressed in words. All are watermarked c c and crown.



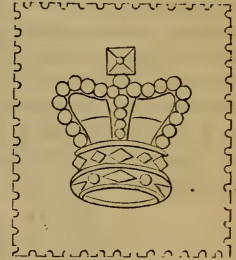
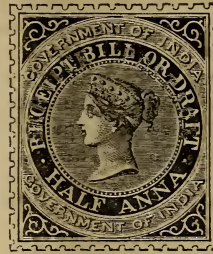
We are just in time, before going to press, to add to our list of these stamps another value,

6 cents, lilac,

with inscription in oval band, like the 12 c.

INDIA.—Another adhesive has been impressed into the “service” series of stamps. This last recruit is a very handsome one, as will be seen by its annexed likeness. We cannot doubt that its new occupation will be the prepayment of letters, as it is in-

scribed SERVICE POSTAGE. Our engraver has not succeeded in reproducing this new inscription very clearly; it may be as well to say, therefore, that it follows the half circle of the words RECEIPT BILL OR DRAFT. An esteemed correspondent, who forwarded us a specimen, is of opinion that it ought not to



find place in a catalogue, as it is “not a legitimate stamp.” We differ from him on this point. Any stamp, whatever its original employment, if it be by government authority used for postal purposes—especially if a new and distinctive inscription is impressed on it—is a legitimate stamp. For ourselves we must admit we have rather a liking for our metamorphosed friends; and perhaps our correspondent would, if he did not live in India, where, according to the native creed, even boas and monkeys may be none other than old acquaintances, more or less changed.

There is yet another “Service” stamp, the ordinary one anna brown, with the quoted word printed in black ink across the centre.

ROUMANIA.—The decimal currency is said to have been adopted in this country, and to be the cause of emission of the new series of stamps we have before us. The values, however, do not bear out this idea. They are as follows:—

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

The design is similar to that of the 1866 series. It consists of the head of prince to left in circle, in rectangular frame. Crosses at the corners take the place of the numerals, however, the side border is more elaborate, and the circle smaller. The value in each individual is expressed in figures placed

before and after the word BANI. The inscription in upper margin is, as before, POSTA ROMANA. Altogether, the new series has a clean, pretty appearance, and its beauty is much augmented by its being printed in colour on white. Perforation has not yet been brought into service.

CASHMERE.—We have received from a valued correspondent in the United States four peculiar stamps, said to be for this country. They are in shape oval, with white circular disk in centre, and unknown characters scattered round. The value is printed in black on the disk. The colours and values are as follow:—

Black,	7½	cents.
Blue,	15	„
Red,	22½	„
Orange,	45	„

The colours of the three higher denominations in the specimens sent seem pretty carefully laid on, the black (7½ c.) alone is smudged. There is something in the look of these stamps to the practised eye very unsatisfactory. The inscription seems to be composed of fanciful strokes, not indicating anything, and belonging to no alphabet; and the impression of the value in black in the centre appears rather an elaborate manner of finishing a stamp supposed to come from so backward a country. We do not know enough of the emissions of this country positively to denounce this strange set as impostors, but we certainly view them with suspicion. Our correspondent's history of the stamps is, that he received them from a friend, who informed him by letter that he (the writer) had them given to him, with three other sets, by a missionary, who brought them from Cashmere, and stated that the values were as above given. This may all be true, but we are still uninformed from what particular source the missionary acquired the stamps; and as India is rather an old country, it is just possible one of its natives may have palmed off this odd-looking series on him.

DOMINION OF CANADA.—We are informed that the new parliament has passed a bill, enacting that the uniform postage of a letter (single weight) throughout the dominion is to be three cents. This will necessitate the

issue of a stamp of that denomination; and we could wish that the finely-engraved design of some recently-emitted Canadian bill stamps—half-length portrait of Queen in “widow's weeds”—were adopted for it.

CHILI.—The 2 centavos has now been joined by four other values, as follows:

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

The entire five make a very handsome set. The new values are of precisely the same type as the 2 c. The emission of a 1 centavo disproves the statements made respecting the suppression of this value.

NEW GRANADA.—The new “sobre-porte” series is completed by the emission of 25 c. and 1 peso stamps, of which we hope to give engravings and fuller description next month.

BOLIVIA.—A 20 centavos red and a 100 centavos pale-blue, similar in type to the 5 centavos, have been emitted.

NOTES ON THE LATER STAMP FORGERIES.

BY DR. BOLEY.

GERMANY, NORTH.

¼ silb. gros., brown.

Genuine.—The four post-horns in the corners of the stamp do not touch the sides which surround them. The small black shields, at the four corners of the inner square, have the value (¼) clear and distinct.

Forged.—The upper horn on the left, and the lower on the right hand corners, touch the surrounding lines. The ¼ on the small black shield is very indistinct on the left side.

GERMANY, SOUTH.

3 kreuzer, pink.

Genuine.—The figure 3 is contained in small figures in the ornaments at each angle of the stamp.

Forged.—These figures are altogether omitted, the ornaments being left blank. The larger figure also in the value—3 kreuzers—is not a figure, but most resembles two c's inverted, and placed back to back.

GRENADA.

1d., green.

Genuine.—The four corners are formed by white maltese crosses, with a central cross of the colour of the stamp.

Forged.—The four corners are white squares, having a cross on each, with lines proceeding from each angle; these in the genuine are formed by the shape of the cross itself.

INDIA.

 $\frac{1}{2}$ anna, red.

“*Tot homines, tot sententiae*,” may well be applied to this stamp; for although so much has been written, there is probably no stamp about which so much misapprehension still exists. I believe this is chiefly, if not entirely, due to its extreme rarity. At one time its very existence was doubted; and when nearly four years since the first specimens made their appearance, we find one whose name stands high as an authority amongst philatelists, denouncing them as forgeries in the pages of *The Stamp-Collector's Magazine*. No doubt that gentleman has long since changed his opinion, but even now I question whether the marks of the genuine red half-anna are perfectly understood. I believe the old error generally prevails, viz., that it is from the same die as the blue, *which it is not*; but probably from the fact of the forgers having no genuine specimen before them, all the forgeries are more or less imitations of this stamp, or the red one anna.

From the fact of no genuine postmarked specimen having been discovered, the red $\frac{1}{2}$ anna is now generally allowed to be an essay; the chief marks to distinguish it are the following: it resembles the blue in the ornaments of the upper corners, but whereas the blue has 8 arches on each side, the red has $9\frac{1}{2}$, the half arch being the lowest. There is between each arch a wedge-shaped spot, this is of some size, and of a decidedly triangular shape in the blue, but in the red it is very small, in fact a mere speck; in this respect it more resembles the red one anna. The head in the red half anna, is not so well shaded as the blue, and has an unfinished appearance. The great

test, however, consists in the number of the arches, since as yet none of the numerous forgeries show them correctly.

There is a stamp which is now in the market, and commands a high price, which would almost seem to be a red impression from the blue die. It appears to be exact, with the exception of a slight difference to be observed in the hair at the back of the head, showing that if it be from the old blue die, it has been somewhat altered. Whether this be so or not, it is certain that the stamp is quite modern, and even if a reprint from the old die, still comparatively worthless, since it is not the original red half anna.

NOTE.—The older forgeries are now very plentiful in many parts of India, and it is by no means an uncommon occurrence for juvenile collectors, having friends there, to receive such, which they are thus naturally led to believe must be genuine. All such, however, may claim their birth-place much nearer home.

HANOVER (TOWN).

3 pfennige, not reticulated.

This is a tolerably good imitation of the genuine stamp, the letters, however, are thinner, and badly formed. The second N in PFENNIGE is much smaller than the other letters; the middle stroke of the first N is too long; the crown is not clear, especially on the left side.

ITALY.

3 lire, bronze.

In the genuine stamp the word FRANCO, on the left hand, reads from *below, upwards*; in the forgery it is from *above, downwards*. In the genuine the top line is L POSTE 3; in the forgery C POSTE 3.

1863, 15 c. blue, head.

This is a very poor imitation. In the genuine the whole outline of the head is perfectly distinct, standing out, as it were, from the background, which is formed of horizontal lines. These lines can hardly be traced in the forgeries, nor can the whole outline of the head, many parts being lost in the back-ground.

SARDINIA.

1855, 40 c., red.

Genuine.—There is a white square in each corner, with an ornament somewhat in the shape of a cross; the letters of the inscription are large; FRANCO BOLLO rather larger than the value, the eye is small, the shading of the hair and head small and fine.

Forged.—There are no distinct white squares in the corners, all the letters are small, the shading of the hair and beard thick, and the eye very large. The stamp is not embossed.

LIBERIA.

6, 12, 24 cents.

The forgeries of these stamps are very numerous, but I do not think any of the published descriptions apply to the following set:

6 c., red. *Genuine.*—The clouds, although distinct, are very fine, the waves of the sea clear, and the line of meeting between land and water distinct. There are two small horizontal marks or cracks in the stone on which the figure sits.

Forged.—The clouds are heavy, there is little shading about the waves, and a portion almost without any between sea and land. There is but one slight mark on the stone.

12 c., blue.—The same remarks as to sea and clouds apply to the forgeries of this value; here, however, the two marks on the stone are given, the lower one larger than the genuine. There is also a distinct patch of shading on the ground between the stone and foot of the figure in the genuine, which is omitted in this forgery, as are also the fine ropes of the vessel, which are seen in front of the sails.

24 c., green.—In this forgery the marks on the stone are shown, but the lower appears to represent a small piece broken out, and the dress of the figure does not fall below this point; there is no shading between the foot and the stone, whereas in the genuine stamp the lower mark on the stone is very small, and the dress falls half way between that point and the ground; there is a spot of shade between the foot and the stone.

(To be continued.)

REVIEWS OF POSTAL PUBLICATIONS.

Alfred Smith & Co.'s Descriptive Price Catalogue of the Postage Stamps of All Nations. Ninth Edition. London: Marlborough & Co.; Bath: Alfred Smith & Co.

THE new edition of this excellent work will be welcomed by English collectors. No other dealer's catalogue, excepting that of Messrs. Stafford Smith of Brighton, at all approaches that under review in neatness, simplicity, or accuracy. Such attention as is seldom given, save to more pretentious publications, has been lavished on the correction and revision, and, in consequence, the work is, we may say, as a whole, free from typographical errors.

It has been brought up to a very recent date, as may be judged from the fact, that it contains the tenpenny New South Wales, the new North-German stamps, and the lately-described Cashmere; all the prices have been checked and brought into accordance with the present value of the stamps.

The new features of the edition are, first, the alteration in the system of numbering. Instead of the numbers being continued, *ad libitum*, from No. 1, the issues of each country have a separate series of numbers, commencing with No. 1. This system will enable the collector to see at a glance, without any kind of calculation, exactly how many stamps have been emitted of each country, and, on reference to his album, how many he requires. It is altogether a more simple and useful plan.

Secondly, the engravings which in previous editions were scattered through the pages, are in the new edition collected on four interleaved sheets of toned paper, and printed alternately in red and black. The interior of the catalogue is thus much enlivened, the effect being remarkably good.

The cover is likewise printed in two colours; and if there be anything in connection with the work which we should be disposed to object to, it is the stamps chosen to embellish this portion. Our publishers' usual taste in the disposition of their engravings is not shown in this instance, the stamps

represented being too large to admit of their being grouped with advantage. Few, however, will be disposed to cavil over this slight defect—least of all ourselves. We, indeed, feel that the work deserves the warmest commendation, and do not doubt our readers will, if they invest in a copy, confirm our verdict.

Lallier's Postage-Stamp Album. From the Seventh French Edition. Paris: A. Lenègre.

SYDNEY SMITH once expostulated with a fellow contributor to the Edinburgh review, whom he found reading a book preparatory to writing a critique on it. "How do you manage?" said his friend. "Oh," said Sydney, "I never read a book before reviewing it, *it prejudices one so.*" We could almost regret we did not follow the witty clergyman's rule, and write upon the new edition of the work before us, solely according to our predilections, which would have been all in its favour; for on going through the book we noticed, together with much that was praiseworthy, some matters detracting, in a measure, from the general excellency of the compilation, to which, with a view to future amendment, we deem it necessary to call attention.

And first, with regard to the size of the ruled spaces. In a great many instances they are too small to enclose the stamps for which they are designed. This is especially the case with regard to the Mulreadys and the Russian envelopes, and we find that for the three American journal stamps, each more than 3 in. by 2 in., spaces not more than $1\frac{1}{2}$ in. by 1 have been allotted. These are quite useless, and might as well have been omitted. Surely a little more care on the part of the editor in planning out the squares, and in revising the sheets as prepared, would have obviated this by no means slight inconvenience.

This cramping of the spaces is, however, perhaps only the necessary consequence of the inclusion of stamps now considered to be no better than impostors, and of others in no degree connected with the postal service. Thus a number of pages are devoted to the

Hamburg locals, which are only collected now *because* Lallier continues to give spaces for them. Again, the Bavarian "instruction," or, as our author terms them, "interpostal" stamps, continue to be represented, and even the large envelope on which they are impressed, although both stamps and envelope are, as has long been known, used merely to indicate the denominations of the real stamps enclosed in the envelope. Still more objectionable is the inclusion of the telegraph labels of Belgium, Spain, Prussia, and Russia, and the railway labels of Denmark. Whatever continental collectors may think about these emissions, English collectors have decidedly set their faces against them, and in an album prepared exclusively for the use of the latter, their tastes alone ought to have been consulted. The squares allotted for these stamps must become a source of vexation to collectors in this country, entailing an undesired expense on the one hand, or causing unnecessary blanks on the other.

We do not consider the insertion of a page for Italian journal stamps a very wise step, as these stamps are impressed on newspapers, are not easily obtained, and are not worth having when they are obtained. They are but hybrids, and those of other countries, France among them, are not represented.

A set of stamps has been included with the United States government issues (p.271) which we have never heard of, and we are certain has never been issued. It is described as consisting of "large rectangular stamps printed in black on glazed coloured paper. Lincoln's head to the left. Red, 2 c.; green, 3 c.; pink, 4 c.; white, 5 c.; yellow, 10 c., and blue, 12 c." We have a faint recollection of a large rectangular so-called local stamp, with a small printed bust of Lincoln in centre, and a printed inscription at the sides, the whole a most common affair, got up by an American dealer, and sent over to Europe for sale—a stamp of no value whatever, and perhaps this is the foundation for the "Lincoln series." We should, however, have expected the author to have been more cautious than to have admitted an issue wholly unaccredited.

We cannot but object also to the allotment of spaces for the 1864 reprint of the 1857 Cuban stamps. If, in addition to obtaining the original impressions, the collection of reprints be made to a certain extent obligatory on amateurs, they will indeed, to use a common phrase, "have their work cut out."

Further, by reason of the inclusion of these unrecognised stamps, the space allotted for many generally-accepted and valuable emissions is much cramped. The issues of several of the West Indian islands are crowded together on a single page with small headings, and in such a manner as to give not the slightest room for the insertion of new stamps. The central American stamps have also an insufficient space, and other series we might name are in the same predicament.

We hardly like to say more in animadversion on a book which, with these faults, possesses so many excellencies, but cannot help inquiring why in this, as in previous editions, the pages for Italy are interpolated in the portion allotted to the states forming the old Germanic confederation. Fourteen pages devoted to the emission of the Italian states intervene, for no apparent reason, between the pages for Hanover and Lubeck. Turning now to the bright side of the album, we can give sincere praise to the excellence of the lithography, and can also bear testimony to the improvement in the English. A decided alteration for the better is noticeable in the placing of the values of stamps on the squares which the stamps are intended to occupy; this will be of considerable help to collectors; and also the commencing of every series with the lower value, the highest being thus on the right, instead of on the left, as hitherto.

Altogether the general get-up of the book is excellent, and whilst we cannot be blind to some very perceptible faults, we must not forget to recognise the very large amount of labour and patience involved in the preparation of a work which, after all deductions are made, will still satisfy the wants of a great number of English collectors. We have called attention to various detracting features in no unfriendly spirit, but in the

hope that M. Lallier, assisted, as he states he has been, by M. Maury, will give careful attention to the preparation of the next edition, with a view to their removal. Our old favourite with such improvements would then be, if not unequalled, at any rate unsurpassed by any of its now numerous competitors.

POSTAL CHIT-CHAT.

THERE ARE IN THE UNITED STATES POST-OFFICE DEPARTMENT 10,000 photographs of Union soldiers taken from the dead letters which accumulated during the war.

A YEAR'S PENNY STAMPS.—An inland revenue return which has just been issued shows that in the financial year 1866-7 no less than 136,978,045 penny stamps were supplied to the public for use on receipts, drafts, and other documents (other than letters) requiring a penny stamp.

CARELESSNESS.—In 1865, 12,000 letters were posted in Great Britain without any address, and these letters contained valuables in the form of checks, notes, and money, to the amount of £3700. On one occasion £5000 in notes was sent, improperly addressed, open at the ends, like a book packet.

TO BE STAMPED-OUT.—On the first January, all Germany, including the North, the South, and Austria, adopted the groschen postage for letters under half-ounce in weight. This change has been adopted as a delicate compliment to the philatelists, who find the collecting of stamps so *all-engroschen* an employment.—*Fun.*

THE KEY ON THE BASLE STAMP.—A correspondent informs us that he lately saw on a Swiss railway document a stamp impressed by hand, having, in the centre, only the key or curved ornament which figures at the top of the Basle postage stamp, and bearing an inscription in surrounding oval—KANT: BASLE-STADT 7 RP. The appearance of this figure by itself as a central device would seem to prove that it has some special significance. Can any of our readers inform us of what it is the emblem?

POSTAGE STAMPS.—A young lady, being desirous of covering her dressing-room with cancelled postage stamps, has been so far encouraged in her wish by private friends as to have succeeded in collecting 16,000! These, however, being insufficient, she will be greatly obliged if any good-natured persons who may have these (otherwise useless) little articles at their disposal would assist her in her whimsical project. Address to E. D., Mr. Butt's, Glover, Leadenhall street; or Mr. Marshall's Jeweller, Hackney.—*Times*, 1841.

THE RUSSIAN POST-OFFICE ASSOCIATION FOR STEALING MONEY FROM LETTERS.—Public attention in Russia has been much occupied by the trial of upwards of fifty post-office officials for stealing money from letters. It appears that a complete organization existed for this purpose in the department, and that it has been carrying on its operations since 1862. An elaborate code of regulations, by which this society was bound, has been discovered, in which the capital of the society, the mode of division of the profits, and the sums to be given as rewards to those of the members who were most skilful in their thefts, are minutely described.

THE POSTMASTER-GENERAL reports that during the past fiscal year, 10,298,234 letters were exchanged with foreign countries, exclusive of Canada, 5,312,401 being sent from, and 4,985,833 received by the United States. There were 2,956,699 newspapers sent to, and 1,871,710 received from foreign countries. Great Britain enjoys the most extensive postal relations with the United States, France is second, and Prussia third. The balance against the United States on foreign postage accounts for the year, is 357,224 dols. There are at present three transatlantic mails weekly each way. There will be four after new-year's day, and the postmaster general hopes soon to establish a daily mail across the ocean.—*Times*.

TIMBROPHILIC NOTABILITIES.—Though it is said that timbrophilily exercises a softening influence on the brain, it is nevertheless true that it counts among its adepts a great many intelligences of the first order, engaged in the sciences, the arts, the army, the magistracy, the industry, and the chief commerce of all countries, not to speak of a goodly number of dignitaries and diplomatists, some of whom occupy positions bringing them into close contact with the throne. Without, however, going to these heights, we have pleasure in making an announcement of a very satisfactory nature to timbrophilic spirits, viz., that two of our friends, MM. O. Berger-Levrault, and J. Marcou, have received the decoration of the legion of honour, the one for the services rendered by him to industry in his important printing and publishing house; the other for his learned geological works. We are happy in addressing to them our sincere felicitations on the honour which they have so fully merited.—*Le Timbrophile*.

"FEYTHUR" AND "SON."—The following anecdote, illustrative of the comical incidents which now and then interweave themselves with the sober realities of post-office life, was related the other evening at a literary supper-table. A letter from the wilds of Cheshire was received one morning, having the simple superscription, "For moi Son, London." After passing through a succession of hands, it was at length duly deposited, along with a thousand other letters, at the left-till-called-for office, there to await the chapter of accidents. A few days afterwards a simple-looking countryman presented himself, and inquired "Han yo gotten a lettur for me fa moi feythur?" A titter, a whisper, a significant nod of the head on the part of more than one official, then a rummage amongst the pigeon-holes, and "feythur's" letter was found and handed to the son, who looked upon the whole proceeding quite as a matter of course.—*The Postman*.

CORRESPONDENCE.

THE FIRST ISSUE FOR BRUNSWICK.

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

SIR,—Mr. Pemberton, in his Notes on Forgeries, in the number of *The Philatelist* for the present month, makes a statement concerning the Brunswick stamps, which I think will cause no little consternation to collectors: he says, speaking as it appears to me, of the first and second issues, "both sets bear, as watermark, a posthorn; not so the forgeries." Now, I have always understood that the first issue, consisting of three stamps, bore no watermark, and they are so described in Levrault. If Mr. P.'s statement be true, then surely it will follow that forgeries are the rule, and genuine stamps of the first issue the very rare exception, seeing that even M. Levrault does not seem to have met with one.

I am, Sir, yours truly,

Carsington, Wirksworth.

F. H. B.

A POSTAGE STAMP FOR PARAGUAY.

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

SIR,—I have in my possession a new stamp for Paraguay, which I received from a person at Montevideo. The framework is similar to the 10 c. Argentine, with inscription, at the top PARAGUAY, at bottom CORREOS. The engraving is very fine, and evidently of American manufacture. The oval contains the portrait of some worthy unknown to me. The colour is a bright vermilion, and value 5 reales.

Respectfully yours,
Boston, Mass., U.S.

CHARLES L. HILL.

THE "V.R." FORGERY.

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

DEAR SIR,—Your correspondent, W. T. W., points out an error I committed in describing the forgery of the English V.R. This arose solely from writing from memory (in every other instance I had the forgery before me), and so for a moment forgot the fact, that the black English 1d. had no letters in the upper angles.

Since I wrote that description, I have received a specimen of this forgery from a lady, who tells me she has had it in her album for more than a year (thus proving it to be much older than I had imagined), and that her attention was called to it from reading the description in *The Stamp-Collector's Magazine*. This has the crosses in both upper corners scratched out (as, no doubt, had the first I saw, although it was only the V I particularly noticed), and a V R printed. All signs of the crosses are removed, but the paper is of course much thinner; this specimen is, however, obliterated, which should have at once condemned it; the first I saw was unused. No doubt more are in existence, and if any of your readers have ever purchased a cheap V.R. let them examine it;—here the price paid was 10/6!

I am, dear Sir, yours truly,

Guernsey.

R. S. BOLEY.

THE LARGE-FIGURE ARGENTINE CONFEDERATION STAMPS.

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

SIR,—As everyone has something to say for or against these much-persecuted stamps, I should like to have a verbal tilt at them also, but in an open chivalrous spirit, simply to protect philately from what appears to me unqualified intruders.

On the morning of December 1st, 1866, postal *quidnuncs* were roused to an unusual pitch of excitement by the first page of your excellent magazine announcing the arrival of the large-figure Argentine. My suspicions were at once awakened, and a personal interview with the new comers did not remove them. In fact, I resolved at once to cut their acquaintance: first, because I could not perceive any "traces of age" either on their faces or on their backs; secondly, because they did not seem so clearly printed as the early specimens of the 5 centavos which had come under my notice; and thirdly, on account of the improbability of their remaining unknown to collectors in Buenos Ayres, where, not only have you an established agent, but where, as you state in your last remarks, this magazine has a considerable circulation. Since then, I have examined attentively your clever but not conclusive article of December last. Singularly enough, you repeat there an erroneous statement made twelve months previously, namely, that after the issue of the 5 centavos, and before the 10 and 15 centavos were issued,

the change to a *smaller size* stamp was *resolved on*. Now what does this mean? and whence came this piece of information? For, instead of being smaller, "the second issue, prepared and issued in its entirety," is a trifle larger in size, certainly not smaller, than the solitary large-figure stamp of the first issue. I think also you can have no very decided authority for so positively stating these latter stamps were in double sheets of 192; for, as far as I can gather from the whole discussion, no one seems to know when, or how long, or how many of the large-figure 5 centavo stamps were in circulation; and if they were indeed the first issued, the more simple plan of a single sheet of 96, instead of a "two-page" sheet, is most probable. G. B.'s idea—that they might have been the second issue—though possible, seems difficult to sustain. Be this as it may, till you can satisfactorily prove that the small figure never was printed 192 to the sheet, no argument in favour of the large-figured set can be deduced from the official documents hitherto published.

As to Mr. J. J. Wood's letter, it simply proves that he is more clever at arithmetic than logic. You very sensibly, in your first article, reserve to yourself the right of modifying your opinion in any way that fresh circumstances may require. You can, therefore, with consistency, should the grounds on which you have based your opinions prove to your own judgement as unstable as they appear to others, at any time withdraw the unqualified support you have hitherto given these now celebrated, but as I think undeserving, stamps.

Yours truly,

FENTONIA.

Clifton.

ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS.

J. F. M., Carmarthen.—The photographic portraits in Lallier are of course taken through the medium of a lens.

M. R. S.—Comic envelopes caricaturing the Mulready were published in 1840. We should say yours was genuine.

E. R. K., Winchester.—The side-marks are not the same on all the penny stamps. They are of no philatelic importance.—Your Basle stamp is a coarsely-executed forgery.

F. M., Staplehurst.—We cannot imagine your *octagon* red shilling New South Wales stamp to be any other than the ordinary stamp, with so much of the design as completes the rectangle cut off.

E. A., Boulogne.—We do not possess any letters that have been franked by members of the House of Commons before the introduction by Sir Rowland Hill of the penny post.

T. R. S.—The first stamp you name is the 5 piastres Egyptian, issue of 1866; the second, the 5 paras blue of Constantinople local post; your third stamp we do not recognise by your inscription.

T. R. S., Wemyss Bay.—Of the stamps you describe, No. 1 is the 2 para Roumanian, present series; No. 2, an Austrian revenue stamp; No. 3, new Austrian stamps; No. 4, one of the new "kreuzer" stamps for the North-German Confederation.

C. W.—Your stamp we believe to have been the predecessor of the present *timbre de dimension* which is placed on the railway invoices, or *lettres de voiture* of goods sent from other countries to France, at the first station on the French frontier.

ALEX. SMITH.—The penny Natal, first issue, is found in yellow and in buff. Your friend's specimen is probably a good impression in the latter colour.—Recent numbers of our magazine will have informed you that the stamps

inscribed *NORDDEUTSCHER POSTBEZIRK* are used throughout the new North German Confederacy.

F. D., London.—Many thanks for your information respecting the Singapore, of which we avail ourselves.—Is your 3d. New Zealand with *N Z* watermark of a pale or deep shade?—if the former, it was issued in 1864; if the latter, it is probably the latest novelty from the colony.

T. R. W.—The *SERVICE POSTAGE* half-anna of India, respecting which you inquire, is fully described in our chronicle of new issues for the present month, to which we would refer you.—The 3 half-cents of Singapore is also duly noticed. Thanks, notwithstanding, for drawing our attention to them.

A. H. P.—Your stamp, with inscription, *STADT EXPRESS*, is a fictitious one. It was invented some three or four years since, and has almost from the first been known to be worthless. We should advise its expulsion from your book, or, at least, its relegation to a page at the end to be kept for the special accommodation of similar "vermin."

S. M., Horsham.—Your Lubeck 1 schg. is undoubtedly a forgery of the "Spiro" family; the firm from which you obtained it is a respectable one, and may have been deceived by its close resemblance to the genuine stamp. An application to the vendors will doubtless set matters right, and render them more cautious in examining old Lubeck stamps in future.

E. H., St. Austell.—We regret your inquiry has stood over so long unanswered. The 3d. specimens of New South Wales laurated which you sent are merely varieties; one has a finer background than the other, but the larger is not *plain*, as you suppose. The variety of watermark is new, but we should require confirmation of its existence, by collation with other specimens, before accepting it. With regard to the value of these stamps, we can only say that at present unused copies fetch 5/ or 6/; used, about 1/6 to 2/6, according to condition. The 3d. watermark is most rare, and is worth 30/, but 5/ buys a good used copy.

F. H. B. Carsington, Wirksworth.—We have carefully examined your Lubeck stamps, marked the forged and the genuine, and returned all by post. Your 4 schg. Lubeck, No. 1, is a very fine forgery, the execution is indeed more delicate than that of the genuine; but the shape of the corner figures, and the fact, that the lines of shading on the label inscribed *VIER* run horizontally instead of vertically, evidence its falsity. The 2 schg. (No. 6) is curiously similar, but there is not so much attention to details.—As Dr. Boley is at the present time contributing papers to our magazine on the "Later Stamp Forgeries" it will be hardly necessary for us to repeat his descriptions at the close of the year.

B. H. C., Shrewsbury.—Both your stamps are Bavarian returned-letter stamps, the rougher one was issued in 1865; the finer variety, we believe, in 1866. The first-named is used at the Munich post-office; the second, according to our information, at Ratisbon. They have both been referred to in *The Stamp-Collector's Magazine* for '66 and '67.—This correspondent sends us his recipe for a permanent album, which is certainly a practical one. He has bought two of our publishers' 12/6 ruled albums, and has allotted one to Europe and Asia, and the other to the remaining divisions of the globe. By this means he is able to allow a couple or even three blank pages, according to probable requirements, to each country, and to leave a number of blank pages at the end of each continent for countries at present destitute of stamps. The plan is a good one, and those who could not afford to lay out 25/ on the purchase of the albums named, might invest in a couple of the 6/ edition, which would pretty well answer the same purpose.

LIFE IN A PROVINCIAL POST-OFFICE.

(From *All the Year Round*.)

THERE is this difference between receiving an official installation into any situation, and being born to it, that while the former is merely the work-a-day service of life, the latter is so lit up with all the associations of childhood and youth, that the most matter-of-fact business becomes invested with something of the interest and prestige of a birth-right. Thus postal service is almost an inheritance to us; for my earliest recollections are connected with the daily routine of office-work, carried on in the room which was partly devoted to nursery employments and amusements. Postal arrangements in the country, so long since as 1827, were of the most primitive order; and it was considered sufficiently official, and convenient enough for the public, if the postmaster provided, in any ordinary sitting-room, a counter on which to sort and stamp the letters; a letter-box, with a slide opening into the street; and a wooden pane in his window, with a door in it through which inquiries could be made. Gazing through this little door, with childishly-wondering eyes, upon the marvellous panorama and procession of the outside world; sitting half-frightened upon the counter, while my nurse stamped my arms and forehead with talismanic impressions of the name of my native town, to secure me from gipsies and other baby-stealers, who were the terror of our infancy; threats, when I was troublesome, of being tied and sealed up in the large London bag, and delivered over to the mercy of the clerks there, whom I confounded with the cannibals I heard my elder brothers talking about; these are the most vivid recollections of my first years. Visions there are, too, faint but stirring, of a daily levee at noon upon the arrival of the London mail of the day before, when the privileged squire of those times, a grand old colonel of dragoons, whose costume was a bright green coat with brass buttons, and huge white-topped boots, invaded the forbidden precincts of the office itself, and installing himself in

the rocking-chair, read his *Times* at leisure; while the letters were sorted by almost children's hands, amid laughter, frolic, and coquettish jests through the window, besieged by an eager crowd without.

I suppose our office was a fair type of other country-offices. We were one hundred and forty miles from London, in a midland county, of which our town was the second for size and importance. It was the centre of a postal district of about forty miles in circuit, containing one hundred and seventy-two villages and hamlets, with a considerable portion of a coal and iron country thickly populated; yet the average number of letters received and despatched weekly, before the establishment of the penny post, was only five hundred. The postage upon these varied according to distance, from fourpence to our country town, which was eleven miles off (a moderate walk), to one shilling and fourpence-halfpenny to the extreme north of Scotland; the odd halfpenny being charged on every Scotch letter, as a toll for passing across a bridge over the Tweed. Throughout all our wide district there were no sub-offices, and the distribution of rural letters was a private concern; letter-carriers not then being servants of the crown. One villanous old letter-carrier whom I remember, was a drunken, surly, dishonest scoundrel, and who used to carry the letters away from the office to a wretched den of his own, where we sometimes saw him sorting them on the floor, while he growled and snarled over them, like a dog over a heap of unsatisfactory bones. Letters destined for any distance from the town were always laid aside till a sufficient number for the same locality were accumulated to make it worth while to convey them, at the charge of a penny a mile each letter. In those times a postman's place was a lucrative and leisurely one; and I dimly recollect a very fat letter-carrier, who was quite portly and majestic in his demeanour. And I can recall cases of almost tragic interest, when letters written in great trouble and anguish—perhaps a summons to a death-bed, or a circumstance that demanded immediate attention—did not reach the person addressed until days after the crisis must be over; or even lay at the

post-office for weeks, unknown of, and un-guessed at, until some chance messenger happened to call and inquire for them. Country agents, and gentlemen who did not have private bags, were compelled to make it part of the regular business of the day to ride into the town, though at a distance of six or eight miles, to ascertain if any correspondence had arrived for them.

It was the time of "expresses" in my childhood—that clumsy arrangement for the swift transmission of intelligence—clumsy, I mean, in comparison with the playful flash of electric wires. A special messenger, termed an express, could be procured at a post-office, and despatched officially with a single letter, and a way-bill to check the time at the charge of a shilling, and at the speed of ten miles an hour. By some fortuitous circumstance, these expresses always seemed to arrive in the dead of the night, when the quietness of the quiet town was deepened into a solemn stillness. There would be the sudden trampling and ringing of hoof-beats through the narrow streets; the thundering of a volley of hurried blows upon our fastened door; the shrill cry under the window of "Haste, post haste!" the sound of the sashes thrown up, and casements flung open on every side; an instantaneous tumult and agitation in a sleepful house. Once the dread solitary letter, sent express from Surrey, was for a young student dwelling at the house opposite our own, who was leaning through his window, when he heard his own name, shouted by the messenger, and answered it by a wild and bitter cry, which long rang in our ears, as he was thus called up from his deep sleep to receive the message of death from home. On another occasion, the express came with a letter to be forwarded at one o'clock in the morning, and as no mounted messenger could be procured at that untimely hour, the post-master was compelled to start with it himself, and walk several miles to the nearest main road, in the hope of a night-coach overtaking him, and carrying him on to the next post-office.

Before 1840, two letter-carriers, of the stamp of the villanous old Perry and his fat comrade, distributed the letters of our town, and its district of forty miles, very much at

their own discretion; in 1862, fifty-nine persons, as sub-postmasters, rural messengers, and letter-carriers, were engaged upon nearly the same ground, in transmitting and delivering letters free through every village and hamlet. Then, in a room, half nursery, the light work occupied one person for about two hours daily; now three clerks, no longer children, are required to transact the business of the same office. The five hundred letters received and despatched weekly have multiplied into fifteen thousand; with the addition of two thousand five hundred newspapers, and three hundred and fifty book-parcels; while instead of five bags daily, thirty-four are made up and despatched in all directions. Now, almost the hour at which a letter is posted is indicated by the date-stamp; but I have before me the cover of an old letter, with the usual words 'Single, Speed' written upon it, which bears no stamp whatever by which to check the time of its delivery with the date of its despatch. The official surveillance has grown vigorous; formerly the surveyor sent courteous intimation of his visits some days beforehand, that everything might be in order; but now, he, or any one of his numerous assistants, may enter the office at any moment, and institute a rigid examination of all the details of its work. This old money-order desk, too, ink-stained as a schoolboy's, has done its duty through all the changes of that branch of the service by which fifteen millions of money is now transmitted annually through the United Kingdom. An old yellow-leaved penny memorandum-book is the representative of the great ledgers of to-day; the entries in it numbering about five weekly, and the commission charged being eightpence in the pound, with a stamp duty of one shilling, if the sum exceeded two pounds. Until the money-order business ceased to be a monopoly, and was incorporated with the post-office in 1838, the whole cost of forwarding one pound by money-order from this town to London, was no less than two-and-fourpence; the enclosure of the order in the letter involving a double charge upon the latter, as only one sheet could be sent for a single postage.

(To be concluded in our next).

THE STAMPS OF MOLDAVIA AND
ROUMANIA.

BY DR. MAGNUS.

(Translated by permission from *Le Timbre-Poste*.)

(Continued from page 37).

MOLDAVIA. ISSUE OF 1854.

STAMPS OF 108 PARAS.

FIRST TYPE.—(Diameter $20\frac{1}{2}$ mill.)

1.—Forehead covered with hair, which extends to the ears.

2.—Horns oblique and doubly curved.

3.—Ears like those of type 1 of the 54 paras.

4.—Eyes prominent; eyebrows indicated.

5.—Nose large; a number of hairs at top.

6.—Nostrils denoted by crotchets, forming a parenthesis.

7.—Cheek-bones and cheeks flat; depression above the muzzle.

8.—Upper-lip large and prominent; lower, very small.

9.—Star large and outspread.

10.—Inscription commences and ends at 2 mill. from the extremities of the post-horn.

11.—The post-horn measures 13 by $5\frac{1}{2}$ mill. The oval of the opening is inclined at an angle of about 45 degrees.

12.—The figures are thin and meagre.

SECOND TYPE.—(Diameter 20 mill.)

1.—Centre of forehead covered with hair, but none on sides.

2.—Horns almost upright, very long, with slightly-marked double curve.

3.—Ears thin, and but little elevated.

4.—Eyes large, prominent, and obliquely directed.

5.—Nose rather large, with light lines on the left side.

6.—Nostrils formed—the right, by a crotchet; the left, by a line turned towards the left.

7.—Cheek-bones flat, and cheeks legibly concave, with line from the centre to the depression above the muzzle.



8.—Upper-lip thick; lower, but slightly marked.

9.—Star regular, and rather large.

10.—The inscription commences at $1\frac{1}{2}$ mill., and finishes at 1 mill. from the post-horn.11.—The post-horn measures 13 by $5\frac{1}{2}$ mill. The oval opening is very large.12.—The figures are of unequal size—the 0 is $\frac{1}{2}$ mill. higher than the others; the 8 thin, and the upper part leaning outwards.

THIRD TYPE.—(Diameter 20 mill.)

1.—Forehead uncovered at the sides; a thick tuft of hair in the middle.

2.—Horns straight, the extreme points turning a little outwards. The right shorter than in the preceding type.

3.—Ears oval; nearly horizontal; the points slightly elevated.

4.—Eyes looking forward, with oblique eyebrows.

5.—Nose very large; triangular; a tuft of hair at top.

6.—Nose indicated by two light crotchets.

7.—Cheek-bones and cheeks indicated by a simple straight line; the right having also an oblique line continued to the muzzle.

8.—Upper-lip rather thick; lower forming a kind of crescent; opening of the mouth very conspicuous.

9.—Star rather large and regular.

10.—The inscription commences at 2 mill., and finishes at rather more than 1 mill. from the horn.

11.—The post-horn measures 13 by $5\frac{1}{2}$ mill. The greatest diameter of the opening is less inclined than in the preceding type.12.—The figures are $2\frac{1}{2}$ mill. in height; the 0 is also rather larger throughout its length.

This type is upon rose-tinted paper.

FOURTH TYPE.—(Diameter 21 mill.)

1.—Forehead uncovered, raised, with three or four thick tufts of hair.

2.—Horns strongly curved, the points bent slightly outwards.

3.—Ears triangular, transversely directed.

4.—Eyes looking downwards; eyebrows arched.



5.—Nose very large and triangular; two tufts of hair at top.

6.—Nostrils indicated by two dots.

7.—Cheek-bones slightly projecting; lines of the cheeks straight, and continued to the muzzle.

8.—Upper-lip thick; smaller, of moderate size.

9.—Star very large and irregular.

10.—The inscription commences at $2\frac{1}{2}$ mill., and finishes at 2 mill. from the horn.

11.—The post-horn measures $13\frac{1}{2}$ by 6 mill. The greatest diameter of the opening has the same direction as in the third type.

12.—The figures are $2\frac{1}{2}$ mill. high; the 0 is wide, and larger above than below.

This type is on paper clouded rose, and upon machine-made pale-rose paper, like the fourth type of the 54 paras and 81 paras.

FIFTH TYPE.—(Diameter 20 mill.)

1.—Forehead elongated, and furnished with four or five thick tufts, covering 2-5ths of the depth.



2.—Horns almost straight, especially the left, and the shortest of any of this value; the second curve slightly marked.

3.—Ears oval, small, open, and nearly horizontal, the points turning a little upwards.

4.—Eyes looking forwards, but a little oblique; eyebrows well marked.

5.—Nose large; three groups of hair at top.

6.—Nostrils forming a parenthesis.

7.—Cheek-bones and cheeks less prominent, with a legible depression, and showing clearly a second depression above the muzzle.

8.—Upper-lip large, and slightly raised; lower lip, unequal, and higher on the left than on the right.

9.—Star, small.

10.—The inscription commences at nearly 2 mill., and finishes at $1\frac{1}{2}$ mill. from the horn.

11.—The post-horn measures 13 by $5\frac{1}{2}$ mill. The greatest diameter of the opening is at an angle of 45 degrees.

12.—The figures are meagre; and in height are rather more than 2 mill.

This type is on ordinary rose paper.

Here then we have fifteen different types of stamps, five of each value. We do not make a point of guaranteeing their authenticity. Our purpose is to notice all the kinds, and to request upon them the criticisms of amateurs, and further details. We should, however, say, that we consider as perfectly genuine the first type of the 54 and of the 108 paras upon laid paper, and the second type of the 81 paras on clouded paper. These are the varieties which were the first to be received. We have seen the 54 p. obliterated in the collection of Mr. P., who obtained it, at the Foreign Office, from a secretary of the late Lord Palmerston. The second type of the 54 and 108, and the first of the 81 p., we believe to be equally good; and also the third types of the 81 and 108. We have seen No. 2 of the 108 obliterated in the above collection, and M. Baillieu informs us that he has received it from Bucharest, together with the second type of the 54 upon laid paper, and other genuine varieties. One proof, which to us seems rather convincing of their authenticity, is, that the person by whom they were procured has not since been able to procure any more. We cannot say anything of the other types, save that the fifth of each value seems to us the most doubtful, though we would not go so far as positively to affirm their falsity.

These stamps, though dissimilar, yet possess a certain air of relationship. Thus, one is struck with the similitude of the first types of the 54 and 108, and the third of the 81 paras. The form of the head, the horns, the ears, the disposition of the eyes and nose, show a resemblance which at once draws attention. There is, again, considerable analogy between type 2 of the 54, 1 of the 81, and 2 and 3 of the 108. The narrowness of the head, and the vertical position of the horns, are noticeable points common to all.

Continuing, we find the same likeness between the fourth type of the 54 and 108 paras, the same disposition of the horns, the same form and direction of the ears, resemblance of forehead, nose, cheeks, and lips, and the same similarity of impression upon clouded and upon ordinary paper. The fourth type of the 81 paras does not

show an equal analogy. Like those of the 54 and 108, it is printed upon two kinds of paper, but there is no resemblance in the design. Lastly, the three types, No. 5, of which we suspect the authenticity, are all three upon ordinary paper, have the same head, horns short and nearly straight, ears oval, and directed horizontally, and the figures are the smallest of each value. It appears that in general the 81 differs more from the other values than do the two others between themselves, since the third type is the only one in which we find a correspondence of design with that of the 54 and 108 paras. Thus much for the designs.

The paper is not the same; the types 1 and 2 of the 54 paras are upon laid paper. It is possible that one of the types of the 81 paras exists on the same paper, but we know of none. On the other hand, the paper of the 108 offers the closest analogy to that of the first type of the 54. As to the other types, we find them upon clouded, and upon ordinary paper. In point of antiquity, the stamps on laid paper come first. Those on clouded paper are contemporaneous, or follow but shortly after. Those on ordinary paper are the latest known. The type No. 2 of the 108 paras forms, however, an exception. Both the shade and the make of the paper varies; and we sometimes find the same type on two different sorts: witness the fourth type of the 54, 81, and 108 paras.*

As to the impression, it is always made with blue ink, but on some papers this takes a greenish tint; the colours of the first, and, above all, of the fifth type, are very nearly green; and we have also found the same shade on an obliterated specimen of the second type of the 108 paras.

In our researches, unhappily too confined, we have met with but two obliterated stamps. One of the obliterations consists of a circular stamp bearing the date and the name of the country, similar in form to the cancellations used there for other purposes;

* We are tempted to consider the stamps of the fourth type, upon ordinary paper, to be re-impressions, made with a hand-stamp which had been discovered. This is, however, no more than a supposition, unsupported by any information we have received.

the other is a sort of oval, swelling out at the two extremities of its greatest diameter. The oval is divided in two by a horizontal line; above is FRANCO; below, the name of the town. We cannot come to a determination on the second type of the 108; but we have found the mark, by which the specimen we saw was obliterated, upon an 80 para stamp of the succeeding emission, and that circumstance, we consider, militates in favour of the authenticity of this stamp, which some persons have thought to be doubtful.

The counterfeits of these stamps are certainly very numerous, and we fully admit our inability to distinguish them. There is one, however, which is most easily recognised, because it witnesses so completely to the ignorance of its Hamburg author. In this, each of the three values is lithographed and enclosed in a square frame, which gives to a row of these stamps a disposition which the genuine never present, placed, as they are, at haphazard on the sheets. Further, the design is *identical* for the three values, whilst, in the genuine, this is not the case, at best, no more than a great resemblance being shown.

The same uncertainty which surrounds the emission of this series equally exists with respect to the date at which it was withdrawn. We can but say, that these stamps were retired upon the emission of the following series.

(To be continued.)

ON "LOCALS" AND THEIR VALUE.

BY THE EDITOR.

(Continued from page 34.)

II.—Stamps issued by private companies under a postal contract with the state, or under special government sanction.

WELLS, FARGO, & Co.—The stamps issued by this firm show examples of both the classes included in this division. The "pony-express" series was issued for the prepayment of letters during the time that the company held the contract for the Californian postal service,—viz., from 1861 to 1864. During that time no other stamps issued by the United States were used for prepayment over this route; and the company was

authorised to make and issue stamps to represent their charges. Since the termination of the contract the company has continued to serve the Californian towns, using the government envelope stamps, and making an additional charge for its own profit. This charge is represented by the oblong label printed on the upper edge of the front of the envelope, and inscribed PAID OVER OUR CALIFORNIA AND COAST ROUTES; OR, PAID THROUGH OUR CALIFORNIA AND ATLANTIC EXPRESS. We take it that the company has a special sanction to maintain this private service. But even if the fact be otherwise, the company's stamps occupy a peculiar position, depending, as they do, for their validity on their being impressed side by side with the government stamp. It is no doubt politic on the part of the government to encourage the company in its enterprise, as the state post-office receives its own charge upon letters which it has not to carry. At the present time, moreover, the state postal service is so inefficient that the majority of Californian correspondents prefer to trust their letters to a private company, and it is doubtful whether, if this company were suppressed, they would transfer their confidence to the state.

The envelope stamps of other Californian companies, inasmuch as they also derive their validity from the government stamp which accompanies them, are in our opinion of equal merit. The following list of them is given in Berger-Levrault's catalogue:—

Alta Express Co., paid (view of the coast).

Black on large yellow 3-cent envelope.

Bamber & Co.'s Express, paid.

Black on 3-cent envelope.

Bamber's Contra Costa Express (California), [scroll] blue.

Freeman & Co.'s Express. Paid over our California and coast routes (scroll).

Red on large 3-cent envelopes.

Langton's Paid Pioneer Express.

Black, red.

Nichols & Co.'s Express, paid (railroad and steamboat.)

Black on large white 3-cent envelopes.

This list, however, we believe to be far from complete. It probably indicates only those known to the writer. The entire

envelopes are seldom to be met with, as collectors in California cut off the upper part, only showing the government stamp.

CONSTANTINOPLE.—The series issued by M. Liannos in 1866 for the service of the capital and suburbs is, as a whole, equal in value to the government impressions. It was authorised by the state, and used for a considerable time. The set for the capital proper consisted of three values, 5, 20 and 40 paras; but besides these there was a set issued answering in character to the French *chiffre-tax* stamps.



POSTE LOCALE.	
Service Mixte.	
Taxe Ext.	
Taxe Int.	- 10
TOTAL.	

These stamps were placed on unpaid letters from Egypt, and take the form of a "little account" of two items—the TAXE EXTERIOR, the amount of which is left in blank to be filled in with pen and ink; and the TAXE INTERIOR, or charge for delivery, which is stated, and amounts according to the weight of the letter, to 10 or 20 paras, 1 or 2 piastres. The two lower values are printed in black, the first on yellow, the second on rose paper, the two higher in colour on white; the 1 piastre in red, the 2 p. in blue. In addition to these, there are the so-termed journal stamps, the value of which we could never perfectly comprehend, as the 5 paras adhesive is also stated to be for journals. These may serve for circulars and



other miscellaneous printed matter sent at the lower rate of $3\frac{1}{2}$ paras. These stamps are impressed in sheets of 63 (7 rows of 9), the lines between the specimens being, if our recollection be correct, ruled in writing ink. Whatever their use, we see no reason to doubt the *bona-fide* character of those issued in the original colours, black on blue, rose, and white respectively. Since the stoppage of the local post-office, the proprietor has issued some sheets in fancy colours—lilac, green, yellow, &c. These are of little or no value.

RUSSIAN STEAM NAVIGATION COMPANY.— This company has a certain amount of connection with the Russian government. In *Le Timbre-Poste* for January, 1865, is figured a large stamp issued by the company, which we believe we have never fully noticed, having had doubts as to its postal employment. It is about two inches square, and printed deep-blue. In the centre of a circular lacework pattern are the Russian arms, and encircling this pattern a Russian inscription, signifying POSTAGE STAMPS OF SIX KOPEKS FOR DESPATCHES FOR THE LEVANT. According to our contemporary, this stamp is made at St. Petersburg, under the surveillance of the government, and handed to the company by the imperial administration. It serves to frank printed matter secured with bands, and also packets by the company's boats to Odessa, Constantinople, Alexandria, Syria, Malta, Messina, Trebizond, Tiflis, and Soukum Kale, but it is not used for letter postage.

The stamps, of which we give annexed the engravings, are a pair issued in the autumn of 1865 by the same company, and value respectively, 10 paras and 2 piastres. These, we believe, are used to prepay postage of letters between



the above-named places. In this matter of carriage of letters we presume the company is specially privileged, and has authority to emit these stamps. The stamp having the eagle above the steamship is the higher value, blue and red; the other is impressed rose on blue.



FINLAND.—*Helsingfors.* — 10 penni, rose and green, 1866.

„ *Tammerfors.* — 12 penni, blue and green, 1866.

The former of these stamps, we learn from our Belgian contemporary, was issued by a private company, which had obtained an authorisation to establish a local post in Helsingfors. The inscriptions are STADS-POST (Swedish), KAUPUNGIN POSTI (Finnish), both meaning “City post;” 10 PENNIA, the

value in Swedish; and 10 PENNI in Finnish. This, the only value, is employed indifferently for letters and packets, whatever the weight, which are received and delivered within the city, and is, we think, fully entitled to be included in the present division, as a specially sanctioned stamp.



Of the second of the above pair we have not equally precise information, but we may well argue that, as special permission was necessary for the emission of the Helsingfors, it must also have been required for the Tammerfors. No unauthorised postal speculation would be allowed in Russia. If, therefore, as is most probable, the stamp was emitted by a private company who have special government sanction, it is entitled to a high position among locals. In this division, we should observe, we include only stamps respecting whose *bona-fide* postal employment we have trustworthy information, or indirect evidence. The Tammerfors we have never seen postmarked, but its comparative rarity (though put at a low price in dealers' catalogues, it is by no means easily obtained) is, in itself, valuable collateral evidence that it is not merely made to sell.



DANUBIAN STEAM NAVIGATION COMPANY.— 10 soldi, lilac; 17 soldi, rose; issued in 1866. —As we explained at the time these stamps appeared, this company, which has the contract for carrying the Austrian mails up the Danube, has the privilege of charging an own extra rate, for its benefit, upon letters delivered on board the steamer after post hours. This privilege being conferred on the company by the state, and letters which do

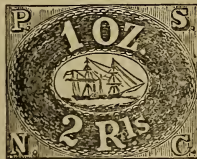


not bear the additional stamp not being accepted, we are justified in placing these stamps in the second division. Postmarked specimens, of both values, are common. Not

long since, the higher value was withdrawn, being, we presume, found unnecessary. The design is the same for both denominations, and though simple, the colours are at once so brilliant and delicate, that they have a very good effect.

LA GUAIRA.—The stamps which bear this name consist of two types: one, finely engraved, with the values in *reales*; the other, coarsely engraved, with value in *centavos*. The former, prepared, we believe, by Waterlow & Co., were issued in La Guaira; the others were made and issued in the island of St. Thomas. It is not necessary to enlarge upon these stamps, as they are well known, and generally accepted as genuine. It is sufficient, in justification of our inclusion of them in this division, to observe that they were emitted under special sanction, by a company which had contracted with the Venezuelan government for the conveyance of the mails to and from the seaports of La Guaira, and Puerto Cabello, and the island of St. Thomas—the point of departure for the West Indian mail steamers.

PACIFIC STEAM NAVIGATION COMPANY.—This company, similarly to the one last referred to, was, under a contract with the Peruvian government, employed for a few months in carrying mails along the Pacific sea-board. There are two values only—1 real, and 2 reales; but opinions differ as to the number of colours in which these values were printed during the period of their circulation; some asserting that the 1 rl. was printed only in blue, and the 2 rls. in red-brown, both on paper deriving a bluish tint from the gum; whilst others affirm that these colours are met with on white paper also; and that the 1 rl. red, and 2 rls. blue (on white), were likewise in circulation. These latter are said to have been received shortly after the contract terminated, and



were, presumably, the last in use. The stamps now generally vended by dealers are reprints, made, no doubt, by the company itself, which is still in existence.

(To be continued.)

NEWLY-ISSUED OR INEDITED STAMPS.

WE are indebted to an esteemed correspondent for an early view of three novel and peculiar stamps. We refer to those which have been emitted for the

ORANGE FREE STATE.—The appended engraving renders minute description on our part unnecessary. Our readers, equally with ourselves, will, we are sure, be struck with the appropriateness of the unique central design—an orange-tree flanked by post-horns. The Orange State, of which few of us can have had a very distinct conception, will now become an entity, with these stamps to evidence its existence. We commend the Boer minister for coming to England for them; he has secured something respectable in the way of a postal emission, instead of an ugly primitive set, such as the country itself would have produced. The values are:

Een [1] penny light-brown.

Zes [6] pence rose.

Een shilling orange-yellow.

Moens speaks of the penny as dark-orange, but our specimen is decidedly brown, without a tinge of orange. Perhaps our Belgian friend looked at the stamps by night. The colours are delicate, and the stamps, which are perforated and unwater-marked, are decidedly welcome additions.

PARAGUAY.—Last month we published a letter from an American correspondent, giving particulars of a new stamp for this state, value 5 reales, which he had obtained. The device is stated to be the head of a Paraguayan celebrity; and the colour, bright-vermilion. We have now before us two specimens of another value—5 centavos—a finely-executed and beautiful stamp. It is oblong in shape, and bears, in an oval in the centre, the representation of a large



steamship sailing to right; above, REPUBLICA; below, PARAGUAY; to the left, CINCO; to the right, CENTS; and in the angles small shields bearing the numeral of value. The paper is thin and rather poor, not such as is usually employed by the American Bank-Note Company; and the perforations are also different in appearance; we, therefore, do not think this company can be the manufacturers of the stamp. The two specimens we describe from are postmarked, one of them heavily; the other shows the date, January 3rd. Probably the emission took place on New-Year's Day. We should add, the colour of the 5 cents is red, a hue very similar to that of the Nova Scotian 10 c.

ROUMANIA.—Our readers have here the representation of the new type which was emitted on the 1st February.



The difference in design will appear on comparison with the preceding series. The colours of the new emission vary in depth, especially the lowest value. A correspondent inquires of us what is the worth of the new denomination, "bana," or "bani." We await information ourselves on this point.

INDIA.—The "Service-postage" genus is receiving fresh additions every month. This time we have to intro-

duce an oblong specimen of the annexed type. This, if originally a bill-stamp, bears no inscription denotive of its former use. Its shape is certainly that of a revenue label, but we observe that, unlike the others, the corners have not been lopped off. The perforations border all four sides. The words, SERVICE POSTAGE, are printed in green; the stamp itself is violet, and is on white paper.



Respecting the exact employment of these service stamps, a correspondent, holding an official position in India, writes us, that they are issued to public officers not entitled to

frank, and are supposed, like the Western Australian with hole in centre, to pass *only* letters on the public service. He adds, "Whether the rule is carried out strictly I cannot say; but I know that any one can buy 'Service' stamps at the collector's cutcherry."

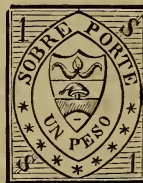
VICTORIA.—This colony has emitted a rather pretty stamp, of the high value of five shillings. The design is neat and effective; the colour in which it is printed, dark-blue. The paper employed is of a yellowish tint, bears the new watermark—crown surmounted by v—and is perforated.



NEW GRANADA.—We now give the engravings of the two other values of the SOBRE PORTE in their new types. The design is simple to an extreme, but not ugly. Both are printed in black on coloured paper.



25 c. flesh.



50 c. pale-blue.

M. Moens chronicles an *erreur d'impression*—50 c. red, of the fifth emission. His specimen is postmarked, and therefore most probably an original.

THE AZORES.—We are also indebted to our Belgian contemporary for notice of a provisional issue for these islands, consisting of the current Portuguese stamps, with the word AZORES impressed across the front. The reason which M. Moens gives for this emission—a depreciation in Portuguese money—we do not quite comprehend. Three of the values, 10, 25, and 120 reis, are perforated; the rest are not. The colours are the same as for the ordinary series. Perhaps this set is only the forerunner of a regular issue.

MEXICO.—The 4 reales red on yellow (Hidalgo) is now in use.

STATE OF MAGDALENA.—Our conjecture, that the stamp we lately described and engraved was not a postal, is confirmed. It is a fiscal label, and the proceeds of its sale go to the fund for public education. All our readers, therefore, who are interested in the march of intellect in South America should buy a specimen to help on the good work.

CHILI.—To whomsoever else the design of the new stamps gives satisfaction, it does not meet the approval of Chilian philatelists. *Le Timbre-Poste* contains a long critique upon them from a native collector, and we have received a letter written in the same strain, the burden of the complaint being that routine has prevailed over other considerations in the adoption of Columbus' head for the type of the series. It would have been better had the national arms been chosen, says our correspondent, and better still had a different design been chosen for each value, emblematic of something or representing some person, more closely connected with Chili than the great navigator.

CUBA.—M. Mahè notes the existence of a variety of the 1 real plata f. of the 1864 series, printed in blue on lilac, exactly like the 2 c. of the Spanish series of the same year.

UNITED STATES.—We have had forwarded to us specimens of several of the current stamps on paper with indented horizontal and perpendicular lines on the back. A copy of the three cents shows these lines covering the entire surface, the effect being to divide it into small raised squares. Other values have the lines in the centre, occupying altogether a space of about three-eighths of an inch square, and in these latter the lines are closer together and but lightly impressed. The object in impressing them was to cause the stamp to come to pieces if an attempt were made to take it off the envelope. The lines covering the entire stamp were first tried for this purpose, and these being found a failure, the lines occupying a rectangle in the centre of the stamp were employed, the idea being that upon an attempt at removal that portion containing the portrait would remain attached to the letter, and the surrounding portion alone come off. This plan has, however, also proved useless. A corres-

pondent sends us a gummed and perforated impression of the three cents, in black. We are tempted to consider it a 'changeling,' if not, it is probably an essay. The authorities would hardly think of adding another black stamp to the couple already in use.

BOLIVIA.—We have been favoured with a sight of two new values for this secluded state, and with information of a third. We have before us specimens of

10 centavos dark-brown.

50 „ dark-blue.

The design resembles that of the 5 c., whilst showing some minor differences, sufficient to evidence the fact that both are from special dies. The lettering is in smaller type, the eagle is on a ground of perpendicular lines, and the ground of the angles is formed of horizontal lines. The external frame, consisting of a single line, is at a greater distance from the rectangular disk. The corner figures of the 10 c. are in small transverse ovals, those of the 50 c. are placed on the groundwork, and not upon an oval. The central oval of the 50 c. is formed of two thick and two thin lines. The paper is rather thinner, and pure white. Both specimens under notice are obliterated. The third novelty is the 5 c. printed in violet instead of green. The former colour is not, however, obsolete.

BRITISH COLUMBIA.—We have received specimens of the threepence in bistre, with a provisional value, TWO CENTS, impressed in black ink in lower margin. It has no doubt been thus issued for use until the arrival of the supply of a new series, with decimal denominations.

CANADA.—We are also just in time to note the emission of a 15 cents for this colony. The device is somewhat similar to that of the Nova Scotian 2 c., but the Queen's head is turned to the right, and is in a larger circle. The inscription above is CANADA POSTAGE; below, the value in full, and the numeral of value in the lower corners. This stamp is perforated and unwatermarked.

SOUTH AUSTRALIA.—We have had information that a new series is being prepared by De-la-Rue, to supersede the existing mediocrities. We must defer all details until next month.

NOTES ON THE LATER STAMP FORGERIES.

BY DR. BOLEY.

LIVONIA.

INSCRIPTION, PACKENMARKE DES WENDENSCHEN KREISES (green); BIEFEMARKE DES WENDENSCHEN KREISES (pink); oblong stamps.

In the genuine stamps the background is formed by very fine wavy reticulations, running horizontally, every line being perfectly distinct and clear; the letters forming the word WENDEN are also shaded by fine lines, and there is a chain-pattern border round the stamps.

In the two forgeries we find that the wavy lines forming the background are by no means distinct, especially in the green stamp, which moreover has numerous patches of green shading, obscuring the pattern of the background; the shading of the word WENDEN is thick, and formed of black lines, and the chain pattern of the border is very defective, especially in the lower line.

Red stamp with green disk.

Here in the genuine stamp we find the background consists of a very distinct reticulated pattern, the lines composing which run in a perpendicular direction. There is in each corner an ornament with a white star in the centre, from which *three* small round spots project towards the interior of the stamp. The colour is carmine.

In the forgery the background is formed of coarse wavy lines running perpendicularly, but exhibiting little or no trace of reticulation. The corner spots are but *two*, and the colour is a pale-pink.

MEXICO.

The forged set of the first issue in which the word MEJICO reads as MEDICO, is probably known to most collectors; there is, however, a later forgery of this same issue, which may be as easily detected by observing that in the genuine stamp the oval which immediately surrounds the head is divided into four segments, whereas in the forgery it is formed of one continuous line.

MODENA.

"Tassa Gazzette."

This has always been a favourite with the

forgers. The number of imitations are too numerous to describe, but all may be detected by observing the following points which are to be found in the true stamp, but more or less absent in the spurious.

1st.—Colour, greyish-white, not white.

2nd.—Letters even, and nowhere touching the circle in which they are enclosed. The N in CENT is badly formed, the stroke next the T being turned towards the left.

3rd.—Figure 10 is of the same size as the letters.

4th.—There are three stops, the first large, between T of TASSA and C of CENT, is nearest the T, and in the centre of the circle; the second, between the T of CENT and figure 10, is not quite so large as the first, it lies nearly midway between the letter and figure, but is on a level with the base of the letters; the third between figure 10 and E of GAZZETTE is the same size as the second, lies about midway, but perhaps a trifle nearer the 10, and, like the first, occupies the centre of the circle.

NOTE.—The whole series of Modena stamps has been reprinted, and amongst the rest the misprints. These originally were probably about four or five. I have post-marked copies of CNET 5, CETN 15, CENI 10, and CENT 49, but by the ingenuity of the reprinters, they have been increased to a dozen or more, such fancy varieties, however, are almost as worthless as forgeries.

MONTEVIDEO.

Block, 120, 180, 240 cents.

The forgeries of this set also are very numerous, but the two following are, I believe, as yet undescribed.

120 c., blue. *Genuine*.—The long rays of the sun touch the inner circle at many points.

The four round ornaments in each corner are shaded by horizontal lines. The colour is whitish-blue.

Forged.—The sun's rays do not touch the inner circle at any point.

The dots in the lower left-hand corner are unshaded, being small circles; in the other corners mostly solid spots with no marks of lines. The colour is a dark ultramarine-blue,

240 c., red.—In this forgery the sun's rays,

like the genuine, touch the inner circle at several points, but the dots at the corners are all solid spots of colour.

NEWFOUNDLAND.

1d., red-brown.—A very poor imitation: the crown in the centre is badly formed, especially on the left side; the cross and orb are out of shape, the former much larger than the genuine, the latter smaller and very indistinct.

5d., red-brown.—Rather better than the 1d., but still much inferior to the genuine. The lace-like pattern of the ground—which in the genuine is very clearly seen in the pointed ornaments that divide the rose and trefoil at the top, the rose and thistle at bottom, the rose and thistle at the left side, and trefoil and rose at the right—cannot be traced in the forgery.

3d., green triangular.

The execution of this forgery is much better; still here also the attempt to imitate the fine lace-like pattern of the genuine stamp has proved a failure. In the genuine the background is divided into three parts by a variety of the pattern running horizontally across, and the pattern can be distinctly seen in the background; whereas in the forgery the background at these lines of division is represented solid, showing no appearance of pattern, except at the upper and shortest division, where some slight traces of it are to be seen. The rose, shamrock, and thistle in the centre are very imperfectly shaded.

2d., 4d., 6d., 6½d., and 1s., lake.

These may all be detected by observing the ground-work; they are inferior to the 3d. in execution, and exhibit but small traces of the regular pattern of the genuine.

NOVA SCOTIA.

3d., blue.—Here again we have but a coarse imitation of the lace-pattern of the genuine stamp. The crown is not in the centre, being pushed up, as it were, against the upper angles. The lower star in the genuine is occupied by a flower having four distinct leaves, and three bell-shaped flowers. In this forgery the flower appears formed of one leaf, and the lower leaf on the left-

hand is imperfect, as though half were broken off. The rose in the upper star in the genuine rises distinct from its leaves; here it appears to rest upon them, and can hardly be distinguished.

6d., green.—The same remarks will apply in all points to this forgery.

NEW GRANADA.

The older forgeries are very numerous, but have been probably for the most part described. The following are later:

1864.—Device on coloured ground, with ornaments at the angles, 5 c., orange; 10 c., blue; 20 c., vermilion. The two first may be immediately detected, being printed in the wrong colours,—the orange stamp being blue, and the blue in green. In the 20 c., which is correct as to colour, we observe that the two cornucopias, which in the genuine occupy the upper division of the shield, are represented by an object somewhat resembling the wings of a bird; the middle, which should contain the cap of liberty, here more resembles a trefoil or the ace of clubs, with a small feather at the top. The white oak leaves at the sides, which in the genuine are large and very nearly touch the sides of the shield and of the disc, are very thin, and are far from touching anywhere, the shield is longer and narrower than in the genuine.

Although out of alphabetical order, I here notice a forgery just brought under my notice.

HONG KONG.

2 cents.

This is a very good imitation, and without due examination might easily pass for genuine. It may be detected by observing that in the genuine the upper part of the neck is almost entirely shaded, a very thin line of white being left at the throat. In the forgery it is much larger and very distinct; the lines of shading are not so fine, and the nose too large.

It is probable that the other values are forged, as these forgeries are mostly issued in sets. I have, however, only met with the above as yet.

(To be continued.)

POSTAL CHIT-CHAT.

WE LATELY SAW AN ENVELOPE upon which the half of a 2-piastre stamp of the old issue, cut diagonally, was placed. The specimen was postmarked, and no doubt served as a 1-piastre stamp.

NOT LONG SINCE a sapient official, at the Sheffield post-office, whose geographical knowledge must be rather limited, made out a money-order payable at Boulogne. The order was sent by the person who obtained it, and fendered at the Boulogne post-office, but, we need hardly say, it was not cashed.

GOOD NEWS, IF TRUE.—We have seen a statement in several papers, that the French and English governments are in negotiation with a view to reducing the postage on letters between England and France to 2d. This will be indeed a beneficial reform, even though the same weight be retained, but if the change be thorough the weight will be made a third of an ounce.

A NAME LOST AND FOUND AGAIN.—We heard, not long since, a capital instance of forgetfulness. A gentleman, named White (an Irishman, we believe), who was subject to that sad affliction—absence of mind, was sojourning at the baths of Lucca, and had occasion to go to the post-office there to inquire for some letters which he was awaiting. The clerk, of course, asked him his name, but the gentleman—confused, or absorbed in meditation—was quite unable to answer him: he had forgotten his own name, and was obliged to come away without his letters. Returning homewards, he met a friend, who saluted him with "How-d'ye-do, Mr. White?" "Ah," he exclaimed, "that's my name—that's my name;" and, rejoicing at his discovery, he abruptly left his friend, went back to the post-office, whilst the fact was still fresh upon his memory, and claimed his letters.

PUNCH AND THE POST.—The following extracts from Punch's Answers to Correspondents will amuse our readers:—

ONE WHO DISTRUSTS "QUEEN'S HEADS."—

Trust not for freedom to the Franks,

because they are all abolished. If a stamp comes off, you must stick it on again, by Gum.

TOOTS.—We never do read perfumed letters, and they ought not to be sent through the post. How can we "smell a rat" above all that vile patchouli? Comparisons may be odorous, as Shakspeare says, but the paper they are written on may not.

STAMP-COLLECTOR.—Most advertisers sell forged stamps. We can't see that they are not quite as good as genuine ones, but perhaps it is hardly fair to sell stamps as the productions of a country in which such things are unknown. When you are in doubt, however, call on the ambassador for the place in question, and he will either certify or condemn the article. You pay him sixpence a dozen.

CORRESPONDENCE.

THE EMBLEM ON THE BASLE STAMP.

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

DEAR SIR,—In reply to the query respecting the key or emblem on the Basle postage stamp, I beg to state that it is the coat of arms for that canton, and that it had its origin when the canton was governed by a bishop; it was then the head of the bishop's crozier, and was placed on a staff. When the canton was purchased from the bishop by the people, the staff was taken away, and the point at the bottom added in its stead, and thus was made their badge or coat of arms. I enclose a heading of a news-

paper with it on, but it is generally plain, and not on a shield, and is found on all the public buildings, and carried before the mayor on grand occasions. Hoping the above may serve as an explanation,

I am, dear Sir, yours truly,

Croydon.

J. A. COOPER.

UNWATERMARKED SIXPENNY ENGLISH.

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

SIR,—I beg to draw your attention to the fact, that a sheet of 6d. English postage stamps has lately been received at our post-office minus the watermark.

This it may be interesting to some of your readers to know, as there were probably other sheets unwatermarked struck off at the same time.

Enclosed please find one of said stamps, and

Believe me, Sir, yours truly,

Malta.

JAMES TURNBULL.

P. S.—The omission of the watermark is not so apparent on the one stamp enclosed as it was on the sheet of some sixteen or eighteen whereon I first observed them.

PENDRAGON AND HIS ASSERTIONS.

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

DEAR SIR,—The majority of your readers must have perused the lucubrations of Pendragon in your last number with mingled surprise and amusement,—surprise that in the present stage of philately such opinions as he enunciates could be held by anyone aspiring to the name of stamp collector; amusement at the dogmatic and high-flown manner in which those opinions are expressed.

"As who should say,

I am Sir Oracle,

And when I ope my mouth let no dog bark."

There is no mincing of the matter with Pendragon. All who differ from him are given to the practice of absurd and futile extremes, and to the upholding of pernicious doctrines. Their ideas are ridiculous, their ways are foolish, and altogether worthy of nothing more than a compassionate pooh-pooh from the well-informed Pendragon. Well, at any rate it is something gained to have a plain-spoken opponent, and it may be worth while to examine, as soberly as possible, his objections to the present creed of philately, and determine their extent and value.

To commence then, the first line of Pendragon's article opens with an unfounded assumption, namely, that there is, as opposed to French ideas of collecting, an English school of philately. The phrase has been used by one or two previous objectors, but never without a protest being made against its creation. The mass of English collectors of standing, in default of any better-arranged book, have placed their stamps in Lallier's albums. Have they, in deference to the principles set forth by Pendragon, omitted, when it was in their power, to fill the spaces allotted to perforated varieties of adhesives, to shades, or to envelopes with inscriptions on different sides? Has anything like a definite protest been made within the last two years against the inclusion of perforated and unperforated stamps in albums or catalogues? Surely had the English school, in whose name Pendragon so loftily declaims, any distinct existence, it would have shown, in some unequivocal manner, its desire to be freed from the sway of French ideas. The truth seems to be, that Pendragon is himself the founder of the school which he has christened "the English," but which, from its relation to the present ideas on stamp-collecting, might well be termed the antediluvian school of philately, or still more appositely,

its followers might bear the proud and distinctive name of Pendragonites.

Only on the understanding that he speaks in the name of his disciples and himself, is his assumption of the term "we" (which you properly condemn) at all justifiable. Accepting then this article as the Pendragonite declaration of faith, let us see what are its principal points. The starting-point of the new school is "the beginning" in Birchin-lane, 1861, when it is assumed certain "standards of collecting" were in vogue. How far this is the fact, those who participated in the mania are in a position to judge. At that time there were no catalogues, no magazines, no dealers, save the street itinerants and exchangers, no communication between philatelists, no method in collecting, and very little knowledge as to what were and what were not stamps. That was the time when barefaced fabrications, such as the Jerusalem, the Tahiti, and fifty other imaginary stamps, were thought worth investing in by even the better-informed collectors; when, moreover, a collection of 200 stamps was considered a respectable one, and one of 500 a prodigy. What standards could possibly have existed at such a period, when there were no means of arriving at any preliminary conclusions, and no general concurrence of opinion on any given point? It is only now that anything like definite principles are capable of being established. By a gradual process the whole tribe of worthless essays has been eliminated from among the proper objects of collection; Hamburg locals are estimated at their true worth, and authentic information has been obtained regarding the local American stamps. Contemporaneously the careful studies of really earnest collectors have made manifest many of the lesser details of stamps which escaped the notice of earlier examiners, but which are none the less the keys to problems as to date of issue, &c., which would have otherwise remained unsolved. Thus the ground has been cleared, and opinions resting upon something like a solid basis may be formed. For those which rest only upon the standard of collecting in 1861 we confess we have not much respect.

Dr. Gray is brought forward most unjustifiably as an adherent to those standards. It is true his first edition hardly noticed differences in colour of paper, and other no less important points. But it is no less true that great modifications have taken place in the plan and arrangement of late editions. In some of his views the learned doctor was always peculiar, and had they governed the preparation of the two later editions, it may be well supposed there would have been but little demand for them. In the current edition the different series are divided off by date, and impressions on different coloured papers are duly catalogued. As for Mount Brown, I do not seek to justify his inclusion of essays, proofs, &c., but it is only fair to say, that at the time his addenda was published he did but go with the stream.

Pendragon, after his condemnation of Mount Brown, goes on to state why stamps should be collected—the reasons in his opinion being, the beauty of their designs, or any singularity or historical or geographical interest which may attach to them. Upon this ground many ugly stamps belonging to great countries, and not possessing any special historical or geographical interest, would have to be excluded, unless indeed the singularity of their ugliness should constitute a reason for their admission. Pendragon is truly a worshipper of pretty stamps, and being so, one would think he would hardly object to the collection of locals, a goodly proportion of which are brilliant and tasteful.

Pendragon would collect everything which "materially affects the impression," "essentially alters" its appear-

ance, or "interferes" with it, so long as such variations are made by government authority. His limitations are so loosely worded, that, to use the old phrase, it would not be difficult to drive a coach-and-six through them, and prove that under them everything collectable is included. Certainly, to take one point, perforation, which is always an addition by government authority, materially alters the look of a stamp.

I will not undertake to say that all *accidental* varieties of watermark should be collected, but beyond a doubt all authorised varieties should be, as in many cases they "interfere" with the impression by showing through. This is an argument for Pendragon's benefit. I will not urge the utility of collecting them as important evidences of genuineness, as he has condemned their collection as "absurd" for this purpose, because if stamps are fixed after some original immutable law which Pendragon has heard of—a law made "in the beginning" in Birchin lane, I presume—the watermark would not show. If he sticks down all his stamps, "after the manner in which they were first intended to be secured," I wish him joy, should he ever try to take them out to put them in a fresh album.

I venture to urge that the study of paper is useful, notwithstanding Pendragon's veto. By attention to it, reprints may be easily distinguished from originals. Moreover the appearance of a stamp is not unfrequently "materially altered" by the paper on which it appears.

I must not intrude farther at present on your space, on which I have already too much encroached, save to inquire of Pendragon in what catalogue he finds *sixteen thousand* stamps described? I should like to obtain enlightenment on one or two other points, but must defer my inquiries till another time

Yours faithfully,
Cheicester. OBSERVANT.

THE ARGENTINE LARGE-FIGURE STAMPS, PENDRAGON'S PHILIPPIC, &c.

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

DEAR SIR,—With respect to the "large-figured Argentine controversy," I beg to call the attention of your readers to the fact, that I have, at very great length, stated my entire views on this subject, with the reasons which have induced me to adopt these views; and I have neither time nor inclination to continue the subject beyond a few words (due, in justice to myself), in reply to your notes on my letter in your February impression. You object to my making comparison between a doubtful stamp and a known original, and go so far as to say, that such a comparison is "far from conclusive." If you will assert fallacies, of course it is a waste of time on my part to attempt to disprove them.

You object to my using proved differences between an original stamp and a doubtful one, as conclusive (or, indeed, as any) evidence against that dubious stamp, and seem to lay down, as an axiom for collectors, that comparison of supposed reprints with old and unused genuine specimens is not conclusive. Of course, so glaring an error does not need reply from me; it is evidently a typographical error, and, as such, is to be excused.

You seem to consider that a stamp, after a lapse of ten years, would become less substantial than when first printed. Can this, too, be a typographical error? or is it a development of the Banting system?

You gladly accept Mr. Wood's letter as proof of the accuracy of the statistics, whilst you, on the same page, admit that my letter proves the inaccuracy of the same, with respect to the 5 c. value.

Few collectors can be aware of the gross manner in

which the Argentine stamps are tampered with, and I will therefore draw attention to the latest importation from that fruitful source, the *Argentine Official*, the hushed mention of whose name is to be taken as conclusive evidence of authenticity, and which it would be sacrilege, or, to descend lower, "a coarse and vulgar attack," to doubt.

Everyone knows now that a new issue has been engraved, and new stamps printed, for the Argentine Republic. Pending the arrival of the new sheets, the stock of the 5 c. (Rivadavia's head, watermark, A. R.) was exhausted, and it was provisionally issued and used (for a month perhaps, *i.e.*, until the arrival of the new stamps), on thin unwatermarked paper, both imperforate and perforate. This has now been superseded by the 5 c. of the new series, which bears the head of Rivadavia; the stocks of 10 and 15 c. Rivadavia, watermark A. R., being extensive, they are being used up, and, on their exhaustion, the new series will supersede them. Hence it will be seen that the only stamp of the Rivadavia series which was struck for issue upon unwatermarked paper was the 5 c.; and there being no necessity for such a provisional issue of 10 and 15 c. (the watermarked stamps not being used up, and the new stamps of those values being in hand awaiting the exhaustion of the Rivadavias), those specimens which the *Timbre-Poste* introduces to our notice as 10 and 15, on thin unwatermarked paper, unperforated, must, of necessity, be made for sale: they are a swindle from beginning to end. These things are foisted on to us by the French papers,—the *Timbre-Poste* first, then the *Timbrophile*; though Mahé, in the latter, gives them in a passive manner, as if dubious about them, but still does not *express* any doubt: he says, "*Republique Argentine*. Les 10 et 15 c. sur papier uni, non dentelés, out également existé." The Parisians are usually pretty knowing, but they have been "sold" this time; and it is not the first time Mahé has followed Moens' lead.

From this little account of the latest Argentine reprint, the intelligent collector may glean a moral, which may be connected with the large-figured issue. If the dies of a current issue have been so mis-used, is it probable that the dies of an obsolete issue would be respected? Or, if they *invent* stamps, sending them over *as a new or as a provisional issue, would they scruple to fabricate an old one?*

Your correspondent, F. H. B., calls attention to an error of mine with respect to the Brunswick stamps, in which he is quite correct. I stated that the first-issued Brunswick stamps were watermarked with a posthorn. I sincerely regret this mistake, which was solely allowed to pass because I did not have the proof sheets of that paper for correction, owing to pressure of time. I am aware that this is no satisfaction to any one whom I may have misled; but that the cause of the error is that which I state, is patent from the fact of an error having occurred in the same number of *The Philatelist* with respect to "Hints on Collecting," of which I am the writer. Had the proofs been sent for revision, the publication of a wrong portion of that paper could not have happened. In the same part of "Forged Stamps" is another error, which has not been noticed, namely, the statement that British Guiana *patimus* were always authenticated by initials upon them; it is the large oblong *patimus* which are so authenticated, never the rectangular *patimus*. This is an error caused by quick writing, and which would be detected instantly in revising the proofs.

Dr. Boley is not quite right yet about the v. r. English. Many perfectly genuine postmarked copies exist, so an obliteration does not necessarily condemn.

With respect to the half-anna India, the only certain

test is that which cannot be well imitated. The fact of the red half-anna having nine-and-a-half arches is very little guide, because it is a stamp worth forging well; and as very fine forgeries are now produced, often nearly resembling fac-similes, there is no reason why a fine forgery should not be made of this great rarity. The only true test is the paper—its peculiar hardness and tint cannot be imitated; the paper of single specimens oftentimes presents portions of that large watermark which occupies the entire sheet on which they were struck, and which watermark is the great proof that the red half anna was struck for issue (though for some reason rejected and never put into circulation), as the same watermark is found on the sheets of all the early Indians; it has been engraved in the pages of this magazine.

It is remarked in your February number that the crown and v watermark of Victoria is common to the 10d. New South Wales. Permit me to correct this. The only stamps bearing that watermark which I have are 1d., 2d., 3d., 4d., and 5/ of Victoria; the watermark of the 10d. New South Wales being thin italic numerals of value.

It is further remarked, in the March magazine, that the 3d. New Zealand was issued in 1864, of a pale shade, watermarked N. Z. This is an error of Levaullé's; and he is singularly inaccurate in his lists of Australian stamps, as pointed out by Mr. J. P. in his lengthy and very able critique on the "Catalogue Berger," which recently appeared in the *Timbre-Poste*, and which all collectors should read. I am not aware myself of any 3d. being issued for New Zealand, unless with the star watermark.

In conclusion, I should like to say a few words on the philippic by Pendragon in your March number. This writer is so severe, that I hardly like to tackle him, but that through it all I think he has rather a leaning towards those "pernicious doctrines," the introduction of which he seeks to prevent (rather late in the day to try it) into England. Pendragon falls into the error of considering that they whom he terms the "French school" collect everything, and draws attention to the variety and senseless combinations of our English envelopes. I am a staunch collector of the French school, yet none can accuse me of indiscriminate collecting. Have not I written against those very English envelopes myself (especially in the August *Philatelist*), and shown the absurdity of them? The absurdity, too, of collecting essays that are to be had in sets of hundreds of variety only wants to be mentioned to be appreciated. I have ever written against indiscriminate collecting, and ever shall; whilst, at the same time, contending for the acknowledgment of every variety which has official origin, and marks any new phase of the stamp.

Pendragon will make two varieties of a stamp which exists with and without a thread in the substance of the paper, but will not allow a stamp to be in two different forms when it exists with and without a watermark. The utility of a thread is as a protection against forgery; a watermark answers the same purpose, only more effectively. He would not take threads into account, however, only that they alter the appearance of the stamp, which rather lowers him in our estimation; for it did seem that there must be some better reason for acknowledging a thread than the mere look of the thing. It is a wonder that he does not collect perforations, for they do truly make a difference in appearance. He would not collect watermarks, because "when a stamp is properly secured in an album, after the manner in which it was first intended to be secured, a knowledge of the watermark is utterly impossible of attainment." Very true, but collectors of the French school take care to mount their stamps so that the watermarks may be at once

referred to, and they do not consider that the proper way to secure a stamp in an album is to fasten it down so securely that it can never be moved; this is an error which even non-collectors of watermarks must acknowledge, and which does not seem to have struck him. For our "edification," he tells us that he and the other *Dragons* "do not notice the envelope inscriptions any more than they do the inscriptions round a sheet of our penny adhesives." It is as well to know this, because Pendragon discovers that when the inscription of an envelope crosses the stamp it makes a fresh variety; yet, when the inscription goes above or below the stamp, he cuts its acquaintance,—in fact, he is not aware that any inscription exists; when it goes through a stamp he cannot miss it, and is obliged to make it a fresh variety. Such acuteness is indeed gratifying.

He next inquires about the Austrian complementary, and wishes to know something about anyone who collects them, or, as he classically puts it,—“who bothers his head about them?” I am sorry I cannot give him the name and address of the collector, but he might obtain the name of that bewildered amateur through the medium of your advertising columns.

If he cannot agree with us, he must be content to stop where he commenced, taking as his motto the singularly unsatisfactory one of *noli me tangere*. It is a pity so large a body as the philatelists of England can have no better motto than this, but what is to be done? In common with everyone else, we have read of that prophet, who finding a certain mountain treated him with levity, taking no notice of him, pocketed his dignity and came to the mountain; so the irate Pendragon, finding we object to come to him, will perchance find he will have to come to us.

Yours faithfully,

Birmingham.

EDWARD PEMBERTON.

[Appropriating the opening phrases of the above letter, we would observe, that “We have, at very great length, stated our entire views on this subject, and the reasons which have induced us to adopt these views, and we have neither time nor inclination to continue the subject.” We need but say, that we still hold that comparison of a dubious with a genuine stamp is not conclusive. A difference of texture or tint in paper is not decisive proof that a stamp, said to be an original, is a reprint. All genuine original stamps of the same series are not, in every instance, upon precisely the same paper, or of precisely the same shade of colour; and in a case like the present, where the stamp comes from a remote country, in which the printing of the supplies is not likely to have been very methodical, such differences as we allude to cannot be taken as convincing proof of a too-recent origin.]

The attempt to prejudice the question, by bringing in the varieties of the 10 and 15 c. Argentine of the present issue, does not require comment.

Our readers can now, with the opposite theories fully before them, form their own opinion on the matter. Further correspondence, unless disclosing material facts, is, we think, unnecessary, and cannot be accepted.

We must not, whilst on this subject, forget to acknowledge the justice of Mr. Pemberton's correction respecting the watermark of the 10d. New South Wales. The error had escaped our attention.—Ed.]

ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS.

WEST INDIAN.—The Nevis sixpenny has not yet been issued in the new shade.

L. P. T.—The 3 centesimi Roman is not yet obsolete. No doubt it will not be long before it is so.

F. E. C.—You will find a description of the stamp you refer to in the present number, under the article “Locals, and their Value.”

R. D. J., Trinity College, Cambridge.—The 1½d. Jamaica is a receipt stamp, which has been occasionally used for postage, as also the 1d. revenue of the same island.

J. F. M., Carmarthen.—Forty-three photographs are now published for Lallier's album. Probably the others will be ready shortly.

J. P.—We think your half-anna red India stamp must be genuine, as it agrees with genuine copies we possess. It is, however, the first postmarked specimen we have ever met with.

A POSTAGE STAMP, Liverpool.—You will find all the information you require, in reference to the derivation of the word “philately,” in an article on p. 182 of vol. iii., entitled, “What shall we call it?”—Many thanks for your good wishes.

I.—The stamp of which you send sketch is a Peruvian fiscal. We have not yet seen a Cashmere stamp on glazed paper. If as you state your specimen on this paper is unquestionably genuine, you may congratulate yourself on the possession of a unique variety.

G. J. W. A., Sherborne.—The impression you send for opinion is merely the name and address (with date in centre), of the firm by whom the letter on which it appears was sent, not a postal in any degree. It is not uncommon for large firms to use a moveable date-stamp of this kind.

E. A. C., Liverpool.—Your two Finland are genuine re-impressions.—The green Peru has been known since the autumn of 1866; an engraving of it appears in our September number for that year.—The Paraguay is new to us, and is noticed in our monthly chronicle, as also the 3 c. black, U.S., which we believe to be a metamorphosed specimen.

G. M. C., Cheltenham.—This correspondent favours us with a confirmation of the fact, that there are no stops at the end of the word *COLOX* on the old Chilian stamps, as argued by one of our contributors some time since. We see no reason why this word should appear at all on the stamps. It is unnecessary to give the name of the worthy represented, and absurd to put it in larger letters than the name of the country.

Miss C. T., Rochester.—The change in the colour of the covers was an undesirable, but unavoidable one. The publisher would have preferred continuing the original green, but the manufacture of that particular shade had ceased, the colouring ingredients being found injurious to the health of the work-people engaged in preparing the cloth. Mauve was accordingly chosen for the binding of the 4th vol., as a good contrast, but it was impossible to obtain the same shade for the 5th.

C. J. S., Saint Louis, U.S.—The 2 c. lilac, and 5 c. green of Costa Rica, about which you inquire, are fabrications, brought out about five years ago, and noticed by Moens in his *Illustrations*. There are no such things as four and five pesos Buenos Ayres blue. We have not space to go into explanations here, and must refer you to an article which appeared in the magazine for January, 1865, for a full account of these stamps. We can only say here, that the stamps you imagine to be 4 and 5 pesos respectively, are both of the value of 1 peso, and were printed from the insufficiently altered dies of the 5 pesos, yellow.

Miss H. S., Roxburg, Mass., U.S.—We are obliged by your sending us a specimen of the new Paraguayan stamp, which we notice elsewhere.—We cannot name positively the engraver of either the Prussian or Austrian stamps. Probably the former are the work of a Berlin artist named Schilling, whose name appears in microscopic characters on the edge of the bust on the old Prussian envelopes.—A gentleman, resident in London, the author of the papers on British Guiana, New South Wales, and Victoria, which have appeared in these pages, possesses, we have good reason to believe, the largest and finest collection of stamps in the world. It is contained in nine volumes, and comprises splendid specimens of the rarest stamps, proof impressions, and almost all known varieties.

ON "LOCALS" AND THEIR VALUE.

BY THE EDITOR.

(Concluded from page 56).

II.—Second division, continued.

KUSTENDJIE AND TCHERNAWODA.—The addition of the recently-issued stamp for these towns completes the second division. It is unnecessary for us to say much about it, as it was described in our number for February last. It is a *bona-fide* stamp, issued by the Danube and Black Sea Railway Company by virtue of a contract with the Turkish government, and, as such, is worthy of recognition by all classes of collectors.

III.—Stamps issued by private persons, or companies, without government sanction.

In this division are comprised many of the stamps whose right to admission is questioned. They are stamps which, according to information received, serve some postal purpose, but being private speculations, and the emissions being under the control of private individuals, they cannot be accorded the same position as the stamps previously described.

SAXONY.—*Dresden Express Company*.—This company has issued a considerable number of stamps. Berger-Levrault, whose book contains the only complete list, describes thirty. There are, however, only three types, and but six values. The number is made up by including all the differences in paper and perforation. It seems though, to us, almost a waste of labour to catalogue this emission with the same elaboration as a government issue, for it is evident that the varieties in colour, &c., have been made for sale. Thus we find two sets of adhesives are made, one perforated, the other not; and the envelopes, only three values in all, are raised in number to eleven, by differences of paper and colour. When we find that there is a 5 pfennige and a $\frac{1}{2}$ neu. gr. envelope, both of precisely the same value, in use at the same time, a strong presumption is raised against the worth of the varieties generally. The envelopes are printed on buff as well as on white paper, without any real necessity, and without any example in the government issues. The use of these stamps is said to be to pay the company's

charge for the collection of letters, and their delivery at the government post-office. This is the best explanation we can give of their employment, but we admit that more precise information is needed. We believe they are really used for some semi-postal purpose, or we should have included them with the shams. Perhaps one of our German friends can give us the required details.

PRUSSIA—BRESLAU.—*Dienstmann's Institut*.—Similar details are required respecting the stamps of Breslau. In the information given respecting these and the foregoing there is a certain mistiness. One fails to meet with anything definite or authoritative. "It is said," the Breslau are used in the same manner as the Dresden; and it would appear that some sanction must have been given for the establishment of the Institut. We acknowledge we have placed this series with some diffidence in the third division, as it may yet turn out to be no more than a speculation.*

NORWAY—DRONTHEIM AND BERGEN.—These stamps—one issued by a private individual, G. F. Krogh, the other by a company—both appear to be *bona-fide*. There was, for a long time, considerable mystery about the Bergen, but this has been dispelled, and it is now known that the company collected and distributed letters within the town of that name.

AMERICAN LOCALS.—This title opens up a wide field of observation. The American locals, as a whole, were genuine stamps,—that is to say, the greater majority were actually in use at one time for the prepayment of letters from one town to another, from one district of a town to another, or from the street letter-boxes to the central offices in town. They were called into existence by the high rates of the state post-office, and by its lack of facilities for collection and delivery; and when these defects were remedied in the government institution, the occupation of the locals was gone, and they would probably have died out, even had the authorities refrained from prosecuting Blood & Co., of Philadelphia. The original stamps are of considerable

* See Correspondence this month for a confirmation of our doubts.

rarity. We recollect about four years ago a good collection of obliterated impressions was sold for £42. All, or nearly all, the originals have, however, been reprinted, and the copies are as common, in the market, as any stamps. Many of these so-termed reprints being, moreover, not from the original dies, but from similar dies recently made, are, at best, but fac-similes; and when they are from the old plates, still the paper is generally different, and fancy varieties are added. It will be seen, then, that the intrinsic value of the American locals at present sold is very small, as they are, at best, no more than approximations to the originals. Collectors who possess prepared albums, such as Lallier's, must perforce collect them, or let several pages remain blank; and as they cost but little, it is hardly worth while to spoil the appearance of the book by omitting them; but we should certainly not advise those collectors who use blank albums to obtain them.

It would be tedious and unnecessary to give a list of American locals here, distinguishing between forgeries and *bona-fide* stamps. This has already been done in Berger-Levrault's catalogue, and though the discrimination may not always be exact, still, the list there given is the best extant, and may be generally accepted as a trustworthy guide. We need only say, in reference to the "shams," as we shall not be able to specify them under the fifth division, that they are all of comparatively recent origin, and are principally of the cotton-label species.

SWITZERLAND.—*Rigi Kaltbad*.—Though we have often had to describe this stamp to our inquiring correspondents, we must not omit to mention it in its place. It is a stamp which we certainly think worthy of collection, on account of its curious use. The proprietor of the hotel on the Rigi issues it to prepay his charge for carrying his guests' letters to Weggis, 15 miles distant, where is the nearest government post-office. Its value is 15 centimes. The stamps are postmarked before



leaving the hotel, and occasionally reach England on letters side by side, with the official stamp.

IV.—Stamps termed "locals" issued by private companies, but not used for postal purposes.

By this description we should designate the labels issued by English railway companies and circular delivery companies. The former are used simply for the prepayment of carriage of newspapers, which the railways accept as small parcels to be handed to the "consignee." The latter are placed on the envelopes containing circulars delivered by the companies by which they were emitted. Though the post-office at first considered the delivery of prospectuses an infringement on its rights, it would seem, by the revival of the companies, that the point has been given up, and that it is permissible for private corporations or persons to carry circulars as well as newspapers. And, in point of fact, the delivery of circulars, in the provinces at least, is generally performed by hand; and the employment of a firm or company to present them does not place these printed notices on a level with general correspondence. Nevertheless, we would not be supposed to urge the rejection of these stamps. Though not strictly postal, they border upon the title, and are far from being devoid of interest. Further, they are the emissions of a company actually in existence, and in working order, and, as such, entitled to a measure of consideration, which unaccredited locals do not deserve.

V.—Sham "local" stamps.

Under this head we place

HAMBURG LOCALS.—It is doubtful if any of the 116 stamps so termed were ever in use; at any rate, only two or three of Hamer's were. It has been said, that there was, in 1860, a private post in Hamburg, managed by a person of that name, who afterwards handed over the business to Scheerenbeck; but this is, at best, very indefinite. All the stamps now sold are reprints from the original dies, which themselves were of no great value. The Lafrenz, Krantz, and Hamonia series are, if the expression may be allowed, pure and unadulterated humbugs. There is no question whatever that

they are the speculations of an engraver more ingenious than honest, and that they never had the least circulation. As we have said, the Hamers and Scheerenbecks are scarcely a fraction better. They certainly ought not to be collected. Rather than insert such utterly worthless things in an album, it would be better to tear out the pages allotted for them. Lallier is, in a great measure, answerable for the continued collection of these designs, but we hope he will be persuaded to omit the spaces marked for them in his next edition.

CANADA.—*Ker's City Post.*

Winslow & Co.'s Express.

Bancroft's City Express.

Bell's City Post.

The two latter are mere fabrications, got up by American dealers. The two former are, we believe, no better. It is certain that none of them can ever have been used for postal purposes, as the law forbids the establishment of private offices.

We have now come to the end of our list, which, though not in every respect complete, will, we trust, be of some service to our readers.

LIFE IN A PROVINCIAL POST-OFFICE.

(From *All the Year Round.*)

(Concluded from page 50.)

I MUST own that in all country places there is an instinctive suspicion and doubt of the post-office. Sir Walter Scott's type of an inquisitive postmistress, with her two gossips, holding a letter up before the light, is still the prevailing opinion about us; and, in fact, while looking over a number of old postal circulars, a paper which is sent every week to each office, I find that in most instances of dismissal for "tampering with letters" the offender is a postmistress, or a female *employé*. Even ourselves, when some of us resided at a distance, began to fancy there was too great an interest in our private affairs indulged in at the village post-office; and we were wont to examine our seals jealously. I knew a child, whose father was a postmaster, say to some ladies, expressing their anxiety to see what was in

a letter to their brother, "Oh, Miss Emma! you just warm a knife, not too hot, and put it under a seal, and it'll open of itself." The misgiving is not altogether without foundation. A great deal can be known from the outside of a letter, where there is no disposition to pry into the enclosure.

For the poor we were often persuaded both to read and write their letters; and the Irish especially, with whom penmanship was a rare accomplishment, seldom failed to succeed in their eloquent petitions; though no one can realise the difficulty of writing from a Paddy's dictation, where "the pratees, and the pig, and the praiste, God bless him!" become involved in one long, perplexed sentence, without any period from beginning to end of the letter. One such epistle, the main topic of which was an extravagant lamentation over the death of a wife, rose to the pathetic climax, "and now I'm obleeged to wash meself, and bake meself!" The letters of the English poor, on the contrary, were composed of short, bald sentences; except in the case of the miners in our neighbourhood, who generally looked to us to conduct their correspondence with their sweethearts, during the yearly absence of the latter in the strawberry gardens round London. It was no unusual circumstance for them to offer large premiums, as much as sixpence a verse, if we would put in "a bit of poetry," which pleased them equally well whether it was taken, with some slight alteration, from Wesley's hymns or Shenstone's poems. But most frequently the cases brought to us were sorrowful ones, in which we could render no help.

One day a poor woman, who received a quarterly allowance through our office from the relieving-officer of her father's parish, came to us half broken-hearted, because her landlord, a wealthy and titled gentleman, insisted upon her sending her father to the workhouse—a blind, paralytic, and childish old man, whom she had to tend like an infant—as he had made it a rule upon his estate that no "lodgers" should be kept by any of his tenants. The woman felt, as any other tender true-hearted daughter would feel; and she had a vague notion, a common one among the poor, that if the Queen could

only know her wrongs, she would remove them. Another time, a destitute, depressed-looking girl came to ask how much it would cost to send a piece of her mother's shroud to her brother in Australia, as a sure token, she said, weeping, that he would see her face no more. Fancy the mail steamer freighted—for to us and the orphan it bore no other burden—with a shred of a mother's shroud, crossing those thousands of miles of ocean to bear testimony to a wider and more impassable separation. One more story of the poor, with whom we were necessarily brought into contact, and whose gratitude for very trivial kindnesses, as with Wordsworth, "has often left us mourning." At the time of the Crimean war, we were directed to fasten a small pamphlet, containing a list of the killed and wounded, upon the outside of our office window, where everyone could turn over the doom-written leaves. Strange were the faces, hard-featured, homely, weather-beaten faces of working men and women, who clustered round it from morning to night, and read aloud, with slow and laboured effort, the names of our lost soldiers in the East, proclaiming them in our ears with a mournfully monotonous tone, until the list grew familiar to us as our own registered names in the family Bible. Now and then there would be a murmur and thrill of recognition as the hesitating voice of the reader pronounced some name in the list of privates; and once a poor washerwoman, who had set down her basket for a minute to hear about the war, was greeted with the name of her son as one among the dead. She uttered one sharp cry, and then knocked at the office window, and stood face to face with us, the tears streaming down her wrinkled face.

"It's my son!" she cried.

"Is he in the list?" we asked.

"It's my son, my son!" she repeated. She could say no more; and, after a few minutes' weeping, as if there were no more time for sorrow, she passed on to her work, to the blessed necessity of labour.

But the incidents of our office life were often of an amusing character. Sometimes ladies who made their christian names as much a mystery as their age, seemed to re-

gard it as a personal insult to be required to mention them. About two or three years ago, when the slips called money-order applications were issued free to the public, an idea spread abroad that the money-orders themselves would be granted upon payment merely of the commission, and we had quite a run of demands for free orders; most of them being to defray milliners' bills of long standing. A tradesman, whom we knew to be almost insolvent, came on a Sunday morning for a pound's-worth of postage stamps; and, upon their being handed over to him, and payment demanded, replied, with sanctimonious gravity, that he had not brought the money, as he thought "the postmaster might have a scruple against being paid on a Sabbath!" We were, of course, compelled to decline transacting Sunday post-office business on such conscientious terms.

We may say, in conclusion, it is as little understood with what zeal and honourable enthusiasm a great deal of the post-office service is performed, as it is considered how important and necessary it is that this public duty should be transacted upon higher principles than those entering into ordinary business. When the *Violet* mail-packet between Ostend and Dover was lost in 1856, the officer in charge, seeing that the vessel could not be saved, must have spent the last minutes of his life in removing the cases which contained the mail-bags, and so placing them that they floated, when the ship and its crew went down. On another occasion, the mail-master of a Canadian steamer sacrificed his life, when he might have escaped, by going below to secure the mails entrusted to him. I know among our own little staff of servants, hard-worked and under-paid, there is no deficiency of a laudable desire to do their work with spirit and exactness. "They shall press me into the earth," said one of our rural messengers, referring to the unreasonable demands of the public, "but I will do my duty!" On our own parts, how often have we done, what every official in the public service has to do, steadily turned away from our domestic interests, whether of joy or sorrow, and bent our minds from them into a diligent attendance upon the responsibilities devolving upon us.

HOW THEY MANAGE MATTERS IN FRANCE.

BY OVERY TAYLOR.

THE matters we speak of, as our readers may guess, are postal matters. In respect to them, we are not going to retail a mass of statistics, but shall confine ourselves to such details as will, we think, be of interest.

We shall take as our guide a very reliable work, the *Annuaire des postes de l'empire Français*, which occupies in France the same position as the *Postal Guide* in this country.

It opens with a list of the names of the chiefs of the administration since 1797, by which we note that the title has been changed five times. In 1797 the head of the post-office was known as the Commissioner of the Executive Directory; in 1801, as the Commissioner-General; in 1804, as the Director-General; in 1830, as President of the Postal Council; and in 1841, as Director of the Administration of Posts. Since then there has been a return to the simple title of Director-General of the Posts. After this list follows several pages giving the regulations.

Of course, a general monopoly of the carriage of letters is claimed; and to this is also added that of newspapers, periodicals, &c. The monopoly in this country extends only to letters; and the railway companies have taken advantage of the limitation, to make arrangements, and issue stamps, for the carriage of single copies of papers over their lines. The circular delivery companies have also started into existence, for the purpose of affording a cheap means for the delivery of prospectuses and other printed trade announcements; and it would appear, from their being now left alone by our authorities, that they have obtained permission to perform this service. It is fair to add, however, that all printed matter is carried by the French post-office, as we shall hereafter explain, at lower rates.

Books are, as might be expected, exempted from the monopoly, so also are packages of non-political periodicals weighing more than a kilogramme (2 lbs.), and not separately addressed, invoices of goods, railway companies' advices, and judicial proceedings.

Special care is requested to be taken in addressing letters, to name the department in which the town is situated; and as a writer in *Le Timbre-Poste* states that there are 125 communes bearing the same name, this precaution is certainly necessary.

It is forbidden to address letters to what may be termed fancy names, but it is allowable to address to initials only. We do not see much difference ourselves.

Under certain restrictions, the sender of a letter wrongly addressed is allowed to correct the address at the receiving post-office, but, as with us, a letter once posted is never returned to the writer.

There are three distinct tariffs of rates for ordinary letters. First, for the empire generally: for letters sent from one town to another, the charge is 20 centimes for 10 grammes ($\frac{1}{3}$ rd of an ounce); 20 grammes are charged 40 centimes; and above that, up to 100 grammes, 80 centimes. Secondly, for letters received and delivered within the circuit of the same post-office, half the above rates; and thirdly, there is a special rate for letters received and delivered within the capital. The Parisians are much favoured. They may send 15 grammes for 10 c., 30 gr. for 20 c., 60 gr. for 30 c., 90 gr. for 40 c., 120 gr., 50 c. They have thus the benefit of a unique subdivision, and a greater allowance of weight throughout the scale, except with respect to the quantity which may be sent for 40 c.; on this the provincials get the advantage of 10 gr. We may see in this matter how the people of the metropolis are humoured.

Registered letters are only charged 20 c. extra, but senders are required to forward, by the same post, a separate advice to the receiver, at a cost of 10 c. For simple registered letters, if lost, the government allows the sender 50 francs, and no more; but it is otherwise for letters, of which the value is declared, and in respect of which an additional fee is paid. A "declared" letter pays the registration fee, the ordinary rate for carriage, and 10 centimes per 100 francs upon its value; beside which, the receiver must be separately advised of its despatch.

There is yet another branch of the registration system. The post-office receives

precious articles of small dimensions, worth not less than 24 s., and not more than £40, charging a fee for delivery of same of one per cent. on the value stated by sender. For the two latter classes of letters the government are responsible: for the former, up to £80; for the latter, up to £40. The extra fee paid, in fact, represents the insurance; and the government within the last eight years has paid something like £32,000 in satisfaction of claims on account of 138 such letters lost or stolen. That so many should have been missing is, perhaps, to be laid to the fact, that the postmen are not allowed to ascend a house and deliver registered letters to the receivers on their own "flats:" they must be left, like ordinary epistles, with the porter at the entrance. As, on the other hand, a precaution against theft, postmasters have power to detain letters bearing on the envelope any indications of the contents, and also letters enclosed in very thin, transparent envelopes, and therefore readable without opening. The receivers are advised of the arrival of such letters, and must claim them at the office.

Respecting the sealing of registered letters, the authorities are very particular. They must have five seals, one in the centre, and one on the edges of the flaps; all the seals must be alike; and the device upon them must be peculiar to the sender.

The charges on the letters are, as a matter of course, defrayed by stamps. These may be obtained at the post-office, from the postmen, and at all tobacco shops, but, as a rule, at none other. The sale of tobacco is a government monopoly in France, and sellers receive a kind of appointment from the government. They are also obliged to sell the stamps, on which they receive a commission of but one per cent. In Italy, we may add, tobacco, salt, and postage stamps are nearly always found together; it being the peculiar privilege of the state to offer all three for sale, and it is the general rule for one person to sell the three.

We come now to the regulations for printed matter.

Political journals are carried at the rate of 4 centimes, when they do not exceed 40 grammes ($1\frac{1}{3}$ rd oz.) This is only four-

tenths of the English charge, and must be admitted to be a very liberal rate. Generally, this charge is defrayed by the stamp impressed on the journals, which is made to be for a sum covering the government tax and the postage. The 4 centime adhesives are for the use of private individuals wishing to send single copies of such journals by post. Literary and scientific periodicals, published at least once in three months, are carried at half the above rate, that is to say, 2 centimes for 20 grammes. By both classes the charge is augmented by 1 c. for every additional third of an ounce. All miscellaneous printed matter, samples, engravings, lithographs, &c., are forwarded at the rate of 1 centime for 5 grammes, up to 45. For 100 grammes, the charge is the same as for 50—viz., 10 c. Above 100 grammes, the scale ascends by 10 grammes.

Printed notices of birth, marriage, and death, which it is customary to send in France, are charged half the letter rates, that is to say, 5 centimes if received and delivered within the limits of the same post-office; 10 centimes from office to office. Circulars, in form of a letter, are charged at the same rate, to enjoy the benefit of which it is necessary the envelopes be sent unsealed. The cards, which everybody sends to his friends at the New Year, are sent under the same conditions, and so also are photographic *cartes*.

The authorities are very strict in prohibiting the enclosure of written with printed matters, and a contravention of the rule exposes the recusant to heavy penalties. Even manuscripts for the press cannot be sent at book-post rates, except the writer previously requests, upon stamped paper, the permission of the Director-General of the posts for that purpose.

It would appear that book-post packets cannot be registered. This is probably because the post-office prefers to take in all valuable parcels as "declared" letters at extra rates.

We have not exhausted our *matériel*, but we are fearful lest we should exhaust our readers' patience, and therefore defer for another month an account of the present working of the French post-office.

NEWLY-ISSUED OR INEDITED
STAMPS.

WE are now in possession of, as we presume, the entire series of stamps for

THE DOMINION OF CANADA,—consisting of seven values, $\frac{1}{2}$ cent, 1, 2, 3, 6, $12\frac{1}{2}$, and 15 cents. It would be indeed odious to compare them with the issues for another confederation lately formed. They are the work of a newly-formed colonial company, and are worthy to take rank beside any which have been manufactured by the rival companies of New York. The design, as



we stated last month in noticing the 15 c.,—the first of the set to appear,—bears a resemblance to that of the lower values of Nova Scotia, but shows the Queen's head turned to the right. The new "British American Bank-

Note Company, of Montreal and Ottawa," has done well to copy so good a device, and certainly has not spoilt it, as the English engravers did in the four-penny South Australian. Moreover, whilst retaining the central figure, by enclosing it in a differently-patterned frame for each value, they have given greater variety to the series. In all, care has been taken to make the numeral distinct; and it is well that this has been done, as two of the values assimilate considerably in shade. Our engraver has not been very successful in his reproduction of the 15 c., but this is probably hardly his fault, fine steel-engraved stamps being most difficult to render accurately on wood. However, our readers will soon and easily be able to obtain the originals, as most of the values are so low. The half-cent is distinguished from the rest by its smallness—it is quite one third less in size, but the device is the same. The stamps are all printed on substantial paper, are perforated, and of the following colours :

$\frac{1}{2}$ cent,	black.
1 "	dull-red.
2 "	green.
3 "	vermilion.
6 "	brown.

$12\frac{1}{2}$ cents, deep-blue.
15 " mauve.

The two lowest values are for newspapers, and are far from being acceptable, notwithstanding their beauty of design, to the journalists. It had been expected that newspapers would be sent throughout the Canadian provinces free of charge; and there has been, in consequence, a loud but ineffective outcry against the general imposition of even a reduced rate of postage, and more especially at the enactment, that the charge must be paid by senders. "Proprietors of journals," says the *Quebec Chronicle*, "find it hard enough at present to collect the simple subscription, without demanding postage in advance. People who writhe at present under the payment of their bare paper account, will find forwarding postage, in advance, an excruciating sacrifice." The new rate is to be 1 cent for two numbers of a newspaper, until the 1st of January next; after that, 1 cent for every three numbers; the use of the 1 cent is thus explained. The half cent will be employed for single copies. The 2 cents is no doubt primarily intended for soldiers' letters. The 3 cents pays the new single rate for postage; the 6 cents, the charge on letters to the United States. The $12\frac{1}{2}$ cents represents the postage to England; and the 15 c. the rate for letters sent *via* New York. Possibly a 10 c. will yet be added to the series, but the old 17 c. and 24 c. will find no substitutes in it. The new rates came into operation on the 1st April, and we suppose on that date all the pre-existing stamps of Canada, Nova Scotia, and New Brunswick, were withdrawn. It behoves all collectors, whose series for these colonies is not complete, to "make up their books" early, lest they should, at a future time, have to pay a much higher price than at present for the stamps they want.

FRANCE.—Some of the French papers give currency to the report that adhesive newspaper stamps are to be emitted. At present, three kinds of stamps are in use for newspapers, all bearing the same design—an emblematic figure (of France or Justice) beside an altar in a circle. 1.—Stamps representing the government tax, and not prepaying postage. 2.—Stamps which cover

the tax and the postage of the paper within the department in which it is published. 3.—Stamps which include the tax and the postage to any part of the empire. We do not at present recollect the values, but the colours are violet, blue, red. All three kinds are proposed to be issued as adhesives, but whether with the same design or not we cannot say. The alleged necessity for this change is the inconvenience and expense to which provincial printers are put, by having to send the paper for their journals to be stamped at the government office in the chief town of each department. Should the new proposal be adopted, the printers themselves will affix the stamps before printing, and in such a position (on the right-hand column of the front page), that they will be cancelled by the impression. There seems to be a *prima-facie* case made out in favour of the promoters' view, and as a law passed on the 31st of July last year sanctions the use of adhesive journal stamps, they will very probably be issued. A similar plan in England would, we imagine, be a boon to the proprietors of journals. As regards the stamps themselves, the two latter would deserve collection, as at any rate partially postal, and would form an interesting addition to the French series.

PARAGUAY.—We now give an engraving of the stamp which we described last month. M. Moens finds fault with our application of the term "beautiful" to the design, but we leave it to our readers to judge whether the term is not, in some measure, deserved, despite some inaccuracies of detail.



Our fellow-journalist also questions the authenticity of this stamp, but we need not now go into his reasons. No stamp from Paraguay can be deemed "above suspicion" until its existence as a genuine emission is well proved.

BOLIVIA.—We are indebted to an old correspondent, Mr. Chute, for notice of another stamp for this state—a 15 c., blue on white paper. Mr. Chute sends us a careful draught of the design, by which it

appears that the space outside the oval is filled in with colour, and in place of the word *CONTRATOS*, the word *ANOTADOS*, meaning, we presume, "registered," appears on the side. The general design is the same. This new value is printed in dark-blue on white paper, and as poorly executed as the rest of the series.

NEW SOUTH WALES.—Following close on the tenpenny, comes another new value for this colony—fourpence, brick-red, of a peculiar design, as will be seen by the annexed cut. It is printed on white paper; the engravers are, we believe, Messrs. De la Rue. This stamp was issued towards the close of last year, and we are rather surprised at not having been earlier in possession of specimens.



SOUTH AUSTRALIA.—We are not yet in possession of the details respecting the new series, which we anticipated being able to give this month. We only know that the ink to be employed is the "fugitive" preparation used by De la Rue, which dissolves when the stamp is placed in water.

AZORES.—The series we noticed last month for this island is, as we supposed, intended for temporary use only. A new and permanent issue is in preparation, and will be issued shortly.

MADEIRA.—*Le Timbre-Poste* states that the current series of Portuguese stamps has also been issued for use in this island, with the word *MADEIRA* printed across the face.

NAPLES.—In *Le Timbrophile* we observe an account of a variety of the 1 grano bearing the inscription *BOLLO DELLA POSTA BOLO DELLA*, instead of *BOLLO DELLA POSTA NAPOLETANA*. The repetition of the two first words (which thus show on both sides) is evidently a blunder of the engraver. Collectors should search among their treasures, and peradventure they may be rewarded by discovering a specimen with this erroneous inscription.

SAXONY.—The Dresden Express Company has issued another value, 2 pfennige blue, impressed in relief on bands of white paper.

DENMARK.—On the 17th ult. was emitted an 8 skilling stamp of the current device,

but the colour is a kind of stone, not green, as in the preceding emission. The stamp is perforated and watermarked with a crown.

HAMBURG.—The annexed is a representation of a stamp placed upon letters returned through the Hamburg branch of the Thurn and Taxis post-office. We are not aware whether it is affixed to the letters or hand-stamped upon them.



THE STAMPS OF MOLDAVIA AND ROUMANIA.

BY DR. MAGNUS.

(Translated by permission from *Le Timbre-Poste*).

(Continued from page 53.)

MOLDAVIA, *continued*.

EMISSION OF OCTOBER, 1859.

It was at this date, and not in 1858, or in 1861, as M. Rondot says, that the new series was emitted contemporaneously (according to the same author) with the adoption of a regular system of prepayment by means of postage stamps. Like the first series, several types for each value are found, but with accordance, each with each, between the values of 40 and 80 paras. Following our plan in treating on that emission, we shall give first the general characteristics of the series, then the special peculiarities of the types.

GENERAL CHARACTERISTICS.—Rectangular stamps, with rounded corners; printed in colour on *pelure* paper.

DESIGN.—Bull's head, surmounted by a star, and situated above a posthorn.

INSCRIPTION.—PORTO to the right; to the left, SCRISOREI or GAZETEI, according to the stamp. Value above and below.

VALUES.—5, 40, and 80 paras.

SPECIES AND VARIETIES.—It is important, in the first place, to distinguish the stamp of 5 para from the others. It is the smallest one, and is only 18 mill. in depth by $15\frac{1}{2}$ in width. The legend borne on the left is GAZETEI, because this stamp was usually employed for the prepayment of journals. It is printed in black, and the design is found in two types.

FIRST TYPE.

1.—Forehead covered with a large crown of hair, leaving only a very small portion bare.

2.—Horns rather swollen at the base, and doubly curved.

3.—Ears triangular, sharply pointed, and raised.

4.—Eyes oblique; eyebrows

very marked.

5.—Nose somewhat larger below, and garnished with a few hairs down the side.

6.—Nostrils composed of two crotchets, forming a parenthesis.

7.—Cheek-bones prominent, depression prolonged the length of the cheeks.

8.—Upper-lip slightly developed; lower forming a narrow crescent.

9.—Star with six points; in shape, transverse oblong.

10.—Mouth of the post-horn larger than in second type.

11.—Inscription—the letters of PORTO are smaller and wider apart than in the second type.

12.—The figure 5 is smaller.

SECOND TYPE.

1.—Forehead furnished with a thick tuft of hair, and bare at the sides.

2.—Horns with a single but strong curve.

3.—Ears rather oval, directed transversely outward.

4.—Eyes prominent and horizontal; eyebrows slightly marked.

5.—Nose of equal width and length. Some hairs on upper part.

6.—Nostrils represented by two points.

7.—Cheek-bones flat; cheeks straight; a light furrow above the muzzle.

8.—Upper-lip very thick; lower, very small.

9.—Star with six branches; in shape, transverse oblong, and rather thick.

10.—Mouth of horn thinner than in first type.

11.—The letters of PORTO are a trifle thicker, and closer together.

12.—The figure 5 is larger.

STAMPS OF 10 AND 80 PARAS.

These stamps are 17 to $17\frac{1}{2}$ mill. in width, by 20 in height. They bear SCRISOREI upon the left side, and are imprinted in colour.



FIRST TYPE.

Common to the two values—17 by $19\frac{1}{2}$ mill.

1.—Forehead three parts covered with tufts of hair.

2.—Horns doubly curved; the base rather thick.

3.—Ears of triangular shape; pointed, one upwards, the other downwards.

4.—Eyes rather large, slightly oblique; eyebrows marked.

5.—Nose somewhat triangular, with line of hair on the side.

6.—Nostrils composed of two crotchets, forming a parenthesis.

7.—Cheek-bones prominent, with depression above and (less marked) below, continuing to the muzzle; a characteristic more noticeable in the 40 than in the 80 paras.

8.—Upper-lip rather thick; lower, very small, most distant from the horn in the 80 paras. The muzzle is also narrower in the 80 paras.

9.—Star of six branches, regular.

10.—Opening of the post-horn as in the first type of the 5 paras.

11.—The word PORTO has the letters small and wide apart. SCRISOREI commences and finishes at 3 mill. from the border.

12.—The figures, 40 and 80, are small; the 8 of 80 is broad.

SECOND TYPE.

Common to the two values—17 by $19\frac{1}{2}$ mill.

1.—Forehead less covered, particularly at the roots of the horns.

2.—Horns longer and less curved than in the first type.

3.—Ears nearly alike.

4.—Eyes larger, and slightly oblique.

5.—Nose larger; group of hair on upper part.

6.—Nostrils marked by a stroke inclining outwards.

7.—Cheek-bones flat; a slight depression of the cheeks above the muzzle.

8.—Upper-lip large, less raised; lower, very small, and touching the horn.

9.—Star of only five branches.



10.—Opening of post-horn narrower than in first type.

11.—Figures of 40 larger and nearer together. The word SCRISOREI commences at 2 mill. and finishes at 3 mill. from the border.

12.—The figures are thicker, and straight.

THIRD TYPE.

Peculiar to the 80 paras— $17\frac{1}{2}$ by 20 mill.

1.—Forehead narrow, but proportioned to the head; the upper part covered with tufts of hair.

2.—Horns narrow and very elongated.

3.—Ears nearly horizontal.

4.—Eyes round, and looking forwards.

5.—Nose very large, and blending with the upper-lip.

6.—Nostrils indicated by two thick points.

7.—Cheek-bones, relatively to the narrowness of the head, rather prominent, and separated from the cheeks by a depression.

8.—Upper-lip confused with the nose, rather narrow; lower, small.

9.—Star with six branches.

10.—Opening of horn presenting a disposition intermediate to that of the first and second types.

11.—The word PORTO is in small letters, rather wide apart; SCRISOREI commences at 2 mill., but finishes at 3 mill. from the border.

12.—The figures resemble those of first type.

Notwithstanding the resemblance of the corresponding types of the two values, there is not an absolute identity between the two stamps, and we have taken care to indicate the most notable differences.

The paper is not always the same in colour or quality. The first types of the 40 and 80 paras are found, though rarely, on bluish paper. The stamps of the first type and the 5 paras are likewise found on transparent pelure paper, which takes in the 5 paras, a very light blue tint, thus ranging that stamp with the series on bluish paper. All the values have likewise been impressed on a dull-white paper. It is certain that the same paper was used for the second type



of the three values, and for the third type for the 80.

The colours also are not always identical. Upon a review of all the facts connected with these stamps, we have established the following classification:

1.—Stamps of the first type on bluish *pelure* paper:

40 paras blue.
80 „ wine-red.

2.—Stamps on transparent *pelure* paper:

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

3.—Same stamps on dull-white or yellowish *pelure* paper:

5 paras black.
40 „ dark-blue.
80 „ bright-red.

4.—Stamps of third type on white *pelure* paper:

80 paras vermilion-red.
80 „ dark-red.

5.—Stamps of second type upon white *pelure* paper:

5 paras black.
40 „ pale-blue.
40 „ bright-blue.
80 „ bright-red.

What is the authenticity of the different stamps? The general feeling is that they should all be accepted. However, those of the first type of the three values, which were the first published, are, beyond question, genuine. Those of the third ought, to our mind, to have the same importance, although we admit we have never met with a used specimen. As to those of the second type, faithful to our rôle of historian, we must avow that it has been regarded by some persons as suspicious. We admit, nevertheless, with M. Rondot, that these stamps have been, many times over, engraved, and that it is not astonishing that the work of inferior engravers should present great differences, as we know how impossible it is for the most expert to reproduce in an absolutely identical manner.

There is yet a fourth type common to the 40 and 80 paras, and of which we proceed to the description.

FOURTH TYPE.— $17\frac{1}{2}$ by $19\frac{1}{2}$ mill.

1.—Forehead uncovered; thick tuft of hair on upper part.

2.—Horns straight, doubly curved, and large at base.

3.—Ears smaller and directed almost horizontally.

4.—Eyes large and oblique.

5.—Nose very thick, like the second type; three lines of hair on upper part.

6.—Nostrils indicated by a stroke inclining outwards.

7.—Cheek-bones rather prominent, and line continued to the checks; depression about the muzzle.

8.—Upper-lip very thick; lower, larger than the other types, and supported by the horn.

9.—Star of six branches, regular.

10.—Opening of the post-horn as in the second type.

11.—Letters of PORTO not so coarse, but nearer together. The word SCRISOREI commences at $1\frac{1}{2}$ mill. from the border, and finishes at 3 mill.

12.—The figures are very like those of the second type.

To resume, in these stamps are found characteristics noticeable in both the first and second types. That which leads us to doubt them is, that the paper is not the same as for the other types, but opaque, thicker, and showing some traces of being laid. If they are not proved false, there is at least a strong presumption against their authenticity.

The emission in January, 1862, of a series common to the two principalities, was followed by the withdrawal of the stamps peculiar to Moldavia.

THE USE OF HONG-KONG STAMPS IN JAPAN.

WE have received the following from an obliging correspondent, and we think it will be of interest to our readers.

I observe you state, at page 165 of your third volume, that the use of the stamps for our colony at Hong Kong was extended to Jeddo (Yedo) and Nagasaki, in the Japan islands.

I now hand you a copy of the circular regulating the sale of stamps in Yedo, and

also a notification respecting a supply for Kanagawa, or, as it is termed by the foreign residents, Yokohama.

These notices appeared in the *Japan Commercial News* for the 7th September, 1864, and published in Kanagawa.

“NOTIFICATION.

“The following extract of a circular despatch received from F. W. Mitchell, Esq., H. B. M.’s Postmaster-General for the colony of Hong Kong, is published for the information of the foreign community at this port: A supply of postage stamps has been sent for. Upon receipt of the stamps, due notice will be given to the community.

“PHILIP B. WALSH.

“Packet Agency,
“Kanagawa, 1st Sept., 1864.”

“CIRCULAR.

“General Post-Office, Hong Kong,
“18th August, 1864.

“SIR,—As very considerable inconvenience is felt in this department, through one portion of the correspondence contained in the mails received here from the Packet Agencies being prepaid in money, and the other by means of postage stamps; and as difficulties arise in adjusting the accounts with the Imperial Post-Office in consequence; I have to request that, on and after the 15th October next, you will discontinue to receive money in payment of the correspondence posted at your office, and you will demand that such payment be made in the postage stamps of the colony of Hong Kong. This system has been in operation here for the last few months; and although it met with many objections from the community at the outset, it was soon found to be an advantage, and also a convenience to the post-office. Similar objections may possibly be raised at your port; I am satisfied, however, that they can soon be surmounted, and consequently no modification will be made in this arrangement.

I enclose you sets of the table of rates of postage in force here, and the same, as you are aware, apply to Yedo, with the addition of the local rate of 8 cents per $\frac{1}{2}$ ounce letter, and 2 cents for each paper, or price current, forwarded from your office to this

for dispatch to all places, except the United Kingdom, the United States of America, and other places through England and France.

“(Signed),

“F. W. MITCHELL,
“Postmaster-General.

“To H. B. M.’s Packet Agent, Yedo.”

It would seem by the above, that letters to this country would come direct without the bags being opened at Hong Kong. I have seen many packets from Kanagawa, and the stamps have always been post-marked with the B. 62 which is found on all the labels of that colony.

Correspondence sent by the *Messageries Impériales* is, of course, franked with French stamps, which are generally obliterated by a diamond of small dots, with an anchor in the centre.

NOTES ON THE LATER STAMP
FORGERIES.

BY DR. BOLEY.

NEW SOUTH WALES.

SYDNEY.—1d. red, 2d. blue, 3d. green.

THERE is a set of these lately issued, which, as a curiosity, may take a place with the square Reunions, inasmuch as they bear little or no resemblance to the real stamp. The centre of each, instead of the well-known figures, presents a view of the town (?). The immediate foreground would appear to be water, beyond which are seen the walls of the town, with a row of trees; on the hill behind, a collection of houses, amongst which are the steeples of two churches. The inscription reads, SIEGILLIUM NOV. CAMB. AUSTRE.

1d. red.—Few, if any, would probably be deceived by the preceding; but here we have a far better executed forgery, and one which, I fear, has obtained a place in some collections. The following points, taken altogether, will serve to detect it:

1st.—The houses on the distant hill are three in number, and some distance apart.

2nd.—There are no letters on the bale.

3rd.—There is no anchor or spade between the sitting and standing figures.

4th.—The clouds are represented by about 14 lines of different lengths.

5th.—The G in SIGILLUM is a c.

NOTE.—All these five points are seen in this forgery, but there are several varieties of the genuine which exhibit one or other of the first three.

PERU.

$\frac{1}{2}$ peso yellow.

There are two tolerably-well executed forgeries of this very rare stamp. From its rarity, it would appear as if the imitators had had no genuine specimen to copy from, and they have therefore fallen into an error which renders them easy of detection.

The best executed of the two has been copied from the wrong issue, and has laurel branches, instead of flags, at the sides of the shield. The other has the flags represented correctly, but on the two lower and larger the laurel branches are depicted with too much clearness; these, in the genuine, are rather indistinct, and appear almost like lines of shading; in this forgery, also, the two upper divisions of the shield, which, in the genuine, are occupied by the llama and tree, are filled by some objects, the nature of which it is impossible to determine.

The colour of both is rather a buff than a yellow.

1 peseta, rose and red.

These are very-well executed forgeries; but the same error has been committed as in the first of the $\frac{1}{2}$ peso just mentioned, viz., laurel branches are represented at the sides, instead of flags, as found in the genuine stamps of this value.

PACIFIC STEAM NAVIGATION COMPANY.

The whole set are forged, and better than the generality of such, although they will not bear comparison with the genuine. I should not have noticed these, but to correct an error into which Mr. Stourton has fallen in his description of them: he says, "the ship is going the wrong way, *i.e.*, to the left—in the genuine it sails to the right." Now, it is true it does sail to the right in the stamps of 1 oz. 2 rls., but in those of $\frac{1}{2}$ oz. 1 rl. it sails to the left. It follows, therefore, that although the 1 oz.

2 rls. may be detected by this error, some other mark is necessary for those of the $\frac{1}{2}$ oz. 1 rl. This will be supplied by observing that the small flag at the top of the main-mast has been omitted, or, at least, cannot be made out, whilst it is very distinct in the genuine.

PARAGUAY (Essay).

The old essay is found forged in about half-a-dozen different colours. The genuine has, in each corner, a well-formed star of five points; the lines also which form these corner squares are distinctly double; but in the forgeries the stars are very small and badly shaped, and there is very little trace of a second line in the corner squares.

PAPAL STATES.

$\frac{1}{2}$ baj., purple.

In the *genuine* stamps of this value the c in FRANCO much more resembles a c. All the beads touch each other in the oval surrounding the keys. In the forgery, the c is a good one, and there is a distinct space between the bead over the letter J in BAJ. and the next.

RUSSIA AND FINLAND.

The only forgery of Russia (proper) that I have met with has been a very-badly executed lithograph of the 1 kop. yellow, 1864, bearing but little resemblance to the real stamp, and not likely to deceive anyone. Those of Finland, on the contrary, are very numerous; the older ones, having been repeatedly described, I pass over. The genuine stamps of the issue of 1866 are 5 pen., brown on lilac; 10 pen., black on buff; 20 pen., blue on blue; and 40 pen., carmine on rose paper. The stars in the four corners have all eight points; but in the forgeries they have only six or seven—none eight.

ST. LUCIA.

Red, blue, green, black, yellow, lilac.

These are close imitations, and very superior to the other West Indian forgeries already noticed. The chief defects appear to be, that the shading of the face, which is composed of dots, is rather coarser than the genuine; the mouth and upper-lip are not

well formed; the base of the letter *U* in *LUCIA* is too flat, and not round as in the genuine; and that the letter *A* in *POSTAGE* is rather shorter than the other letters. All that I have met with have been obliterated with a stamp of eight parallel bars.

SALVADOR.

1 real (figure), black and blue.

These stamps are altogether fictitious.

SPAIN.

Amongst the many forgeries of the stamps of this country, the latest and best is the set of

1, 2, and 3 cuartos (bronze), Madrid.

These may be detected by observing the little lines which run down the centre of the leaves that compose the wreath on each side; these, in the genuine, are irregular, and have small side projections their whole length, some (especially at the two upper bunches) are broken up into dots; in the forgeries, these are all plain lines.

SPANISH POSSESSIONS.

CUBA.

1857.—1 rl. plata f., green.

In the genuine, the ends of the ribbon which tie the wreath are seen on the side of the neck; in the forgery, they appear to hang behind.

1863.—Head to left, $\frac{1}{4}$ rl. plata f., black.

There is a coarse lithographic imitation of this stamp, a dull blue on buff; the value, 1 rl. plata f. This is a nonentity, and requires no further description.

SWITZERLAND.

The Swiss forgeries have been so fully exposed, that it would almost appear a work of supererogation to add anything; still there is one of which I have not as yet met with a good and satisfactory description: some, indeed, that I have seen would rather serve to point out the forgery as the genuine stamp. I allude to the 10 c. Port Cantonal double stamp of Geneva, probably the rarest of European stamps; there are several forgeries, but attention to the following

points in the genuine will serve to expose them all.

1st.—*G* in *GENEVA*, in the left-hand stamp, does not touch the top line, but does so in the right.

2nd.—The letter *L* in *LOCAL*, in the left hand, is to the left of the division of the shield, and therefore comes under the division containing the half eagle; on the right, it is exactly under the line of division.

3rd.—The *L* in *LOCAL* does not touch the bottom of the shield in either.

NOTE.—The 5 c. small post local is much oftener met with, and this being formed from one half of the double stamp, it follows that the foregoing differences will be found amongst them, according as they may be from the right or left side.

LETTER FROM AN INFANT PRODIGY.

THE following, purporting to be from a very promising sprig of the rising generation, just three weeks old, has been handed us, says the *Orleans Republican*, with assurance that it is genuine as well as good, which we do not presume to doubt. If anyone has a smarter baby, let it be exhibited.

Dear old Untle,
 I dot oor letter;
 My old Mammy
 She ditten better,
 She every day
 Little bit stronger,
 Don't mean to be sick
 Very much longer.
 Daddy's so fat
 Can't hardly stagger,
 Mammy says he jinks
 Too much lager!
 Dear little Baby
 Had a bad colic,
 Had to take *tree drops*
Nassey paragolic;
 Toot a dose of tatnip,
 Felt worse than ever;
 Shan't take no more
 Tatnip—never!
 Wind on somit,
 Felt pooty bad;
 Worse fit of sitness
 Ever I had!
 Ever had belly ate,
 Ole Untle Bill?
 Taint no fun now,
 Say what you will.
 I used to sleep all day
 And cry all night;
 Don't do so now,
 Cause taint yight!

But I'm growing,
 Getting pooty fat;
 Gains most two pounds,
 Only tink o' yat!!
 Little fennin blankets
 -Was too big before,
 Nurse can't pin me
 In 'em no more.
 Skirts so small,
 Baby so stout,
 Had to let the plaits
 In 'em all out.
 Got a head of hair
 Jess as black as night,
 And big boo eyes
 Yat look mighty bright;
 My Mammy says,
 Never did see
 Any ozzer baby
 Half as sweet as me.
 Grandma comes often,
 Aunt Sarah too;
 Baby loves zem,
 Baby loves 'oo—
 Baby sends a pooty kiss
 To his Uncles all,
 Aunties and Cousins,
 Big folks and small.
 Can't yite no more,
 So good-by,
 Jolly ole Untle,
 Wiz a glass eye!

LESLIE.

POSTAL CHIT-CHAT.

BETWEEN YOU AND ME AND THE POST.—It is nonsense to suppose that the postmen in the East Central district are over-worked. Their labours cannot be very difficult, for however many letters they have to deliver, they always take them E.C.—*Fun.*

ONE HUNDRED YEARS AGO.—Until 1765, parcels and packages were conveyed by post, to the weight of which no limit was assigned. It was required, however, that they should not be above the value of ten pounds; from which it may be inferred that the office was held responsible for their safe delivery. By the 5th, George III., cap. 25, it was enacted, "that no packet exceeding the weight of four ounces should be carried by the penny-post, unless it had first passed, or was intended afterwards to pass, the general post."

ST. PATRICK'S DAY AND THE POST-OFFICE.—The *Daily Express* informs its readers that, on the Saturday and Monday preceding the 17th March, "large numbers of letter packages, containing shamrocks, and addressed to all parts of England and Scotland, for Irish relatives and friends to display, as emblems of nationality, and the patron saint of Ireland, on Patrick's day, passed through the Limerick post-office. For Manchester, some large and tastefully made up packages were transmitted, to be delivered to respectable parties. During the early part of the month, similar letters were sent, in large quantities, to America, containing the native shamrock imbedded in its own soil."

CAUGHT NAPPING.—M. Moens, the well-known vendor of "April fish," has himself been, to use the common but expressive term, "sold." He has gone to the expense of engraving a Birmingham manufacturer's trade label, which he gives in an article published last month on Italian essays, as one of the designs proposed in 1863; on what grounds it is hard to say. In the centre is a mer-

maid; above, the name, JOSIAH MASON; below, TRADE-MARK; and in the angles the letters, P. E. N. S.—mysterious letters, to the writer of the article perfectly unintelligible. He wonders why the strange device was offered, and we should share his surprise if we had the least reason to suppose it had been offered at all. The outstanding balance to the credit of M. Moens' ingenuity on account of the Moensnet stamps is now quite cleared off.

"FUN" ON STAMPS.—Stamps are very necessary in commercial matters, legal forms, &c., and some very trivial transactions require one: even a black-beetle should have a stamp.—Many receipts and other matters are not recognised without a stamp; and some women and children recognise husband and father by his stamp.—When a man makes a will it must have a stamp; and some persons, when they can't have their will, get into a passion, and then they have a stamp.—There are persons who collect, for some curious purpose or other, used or worn stamps. Now, if these indefatigable collectors were to go to many of the cheap theatres they would assuredly find plenty of worn stamps on the gallery stairs.—Although a paid bill should be stamped when it is received, it is not necessary that an old cane chair should be stamped on when that is resented.

CONVEYANCE OF MAILS.—The total sum spent in conveyance of mails by railway amounts to £405,192; by road, to £102,000; and by private ships to and from places abroad, to £5400. The post-office packet service now costs £1,089,349; £96,653 of which is spent in contracts for the United Kingdom; £13,000 for Europe; £382,948 for America; £43,700 for Africa; and £541,331 for Asia and Australasia. The chief increase is on account of the last-named item; and the net increase, as compared with the previous year, amounts to £280,705. It should be remarked, that the estimated increase of extra receipts in the year ending March 31st, 1869, on account of the packet service, is calculated at £237,906; £108,700 of which will be paid by the Indian Government; £30,000 by the United States post-office, for conveying United States' mails to this country in the packets of Messrs. Cunard & Co.; £25,316 by the Australian colonies; and £64,750 for a moiety of the subsidy for the mail-packet service between Point de Galle and Sydney, for which the Australian colonies are also responsible.—*Times.*

AN OCEAN POST-OFFICE IN THE BEGINNING OF THE PRESENT CENTURY.—Immediately after doubling Point Anne, you see, on a rock, a hundred feet high, a great post with a barrel suspended from the top. This barrel is the letter-box. The English sailors must needs go and write up there, "post-office." What have they to do with it? It is the ocean post-office. It isn't the property of that worthy gentleman, the King of England. The box is common to all. It belongs to every flag. *Post-office*: there's a crack-jaw word for you. It produces an effect on me as if the devil had suddenly offered me a cup of tea. I will tell you now how the postal arrangements are carried out. Every vessel which passes sends to the post a boat with despatches. A vessel coming from the Atlantic, for instance, sends there its letters for Europe; and a ship coming from the Pacific, its letters for New Zealand or California. The officer in command of the boat puts his packet into the barrel, and takes away any packet he finds there. You take charge of these letters, and the ship which comes after you takes charge of yours. As ships are always going to and fro, the continent whence you come is that to which I am going. I carry your letters; you carry mine. The barrel is made fast to the post with a chain. It has a good lid, with a hinge, but no padlock. You see a fellow can write to his friends this way. The letters come safely.—*Toilers of the Sea*, by VICTOR HUGO.

WHO INVENTED THE POSTAGE STAMP?

Who invented the postage stamp?
 "I, Dr. Gray,
 Think I may say,
 'Twas I who invented the postage stamp."
 Who invented the postage stamp?
 Says Rowland Hill,
 "Take it not ill,
 But you did *not* invent the postage stamp."
 "Yes I *did* invent the postage stamp,"
 Says Gray; "I'm right,
 I told Charles Knight,
 On the Blackheath coach, of the postage stamp."
 "Nay," says Charles Knight, "the postage stamp
 Was my idea,
 The fact is clear
 As daylight: I found out the postage stamp."
 "Now, who did invent the postage stamp?"
 The public cries,
 "Do all tell lies,
 Who paternally claim to the postage stamp?"

CORRESPONDENCE.

THE SO-CALLED "BRESLAU" STAMPS.

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

DEAR SIR,—I beg to warn stamp amateurs against the so-called Breslau express stamps. A few days' residence in that town has led me to the conviction that these labels are fictitious. They never were in circulation; nor does the Prussian government allow private establishments to issue postage stamps. I have ascertained the place where they are manufactured, with the sole intention of speculating on the ignorance of foreign collectors,—nay, I have witnessed the operation.

Hoping this information will bring some good to English collectors,

I beg to remain, dear Sir, yours respectfully,
 Breslau. SILESIVS.

GERMAN MONETARY VALUES.

DEAR SIR,—I hereby give you a brief notice (official) about the two series of the present North-German stamps.

The new uniform rate of postage has now been adopted also by Austria, Bavaria, Wurtemberg, Baden, Hesse, and Luxembourg. The values of the kreuzer series are, indeed, only approximately equal to the corresponding ones of the groschen series, viz. :—

$\frac{1}{2}$	groschen,	equal 1 kreuzer.
$\frac{1}{3}$	"	" 2 "
1	"	" 3 "
2	"	" 7 "
2½	"	" 9 "
3	"	" 11 "
4	"	" 14 "
5	"	" 18 "
6	"	" 21 "

and so on. But in those districts where the kreuzer value is prevailing, groschen stamps are employed to pay the postage, the following more correct calculation takes place:—

Stamp of $\frac{1}{2}$	groschen,	equal 1 kreuzer.
" 1 "	"	" 1 "
" 2 "	"	" 3 "
" 5 "	"	" 7 "
" 10 "	"	" 17 "

Fractions of $\frac{1}{2}$ groschen are not taken into account. If, *vice versa*, kreuzer stamps are employed in districts where the thaler is the current coin, the following is the mode of calculating:—

Stamp of 1 kreuzer,	equal $\frac{1}{2}$ groschen.
" 2 "	" $\frac{1}{3}$ "
" 3 "	" 10-12 " (10 pfennige).
" 7 "	" 2 "
" 18 "	" 5 1-12 " (5 gr. and 1 pfen.)

I need not add, that the Austrian kreuzers are different from those of the other Southern states; postage from Bavaria, Wurtemberg, and Hesse, to Austria, is 3 kreuzers for single letter, 7 kreuzers double postage; from Austria to the just-named countries, the Northern Confederation, and Luxembourg, 5, respectively, 10 kreuzers (equal to 1 and 2 groschen, or 3 and 7 kreuzers, South German value).

I am, dear Sir, yours very truly,
 MAX JOSEPH.

Egdkuhnen, Prussia.

ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS.

H. E. P., London.—Both the stamps you send are fiscals; the large one (green on buff) is an old Spanish; the other an old Prussian.

G. W. L.—Of your stamps, No. 1 is one of the provisional issue for the Straits Settlements; No. 2, Sardinian; No. 3, genuine Parma; No. 4, obsolete Finnish adhesive.

H. F., Barnsbury.—The first stamp you describe is one of the series for Roumania, issued in 1866, and bearing the head of Prince Couza; the second is one of the current Belgian set.

T. J., Malta.—We think your French "Chiffre-taxe," No. 1, is lithographed, but No. 2 is the ordinary one in use.—The green stamp is a well-known proof for the English sixpenny (first die), produced by De la Rue. The obliteration was a "cancelled" stamp, in lieu of "specimen," or an essay at obliteration: we do not know which.

H. B. M., Ballymena.—We shall be happy to add your name to the list of subscribers, on receipt of four shillings in stamps, being the amount of subscription for one year, but cannot do so on the strength of any custom with which you may formerly have favoured our publishers.—We shall also be obliged by your preparing your letters.

MARTIN B., Colchester, wishes to know what telegraph stamps are like, and whether



they ought to be collected or not. For his information and that of other readers who may be curious as to the appearance of these labels which occupy a middle ground between postal and fiscal emissions, we give engravings of two which have been lately emitted. The first one came into use in the French empire at the beginning of the present year, the other was

emitted for use in Switzerland somewhat earlier. The colour of the French is red; of the Swiss, grey.—As to our correspondent's second question—should they be collected?—we must leave that to his taste; all we would say being that it seems unwise to place them side by side with postage stamps. They should have a separate album, or a separate place in an album, allotted for them.



THE STAMPS OF THE VIRGIN ISLANDS.

BY FENTONIA.

PERHAPS there are no recently-issued stamps more interesting, more varied, and demanding more careful thought and research as to the meaning of their devices, than the stamps of the Virgin Islands. No sooner had the penny green and sixpenny pink appeared (which, except as regards background, are identical in design), than speculation became rife as to the signification of their common device.

The writer of the first description of them in this magazine (vol. v., page 9), ventures on an hypothesis that the parable of the ten wise and foolish virgins was intended to be symbolized by the twelve lamps, and though rather puzzled how to reduce the number 12 to a decimal, arrives at the somewhat arbitrary conclusion, that the solitary individual skipping along so blithely, must decidedly be a *wise** one. Six months later, information obtained from the postmaster at Tortola (see vol. v., page 121) completely explodes his theory. He states that "the Virgin Isles were discovered by Columbus on the Virgin's day (does he mean Lady-day, the 25th of March?), and that he accordingly named them after the Virgin. The twelve lamps," he adds, "represent the twelve primitive Christian charities." Now what are these twelve *primitive charities*? The word "charities," as including a dozen attributes, is of itself ambiguous. I have heard of the three Christian graces—faith, hope, and charity, and I have heard of the Graces in mythology being called charities (erroneously of course, as the name should be spelt "Charites" and the *ch* should be pronounced *hard*), but twelve charities or graces, if ever acknowledged in early symbolism, are certainly "things not generally known." The word *primitive*, as applied by the worthy postmaster, is also most unfortunately obscure. What can be the difference between primitive and mediæval or modern charities? And

* [As the proposer of the hypothesis at which our contributor makes merry, we would just ask whether, assuming that the parabolic virgins were intended to be symbolised, a *foolish one* would be likely to be chosen for special representation?—ED.]

why does the Virgin patronise only one of them, leaving the other eleven to float around her in the ambient air?

Again, on what authority is it stated that Columbus discovered the Virgin Islands on the "Virgin's day," whichever that may be? According to an old Spanish calendar, given in *Husenbeth's Emblems of the Saints* (1860), there are no less than fifteen days set apart during the year for commemorating various events in her life, from her "nativity" to her "desponsation" and "assumption;" but on referring to Washington Irving's *Life of Columbus* (no mean authority), it appears that *not one* of these commemorations occurred during the short cruise among the Caribbe Islands, in which he discovered and named these islands. Besides, the Virgin Mary is never represented carrying a lamp of any sort, though she is certainly frequently found bearing a lily; but so also are a score of other saints and martyrs. Washington Irving says that Columbus, having sailed from Cadiz on Sept. 25, 1493, on his second voyage of discovery, landed on the 4th of November on an island, which he named Guadaloupe, in honour of a convent of that name in Estramadura; that he again weighed anchor on the 10th, and that, after passing and naming various small islands, he soon came in sight of a great cluster of islands, to the largest of which he gave the name of St. Ursula, and called the others the Eleven Thousand Virgins; and that he reached Hispaniola, or Hayti, on the 22nd of the same month; consequently the Virgin Islands must have been discovered early in November, when, according to Husenbeth, there was no day set apart in honour of the Virgin. Washington Irving gives these particulars on the authority of Peter Martyr, the contemporary, the correspondent, and the biographer of Columbus; therefore the origin of the name (hinted at, *Stamp-Collector's Magazine*, vol. v., p. 46) may be considered as indubitably settled. Whether there is now an island named St. Ursula, seems doubtful, but as most of the islands discovered by Columbus have since changed names, probably St. Ursula has shared the same fate. For the benefit of juvenile readers, it may be as well to state here,

that the legend of the eleven thousand virgins is a monkish myth, originating, as Sirmoud, a learned Jesuit writer of the seventeenth century, candidly admits, in the mis-reading of an ancient Latin manuscript martyrology, in which two females, named Ursula and Undecimella, are mentioned as virgin martyrs. The latter name being mistaken for *undecim-mille*, latin for 11,000, easily accounts for the popular legend of St. Ursula and the eleven thousand virgins.

As to the real meaning of the device, which also constitutes the armorial bearings of such of the Virgin Islands as belong to Great Britain, I am of opinion that it represents the constellation Virgo, the Virgin, the sixth sign of the Zodiac, the latter fact well-typified by her holding the sixth lamp, the twelve lamps symbolizing the twelve signs of the Zodiac. Notwithstanding the discrepancy between the seal and the stamp in the number of lamps on each side, she still holds the sixth lamp, if reckoned the reverse way. Hesiod and Aratus, the earliest writers on Greek astronomy, state that Virgo, though immortal, dwelt on earth during the golden age under the name of Astræa, the goddess of justice, but that when mankind fell into dishonest and unjust ways, she forsook the earth, and retired to heaven, where she became the constellation Virgo. In support of this theory, it is remarkable that the engraver actually had a seal given him for a pattern for the 4d. and 1s. stamps, bearing the figure of Justice; and it is further remarkable that the learned Sir Wm. Jones, describing an ancient Indian zodiac in the second vol. of his *Asiatic Researches*, mentions that Virgo is there represented carrying a lamp.

We now come to the other and larger pair of stamps, the fourpenny and the shilling values. The Virgin's figure greatly resembles Guido Reni's picture of the Assumption of the Virgin Mary, though there is certainly nothing inconsistent in the astronomical virgin, the *ci-devant* goddess of justice, having an aureola of some of the stars which form her constellation, in this instance eight in number on each stamp. In Guido's picture, exhibited in the Manchester exhibition in 1857, and engraved at page 42 of Mrs.

Jameson's *Legends of the Madonna*, the Virgin has 12 stars round her head, her feet resting on what the magazine calls a globe or arch, but which is really intended for the moon, in allusion to the commencement of the 12th chap. of the Apocalypse, "A woman clothed with the sun, and the moon under her feet, and upon her head a crown of twelve stars," which description has always been applied by the Romish church to the Virgin Mary. Though there are but eight stars visible on each stamp, the other four may be imagined, perhaps, to form the back of her crown or aureola. In the fourpenny stamp her clothing is anything but sunny, an omission remedied in the shilling one, as the rays of the sun seem entirely to surround her. The so-called mural background, however, is sadly too earthly for a glorified being. An objection has been made that the Virgin is represented black, but let me assure all cavillers, that it is quite in accordance with the ideas of the early painters; the Romish church at that time explaining the verse in the first chapter of the Canticles, "Behold I am black, but comely," as typifying the Virgin Mary. I believe there are still one or two early pictures extant, painted in a very inferior style of art, which carry out this *black* idea.

To sum up: my opinion is, that the lady represented on the pair of stamps first issued for the Virgin Islands, is the constellation Virgo, the Virgin; while she on the last-issued pair, is the Virgin Mary in her assumed glorified state, the *Maria Virgo Assumpta* of the Romish church. Nevertheless, I cordially endorse the sentiment expressed at page 46 of last year's magazine, that "there seems to be a strange confusion of symbolism in the design of the stamps of these islands," as interesting to study, as it is difficult to unravel.

NOTES ON THE LATER STAMP FORGERIES.

BY DR. BOLEY.

TRINIDAD.

THERE is a forgery of the wood-engraved dark-blue, no value, which, from the coarse execution of the genuine, would have been somewhat more difficult of detection, but

for an error which at once exposes it, viz., the star in the four corners, which in the genuine wood-engraved stamps is one of four points, is here represented as one of six, as it appears in the stamps of subsequent issues.

TWO SICILIES.

NAPLES.

Prov. gov., $\frac{1}{2}$ tornese, arms and cross.

The forgeries of these stamps, the latter especially, are very numerous.

As is well known, both are from the same plate, viz., that of the $\frac{1}{2}$ gr. In the case of the $\frac{1}{2}$ tornese arms, the only alteration (colour excepted) is that of the G to a T. This, however, has not been done perfectly; and the G in all the genuine stamps has a blotched appearance. This will serve to detect the older forgeries of both stamps, in which the T is represented clear and distinct. One of the latest forgeries of the arms has TE instead of T; and none show the very small G, which, in the genuine, is to be found in the white line of the circle under the value $\frac{1}{2}$.

Cross.—All the forgeries, with one exception, may be detected by the marks just given. This stamp being formed from the plate of the former, by the erasure of the central arms, we find in all genuine specimens a trace, more or less, of the outline remaining, the absence of which in the forgeries will afford another mark of detection.* In the one exception, however, just mentioned (which is one of the oldest, and decidedly the best), we find an attempt has been made to represent these central outlines; a small letter also is to be found under the $\frac{1}{2}$; and the T is shown blotched, as if altered from the old G. With a glass, however, we shall see that the traces of outline in the centre are *not* such as could correspond with those of the genuine arms.—(As every collector probably possesses a $\frac{1}{2}$ gr., this comparison is easily made).—The thin stroke dividing the $\frac{1}{2}$ in this forgery touches the upper 1; in the genuine, it is between the figures, touching neither. And lastly,

*[All the forgeries of this stamp which we have seen, are different in colour from the genuine, the latter being a strong dark-blue, somewhat coarsely printed, whilst the former are of a light ineffective tint.—Ep.]

the small letter under the $\frac{1}{2}$ is not a G, but an O.

TURKEY.

Constantinople local, 5 paras, blue.

“Poste locale.”

The number of the lines running from the circle to the sides of the stamp are, in the genuine, 39 or 40, both top and bottom; in this forgery, they are 33 or 34. The left horn of the crescent, also, is nearer the side of the circle than the right.

VENEZUELA.

1859.—Un real, blue; dos reales, red.

In the forgery of the blue stamp the word LIBERTAD is spelt LIBERTAD; the arms are very indistinct, especially in the upper half of the shield. The red stamp is a very poor imitation: COR in CORREO is quite illegible, and the other parts nearly so.

1863.—The whole set has been forged. In the genuine, the eagle's claws, which grasp the thunderbolts, may be distinguished; in the forgeries, especially on the right side, nothing can be clearly made out.

LA GUAIRA.

1864-65.—Medio real, pink and blue; dos reales, green and orange.

These forgeries exhibit very little traces of clouds over the steamer, whilst several distinct patches are to be seen in the genuine, in which also a small flag can be distinguished under the line of smoke, which has been omitted in the forgery. There is no appearance of waves immediately under the steamer, which therefore shows a white space; in the genuine, the waves are well represented. The colour of the 2 reales yellow, in the forgery, is a reddish orange.

Value in figures, black impression,
2 centavos.

In the genuine stamp we see but one line of the background between the bottom of the vessel and the figure 2; in this forgery, there are two. In the small lower left-hand corner we find a small steamer in the genuine, which cannot be made out in the forgery, which also wants the stop after CABELLO.

NOTE.—I have as yet only met with the 2 centavos value, but I am informed the

whole set of this type are forged, which is very probably the case, and if so, there is little doubt but that the two last-mentioned faults will be found in them, and serve also for their detection.

With this, I bring the present series of papers to a conclusion. Doubtless, there are some forgeries that I have passed over, and which still remain to be described; and I fear equally certain that there will be many new ones hereafter; still, it will not fail to strike anyone who has made an examination of a number, that there is a certain family likeness amongst them all—a general coarseness of execution, which will, in most cases, at once catch the eye. As my object has been merely to give one or two of the most striking points in each forgery, I have said nothing about differences in the paper. This is, nevertheless, often the best test—comparisons as to texture, thickness, &c., of a doubtful with a genuine specimen, especially if assisted with a good glass, will frequently determine the question, however well in other respects the forgery may have been executed.

THE STAMPS OF MOLDAVIA AND ROUMANIA.

BY DR. MAGNUS.

(Translated by permission from *Le Timbre-Poste*).

(Continued from page 75.)

STAMPS OF ROUMANIA.

In November, 1861, was published the firman which consecrated the union of the principalities under the government of Prince Couza, who took the name of John I. The proclamation took effect from the 23rd December, 1861.

The employment of postage stamps was, it was supposed, extended from Moldavia to Wallachia in January, 1862. M. Rondot, however, attributes that application to an ordinance of the prince, dated the 25th April, 1862, and states that the stamps created by that ordinance were emitted on the 25th June, 1862. We willingly accept these particulars as correct.

EMISSION OF THE 25TH JUNE, 1862.

Rectangular stamps, engraved, printed in colour on white paper.

DESIGN.—Arms of the principalities: to the right, crowned eagle, holding a cross in its beak (Wallachia); to the left, bull's head, surmounted by star (Moldavia); above, a posthorn; in frame with rounded corners.

INSCRIPTION.—To the right, FRANCO; to the left, SCRISOREI. Above and below, the value and figures in letters.

VALUES.—3, 6, and 30 paras.

SPECIES AND VARIETIES.—It is not with this series as with those of Moldavia. Here we have but one type multiplied by the ordinary methods. The varieties we meet with are based solely upon the paper and the shades of colour.

A.—Impression upon pelure paper.

3 paras, lemon, bright-yellow, yellow-ochre, dark-ochre.

6 „ vermilion-red, pale-red, carmine-red, violet-carmine.

B.—Impression upon pelure paper, with horizontal laid lines.

3 paras, yellow-ochre, orange.

6 „ carmine and dark-red.

30 „ thick-blue, Prussian-blue.

It would be easy to multiply the shades, and to find seven or eight at least for each value upon ordinary paper, but this would be uninteresting. Amongst the stamps upon this paper, there may be found some upon a very fine quality, and others on paper a little more consistent, and not transparent. We believe it is sufficient to indicate these peculiarities.

We recollect here that the three colours, —yellow, red, and blue, are the national colours of Roumania.

This series was suppressed in December, 1864.

EMISSION OF JANUARY, 1865.

A reduction of the postal tariff, and the desire to evidence the union by the employment of stamps bearing no reminder of the former separation, were, doubtless, the motives which determined this emission.

Rectangular stamps, lithographed in colour on white paper.

DESIGN.—Effigy of Prince Couza to left (heraldically), in an oval, in the centre of a rectangle bearing the legend. The interval between the oval and the frame is formed of undulating lines. The frame itself presents a ground of lines crossing in lozenges, with light horizontal lines at the inter-sections.



LEGEND.—To the right, POSTA; to the left, ROMANA; above, the value in letters; below, FRANCO. Figures indicating the value in the four angles.

VALUES.—2, 5, and 20 paras.

SPECIES AND VARIETIES.—Besides those which are based, as in the preceding series, upon the paper and the shades of colour, there are others more important, borrowed from the design. We should say first, that the design and the legend is not absolutely identical for the three values. It is enough to regard with attention the various parts of the head, to be convinced that if the general physiognomy be the same, the details of the drawing, especially of the neck, are dissimilar. The size of the letters of the inscription is not alike on all the values. For example, the letters of the word POSTA are very plainly smaller on the 20 paras than on the 2 and the 5, measuring $1\frac{1}{2}$ mill. on the former, and 2 mill. on both the latter. Again, the letters of the word ROMANA are 2 mill. in height on the 5 paras, and but $1\frac{1}{2}$ m. on the 20 p. Upon the 2 the size is intermediate, and approaches more nearly to that of the 20.

If, now, we examine each value in turn, we find, to begin with, two very distinct and generally-admitted types for the 20 paras. The characteristics are as follows:—

TYPE 1.—Forehead tapering; several curls of hair above.

Nose elongated, triangular.

Lower-lip covered by the moustache.

Beard not so thick, and encroaching less upon the chin.

Neck longer, and bordered near the front with a range of small oblique lines.

Section of the neck swelling out in front, but very little.

The 0 of the 20 in each angle is thicker and more irregular, whilst, at the same time, it is much smaller than the 2, except in the upper right angle.

TYPE 2.—The forehead is arched, and has fewer locks of hair.

Nose rounded, and more of a pug.

Lower-lip plainly detached from the upper.

Beard thicker and larger.

Neck shorter, and swelling out but slightly at the base, with few or none of the oblique lines.

Section of the neck showing a prominent and swollen point.

The 0 of 20 is narrower and higher than the 2, save at the lower left angle.

Lastly, if the two types are compared together, it will be found that the first type is a trifle larger each way than the second type.

For the 5 paras stamp there exists similar differences between some proofs which have been noticed by M. Mahé, and the ordinary stamps, which go to constitute a second type. We can say as much for our part of the 2 paras. It is in comparing the forehead, the nose, and the section of the neck, principally, that the dissimilarities are found; but they are, after all, so slight, as not to be worth describing.

Beside the varieties of types we find the following:—

A.—Impression on white paper.

2 paras clear-yellow, orange.

5 „ sky-blue, dark-blue.

20 „ pale-red, red, vermilion, and carmine-red (2 types).

B.—Impression upon laid paper.

2 paras orange.

The fall of Prince Couza, in consequence of a revolution, was followed by the suppression of this series in June, 1866. Pending the emission of the following series, the emission of 1862 was temporarily recalled into use.

1866. SERIES OF ESSAYS.

At the moment of the overthrow of Prince Couza, M. Duloz, of Paris, had in preparation the dies for a new type with the prince's effigy, and M. Poitevin was charged with the printing. At the Paris exhibition numerous trial proofs of different values

of these stamps were on view. The following is the description.

DESIGN. — Effigy to left (heraldically) of Prince Couza, in the costume of a superior officer, in an oval, with ornaments at angles.



INSCRIPTION. — Above, POSTA ROMANA; below, the value in words. At the four angles, figures indicating the value. The colours adopted are said to have been the following :

2 parale yellow.

5 „ blue.

20 „ red.

The specimens which M. Duloz exhibited were printed in orange, blue, carmine, and violet; but the show-frame of M. Stern also contained sheets of the 5 paras, in vermilion, blue, carmine, and brown. It is difficult to pronounce upon the real value of these essays. What is, however, certain, is that the engraving of these stamps is an immense advance upon those of their predecessors.

(To be concluded in our next.)

CONFEDERATE STATES STAMPS.

THIS is an age of doubt and discovery, as manifestly in philately as in other matters. We have just met with an instance of each characteristic. In *Le Timbrophile* appears an indictment of the St. Louis stamps as false; and in a transatlantic contemporary, some particulars respecting a stamp hitherto unknown. We extract the statement of each paper for the benefit of our readers, without pledging ourselves to the accuracy of either.

Here, then, is the doubt: —

To the Editor of "LE TIMBROPHILE."

In your number of 30th January last, you have, in an article entitled "The Old-New," a description of two stamps, said to belong to Saint Louis, but which, if they have the merit of being new, must, unhappily, add to that the character of being false.

Having visited Saint Louis many times, and more especially between 1848 and 1853—that is to say, at the period when these stamps were said to have been in use—I was greatly surprised never to have heard of them, except through your article, which evidently, to any person acquainted with that country, contains several inaccuracies and impossibilities. These I will, with your permission, point out. And first, you say, that these "two stamps were officially emitted by the State of St. Louis." Now, there is, in fact, no State of St. Louis,

but solely a town of that name, situate in the State of Missouri, of which Columbia is the capital. Further, the arms which figure on these stamps are not those of the town of St. Louis, but of the State of Missouri. The arms of the town of St. Louis have a legend referring to our king, Saint Louis, because that town was founded by French colonists in 1753, in the reign of Louis XV., and long before the establishment of the State of Missouri, and the creation of its arms.

Lastly, to be in a position to give you exact particulars about these stamps, I wrote to one of my friends, who has resided in Saint Louis for upwards of thirty years, and who, through his official standing, is a person well qualified to speak as to their authenticity. Here is his reply, which I have translated:—"I have inquired of the several post-masters who have successively held office at St. Louis since the one appointed by President Polk in 1845, whether they knew anything of the Saint Louis postage stamps which you sent me [these were the two engravings cut out of your journal], and all of them replied that no such stamps had ever been delivered to the *employés* at the Saint Louis post-office. These pretended stamps, added one of them, have probably been prepared by some merchant, who sticks them on his goods as a sort of trademark or advertisement. And I can assure you that these stamps have never had an official character, and that they have never been employed in the Saint Louis post-office, or in any other town of the State of Missouri." They come probably from that Boston factory, which, for some time past, has been privileged to inundate the market with stamps which have never existed save in the inventive brain of its director.

When this statement comes to be examined, its facts appear to be two in number—first, the arms on the St. Louis stamps are those of the state, and not of the town; secondly, the postmasters consulted by the writer's friend were positive that the stamps had never been issued. As to the first objection, we do not think it is fatal to the genuineness of the stamp; as in those early days of postage stamps the issuing powers may not have been particular to have an exactly appropriate design, considering that as St. Louis was, though not the capital, decidedly the principal town of Missouri, its stamps might not improperly bear the arms of the state. The ignorance of the postmasters is not any more convincing; though the fact, that they did not recognise the stamp, even upon seeing the engraving, must have considerable weight. The suggestion of one of them to our contemporary's contributor's friend, that the stamps were intended as trademarks or advertisements, is, if we may be permitted to say so, rather absurd. Any merchant who would put on his goods a label inscribed "Saint Louis post-office," and not indicating in any way the nature of the goods, nor giving the name or address of

the vendor, ought to be carefully examined by two doctors. The second suggestion, that these stamps may have emanated from the "Boston factory," is not much more probable than the first. It is admitted that it is only for a comparatively short time past that false stamps have been issued from that locality, but there has been a traditionary belief in the existence of the Saint Louis for years, and we think the English possessor of a pair has had them for three or four years at least. Moreover, there has been of late no increase of specimens on the market, as there would certainly have been had our American friend been the inventor.

We do not enter the lists as defenders of these stamps, but we think some stronger reasons are required for their rejection than have been already given. As there are certainly many collectors in Saint Louis, some among their number must be qualified to speak with authority as to the character of these stamps. The question, however, is, at best, to most philatelists, an abstract one; as we would wager not half-a-dozen possess specimens, and there is no likelihood at present of an influx of either genuine or doubtful copies.

Now for the discovery—announced in the *American Stamp Mercury*, in the following letter from J. Alex. H. Stevens, jun.

Charlestown, S. C.,

February 23th, 1868.

Mr. F. TRIFET,

SIR,—A young friend of mine, a stamp collector, showed me some days since an article in your magazine, in which you question the authenticity of the small red 10 cent confederate stamp, with vignette of General I. J. Jackson. As you evidently are not posted with regard to its origin, I thought you might care to know something about it. In May, 1861, I was in the employ of Messrs. Hoyer & Ludwig, Richmond, Va., to whom the first contract for furnishing postal stamps for the Confederacy was awarded. They issued the following: 10 cents, head of Jefferson, pink and blue; 5 cents, head of Davis, green and blue; and 2 cents, head of Andrew Jackson, green. The lithographic stones of these were destroyed by fire in September, 1861, and Major Gorgas, then Confederate States agent in London, England, obtained plates from Messrs. De La Rue & Co. for stamps of the denominations of 5 and 1 cents. At the suggestion of Mr. Randolph, then Secretary of War, our firm, through Mr. Carroll, our designer, furnished the little 10-cent stamp to which you allude. It was of De La Rue's design, but differs from their stamps, in being engraved on stone, and not on steel. You speak of their great number. The entire number printed was but 300 from the stone, and 25 (the dark impression) from a separate die stone. The only way in

which they reached dealers was as follows: Mr. David Randolph, formerly postmaster at Cheraw, near here, took a sheet of 100 stamps to Charleston, where they remained until three months ago, when a New York gentleman, seeing them, bought them from Mr. Randolph, and sold them to Mr. —, a dealer, in New York city. The 25 dark impressions were bought by the same party, and sold to the same dealer. About 150 of the stamps were used on letters from this place, and I have two cancelled ones now in my possession. The remainder belong to Mr. J. D. Howard, of New York city. The stamp was approved, and became one of the regular issue, until Messrs. Keating & Ball, of Columbia, in this state, made a low bid, and obtained a contract to supply stamps, when all those previously in use were discontinued.

This writer appeals to Mr. Geo. R. Carey, late State Treasurer, at Richmond, for confirmation of his statement; and that gentleman, through his nephew, corroborates it in every particular, adding, that he possesses the first proof of the die, printed in black ink.

We have not at hand the number of the *Stamp Mercury* containing the original reference to the stamp, but we take the above description to mean, that the design was identical with that of the 1 c. and 5 c. furnished by De La Rue.

The information given seems to be well founded in most points; but it is strange, that Mr. Offut, whose letters were printed in our number for August last, should know nothing of this stamp. Mr. Stevens says, that about 150 stamps were used. Mr. Carey, in his confirmatory letter, speaking incidentally of the Confederate 10 c. (with the word TEN), says, that they, "to the number of 100, were regularly passed through the post-office at Athens, Georgia": that is, were sold and used. Now, out of this 100 impressions, several have come over to this country, and the fact of the emission was known very soon after it occurred; whilst of this new arrival, although half as many again were used, no specimen, so far as we know, has ever been seen on this side, or, until now, described on the other.

Here we must leave the matter for the present. We shall probably hear more of this new stamp shortly; and trust our friends in the States will be able to test the value of the discovery, as well as of the doubt.

NEWLY-ISSUED OR INEDITED STAMPS.

OUR budget this month is a remarkably meagre one. A few minor additions are about all we have to chronicle. We revert, however, in the first place, to

THE DOMINION OF CANADA, to introduce to our readers engravings of



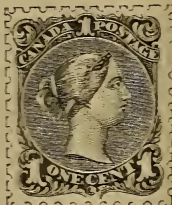
two more individuals of the new series—the half cent black, and one cent dull red. We have also to add a little to our information about the new postal rates. To Prince Edward

Island the charge for letters is the same as within the interior of the dominion, whilst for Newfoundland we are

surprised to find that the rate is as high as for Great Britain, viz., 12½ cents. The rate to British Columbia is 10 cents (to be in all cases prepaid), and as it requires not less than three of the new stamps combined to make up this sum, we should think the series would require the addition of a representative of the value. The regulations with respect to newspapers are upon a liberal scale, the ordinary rate being commuted for a sort of subscription, payable in advance, either by the publisher or receiver. Thus for a paper published once a week, the charge is but 5 cents per quarter; for papers published twice a week, 10 cents per quarter, and so on. Exchange papers passing between publishers in Canada, and publishers in the United States, Prince Edward Island, or Newfoundland, are to pass *free*, one copy of each paper to each publisher. The half-cent will only be specially available for periodicals weighing less than one ounce when posted in Canada for any place within the dominion, but, of course, may be used also in conjunction with others.

The following is the retrograde provision complained of by the journals:

As the postage on periodicals, other than newspapers, will be payable in advance; and as certain classes of such periodicals, printed and published in Canada, and



sent from the office of publication to regular subscribers, have for some time past been exempted from postage, where exclusively devoted to the education of youth, to temperance, agriculture, and science, or for other reasons; it is ordered, that with respect to periodicals which do now enjoy this privilege of exemption, the exemption shall continue until the expiration of the current year—that is, until the 31st December, 1868; and that from the 1st January, 1869, all such special exemptions and privileges shall cease.

Well, the liberal franchise belongs now to the "good old times;" but the day may come when it will be renewed, and even extended to the old country: then we shall be happy to give our readers the benefit of the abolition of postage in reduction of price.

BOLIVIA.—We have just received a stamp purporting to be for this country, which, if our continental friends will once more pardon us for the expression, is really beautiful. We have heard nothing from any of our American correspondents of a new series being in preparation, and this fact, perhaps, throws some little doubt on its authenticity. If, however, the imposition-manufacturers have produced this and the Paraguayan device, we shall seriously begin to think of collecting their works—not as vermin, but as "things of beauty!" The design of this new-comer may be described as follows: within a large circle, occupying the greater portion of the stamp, is a central oval containing a landscape, in which a snow-capped peak is the principal feature; this oval is supported by flags, above which figures an eagle, whilst below, between the points of the flagstaves, are placed nine stars. Above the large circle, upon a wavy label, is the inscription CORREOS DE BOLIVIA, and in each of the upper corners the figure 10. The rectangle is filled in with scroll work, and in the lower margin is the value in words, DIEZ CENTAVOS. The impression is in vermilion, on white paper, and the stamp is neatly perforated.

MADEIRA.—M. Moens in his last number signalises the existence of the 20, 50, 80, and 100 c. Portuguese, perforated; and of the remaining stamps unperforated, marked with the word MADEIRA in black on all, except the 5 reis, on which it appears in red.

ROMAN STATES.—We have just received specimens of the new 10 c. vermilion, and 20 c. lake, perforated. A commencement

has thus been made, and no doubt in a short time the whole series will be issued with this improvement.

TASMANIA.—The sixpence of this country is now printed reddish-lilac. The correspondent to whom we are indebted for this information sends us, at same time, a fourpence blue, present issue, unperforated, which he took from a letter dated the 26th June, 1857. Levraut's date of issue—1st October, 1858—is thus clearly proved erroneous. We shall not be far out if we place the date of issue as the 1st January, 1857.

PRUSSIA.—The only other engraving for the present month is that of another of the field-post envelope series, which has lately turned up—colour, blue. If a collector has a copy of this stamp, we should advise him to keep it as a curiosity; but we would not stimulate him to any remarkable effort to obtain one.

LEVANT.—The two stamps which we noticed a short time since in our article on "Locals and their value," have been superseded by a series remarkable, if for anything, for its almost ostentatious plainness. The design may be briefly described as consisting of the figure of value in an oval, contained in a rectangle. To go into greater detail, the figure is of an ornamental character, and below is the abbreviation КОП.; the ground of the oval is formed of fine interlaced loops. The border surrounding the oval contains a Russian inscription in white letters, the same in each value. The loop groundwork is continued beyond the oval, and the spandrels are filled in with fine curved lines, over which is a triangular ornament. The values are four in number:

1 kop., dark-brown, with reddish ground-pattern.

3 kop., green, with green ground-pattern.

5 " blue, " blue "

10 " carmine " green "

All the stamps are on white paper, and are perforated.

SWITZERLAND.—Another individual has

been added to the pair of envelopes, the series now forming a handsome trio. The newcomer is a 30 c. blue, on paper watermarked, like the others, with a dove. In consequence of a postal treaty with North Germany, the 40 c. adhesive green will be withdrawn on the 1st September next, and replaced by a 25 centimes, of the same colour.

WURTEMBERG.—The postal arrangements also between this country and the Confederation are, we presume, the cause of a change which has taken place in its series. The 6 kr. blue has been suspended by a 7 kreuzer, which is already found in two shades—slate-blue, and thick (dull) blue. The 6 kr. envelope will probably share the fate of its adhesive congener.

BRITISH COLUMBIA.—The postmaster of British Columbia has informed a correspondent that he will very shortly issue new stamps of the following values—25 c., 50 c., 75 c., and 1 dollar. We have no further details as yet.

UNITED STATES.—Mr. Chute writes us that Mr. Nesbitt is preparing dies for new 12 and 15 c. envelopes. He says there will probably be a number of designs exhibited before the department.

THE NEW CALEDONIA STAMP.

WE draw our readers' attention to the following communication in reference to this stamp, which appeared in a recent number of the *Queen*. Without giving entire credence to the statements it contains—some of which indeed (those first quoted from the *Briefmarken* are rather absurd—we may observe that no official proof of the issue of this particular stamp has, so far as we know, been given. Levraut, in his latest edition, places the date of emission as "1860-61," and Moens, in his new catalogue, as "1860," which proves that the exact date of emission is not known to either. The question having been started should now receive a decisive answer.

"It is curious how many old and even experienced collectors still retain their faith in the genuineness of the New Caledonia stamp, in spite of the strongest proofs to the contrary; and I have the pleasure of knowing an Italian officer—the possessor of the best



and most perfect collection of stamps I have ever seen—who has in his album the entire sheet of fifty heads. For this he gave a large price, which perhaps accounts for his deeply-rooted conviction in the once official existence of the stamp in question. I have a specimen myself, and keep it as a curiosity, though I have not the slightest doubt of its being, in vulgar parlance, a humbug.

“The following remarks, taken from the *Briefmarken Sammler*, will, I think, sufficiently show how untenable is the supposition of its genuineness :

It is, in fact, a wonder how a stamp that bears on the face of it the proof of falsity can still find credulous acknowledgment of its veracity. First of all, the stamp is lithographically engraved—a mode that opens the door to endless varieties of forgeries. Secondly, the manner in which the plate is arranged for *fifty* impressions, is a most unheard-of coincidence. Instead of taking all the impressions from one and the same die, the result of which would, at all events, have been to produce a harmonious appearance in all the stamps, the lithographer has preferred to take the casts [!] from fifty different dies; the consequence being that each impression is distinct, and no two stamps exactly resemble each other. These differences are strongly discernible in the inscription, which consists of letters of various shapes and sizes.

And now, we would ask, is it probable, or even possible, that any government could think of putting into circulation a postage stamp which is engraved in fifty different variations, and of which no one could know what the original was like? Fortunately, however, this reproach can be cast upon no government; for even Berger-Levrault—a great authority, I suppose—dates the official existence of this stamp from 1852. But before the year 1853 no French Government existed in New Caledonia. Finally, from communications received, neither the general post direction in Paris, nor anyone on the island itself, was ever aware of the official existence of the stamp in question, so that, according to all appearance, we have to deal with a stamp the value of which, in the public eye, is owing simply to a successful mystification; and we must express our regret that the publishers of albums and catalogues have not yet decided to erase from their lists this purely traditional “mark” (the German expression for postage stamp).

“The following translation of a letter from a contributor to the *Briefmarken Sammler* will throw considerable light on the origin of this stamp :

Naunberg, 27th July, 1866.

Respected Editor,—In the second number of your valuable paper, Mr. L. A. has very properly inveighed against the disgraceful New Caledonian swindle, and I permit myself to make still further revelations to you on the matter, for the reason that the public generally has shown itself capable of being very easily deceived by this imposture. [I have thus translated the German word *wechselbalg*, because its literal signification, “changeling,” or “urchin,” would not convey the writer’s meaning to English readers.] The information I am about to communicate has been received from one who was formerly a very zealous interceder in favour of this stamp, and I

can therefore answer for its authenticity. The really curious part of the matter is (what Mr. L. A. would probably never guess) that the stamp in question is really the offspring of that South Sea island, New Caledonia; and this, perhaps, in some measure accounts for its wretched appearance. Its origin is to be traced to the following accident :

A merchant captain from Marseilles, who during his voyages was in the habit of putting in at various harbours in the Indian and Pacific Oceans, had previous to this period received from collectors commissions to procure the various postage stamps which were in circulation in those regions. As the passion for stamp collecting increased he ventured to bring some with him on his own account, and the sale of these was entrusted to his wife, who remained behind in Marseilles. The business seems to have been a profitable one, for the captain, finding himself on one occasion necessitated from some cause or other to stay longer than was his wont at his regular station, Port Prince, induced a clever but starving lithographer, whose acquaintance he made there (and who appears to have kept some of his materials by him, with the hope, no doubt, of inducing some of the native gentlemen to let him make them gorgeous visiting-cards), to manufacture for him the New Caledonian stamp. Here, consequently, this child of the Southern Ocean, begotten in deceit, first saw the light. On his return to France the captain goes very cautiously to work; he knows what a treasure he has in his possession, but has no idea of squandering it lightly.

He was well known as a purveyor of foreign stamps; why should anyone entertain a doubt as to the genuineness of the specimens that he had brought with him? Thus he succeeded in deceiving a great number of collectors and dealers. The provision he brought with him can have been by no means scanty; as, even after his death, his widow continued the sale of this stamp, and succeeded in entangling many German dealers in her chains, by, for *her*, very advantageous exchange negotiations. This is about all I have succeeded in discovering respecting the stamp in question, and the relation of these circumstances is grounded almost entirely upon the admissions of the captain’s widow, which she made when it was pointed out to her in what mystery the existence of the stamp was shrouded, and how completely its official circulation was ignored by the authorities. The history of the stamp will, I think, clearly testify to the collector how cautiously he must proceed in his dealings, since the world lets itself be cheated very readily, and it is an extremely difficult matter to uproot a well-established prejudice, or rather prepossession.—B.S.

“I trust that the perusal of these translations will induce collectors who have not yet been made aware of the circumstances I have related, to rate the New Caledonian production at its just worth; and while I myself confess to the intention of keeping the specimen I possess as a curiosity, I could not criticise the conduct of another, who, strictly adhering to the plan of collecting only officially-acknowledged stamps, would refuse a place in his album to this pretentious impostor.

“WILD HUNTER.

“*Florence.*”

WHAT SHALL WE COLLECT?

BY R. F. WILME.

At the present time the pursuit, which, at a former epoch in the eventful history of philately, its foes derisively termed a passing "fancy," has reached such firm ground, and attained to so established a position, that no diversity of opinion on the part of its supporters can seriously injure its existing status, or mar the brightness of its future prospects. Therefore, there is no reason to lament over what has now become an accomplished fact, or to mourn the existence of two great parties in our widespread world of timbrophily. But it is well that each vessel should sail under her own proper colours, and that the rival schools clearly understand for what they are fighting. And though words are but expressive of something deeper, yet on that account they are not to be despised. For which reason, let the national section of collectors be known as *stampists* only, but the other, or continental portion, ought to be called *postal amateurs*. Thus distinctive and unmistakable standards would be raised, around which philatelists might rally, engaging in that wordy war which tends so greatly to the progress of truth, and to mutual advantage.

Those who are simply stamp collectors must not, however, look with contempt upon their brethren who go beyond them in the search for entertainment and recreation, and who add to the mere accumulation and arrangement of the impressions or stamps the study of varieties, which, though minute, will often prove interesting, and amply repay observation. Not only these, but also all postal matters, are perfectly legitimate objects for the notice and collection of an amateur. If once the ice is broken, and the philatelist enters on the paths of novelty, there remain no fresh obstacles, save, indeed, the increased expense, to restrain his newfound ardour. Postmarks, *unstamped* envelopes bearing signs of postal transit, and all things connected with the carriage of letters through the post, may lawfully claim his attention. But such matters as certainly have very little in common with stamp

collecting; and though peopling the ranks of the army of timbrophily, the continental school profess doctrines almost totally removed from any with which philatelists proper, or their literary organ, have to do. They stand, indeed, upon a platform which is, in part, occupied by the national, or British party, but their pursuit is a hundred times more extended than that of their opponents.

Now, there are many things to be said in favour of the accumulation of the various matters which are bound up with that gigantic system, which in our days has done, and is still doing, so great and increasing a work. But to my mind it seems absolutely ridiculous that for such a trivial cause as a difference in the quality of the paper on which the design is impressed, two copies of a stamp should be collected. The examination of perceptible and microscopical minutiae diversifies the leisure hours of the curious philatelist, and in my own case has been productive of much amusement, and some discoveries; but the absolute confusion, as well as absurdity of some of the distinctions noted by members of the continental school, is apparent to any person perusing the recent laboriously and elaborately-got-up catalogue of M. Berger-Levrault. This work, which bears on every page marks of the compiler's skill, is, in some parts, extremely complicated, and no stamp album published would contain the number of varieties named and described—some merely differing in the most uninteresting particulars. For Victoria, a country by no means prolific in postal affairs, some 80 or 90 are described; and about 120 are put down to Spain. And these are merely examples taken hap-hazard, and without selection.

To arrange the stamps and their varieties noted in this book, it would be necessary, if things were carried out in a geographical and historical manner, to make use of half-a-dozen moderately-sized albums—thus making timbrophily a very *weighty* matter indeed, although pockets would be considerably lightened. And newly-issued labels, which are being continually, in fact, almost daily, emitted, would every three or four years call for the addition of a fresh volume.

The expense and inconvenience of collecting would thus be materially augmented, and philately be hampered with those drawbacks which have so seriously retarded the progress of a kindred amusement—the collection of coins; as also many other pursuits.

Concerning variations in paper and watermark, I do not notice them in my album. I leave space only for one copy of each stamp; but at the end of an issue I allow some room for labels differing from others merely in slight contrarieties of colour, and trivial varieties of design. Personally, I am strongly in favour of preserving old and modern postmarks, and keeping them in a volume apart from their more aristocratic companions. They are mostly dated, and although devoid of beauty, are in endless variety, and would form an interesting collection. These might, in addition, be made to serve the useful purpose of elucidating that often doubtful mystery—the year of issue of a postage stamp.

But all these matters admit of endless controversy; and amongst so numerous a body as the philatelists of Europe, it would be strange, indeed, to find perfect unanimity existing. Disunion on some points is not of necessity weakness, though unity and strength at times are inseparable. So long as investigation and discussion are conducted without acrimony, the final result is usually the triumph of truth; and to combat an opposing principle or opinion save by argument is the height of folly, and the favourite resort of the illiberal.

Finally, I would conclude by remarking on the want of an English catalogue, which, while noticing all known varieties, would only bestow a separate description upon issues of stamps recognised by the mass of collectors of the national school. For instance, after particularising the current emission for Servia, it could be added, in smaller type, that the tints and designs of these labels vary slightly. By pursuing this course, in opposition to the system adopted by M. B. Levraut, considerable space would be saved, and much trouble and confusion avoided.

HOW THEY MANAGE MATTERS IN FRANCE.

BY OVERY TAYLOR.

(*Second Article.*)

IN the last number we promised some details respecting the present working of the French post-office, and these we now proceed to give. It is only right, though, to acknowledge, that for the facts given we are almost exclusively indebted to an interesting article by M. Zaccane, which appeared in *Le Siècle* of October last. This article treats more especially of the service of Paris—but in postal matters, as in most others, “Paris is France,” and thus monopolises to itself the interest.

In the year 1759 the French post first assumed importance. Nine offices were then established in the capital, and 200 postmen distributed the letters. Continuing, in a progressive spirit, many useful modifications were engrafted upon it: and at the time of the restoration it collected, in Paris only, from 25 to 30 million letters, of which four-and-a-half were for re-delivery in the capital. Now there are in Paris 57 post-offices, and 584 letter-boxes. The number of postmen and distributors of letters is 1231, and that of the agents who clear the boxes upwards of 169. The correspondence of Paris for Paris has attained the figure of 26 millions per annum, and 62 vehicles are daily required to make in all 451 journeys for the collection and delivery of letters for or from the departments.

Seven times a day you may see pass upon these rapid omnibuses, and descending each in his turn to his respective quarter, those indefatigable agents, dressed in the green tunic, with shako above, and box in front. Everybody knows the postman, and everybody likes him. In France, he does not get a Christmas box; but when New-Year's day comes round, he carries with him a neatly-printed almanack, mounted on cardboard, and having on the reverse a summary of the chief postal regulations; this he distributes at every house on his beat—a gentle hint, which few fail to take.

It is the custom with our neighbours, as we mentioned in our last, to send visiting-cards

on or about New-Year's day. This little social custom gives a great deal of extra labour to the agents of the post. Every year, between the 27th of December and the 11th of January, some 20 millions of letters pass through their hands, and in addition, three-and-a-half million visiting-cards, every one of which has to be submitted to all the usual operations.

The French post-office, like the English, of necessity possesses a dead-letter department; and many are the queer addresses which find a resting place there. We might give numerous examples of such addresses, but we fear many of our readers, fairly conversant with French, would fail to decipher them.

There is one anecdote recorded in *Le Siècle* which we cannot, however, help quoting.

It was in 1845 that a letter arrived one day from the departments, bearing this inscription, and nothing more—

"To the greatest poet in the world."

The case would have been an embarrassing one for an ordinary *employé*, but by chance this letter fell into the hands of a young clerk, who had been an assiduous student of the romantic works of the day, and by his instrumentality the letter was sent to Place Royale, No. 6. It was there that Victor Hugo lived. Anonymous flatteries are perhaps the most pleasing to our vanity. Poets are, nevertheless, not quite exempt from modesty, and of this the author of *Hernani* gave proof. He took the letter, and, without opening it, struck out the address which the clerk had put, and substituted for it, in his own hand, that of Rue de l'Université, 88. It was there that Lamartine resided. We leave it to be judged whether the singer of *Elvira* was not touched; but he would not accept homage like this from his rival, and not to be outdone, in turn renewed the first address, and re-forwarded it to the Place Royale.

The letter journeyed thus some days from the Marais to the Faubourg Saint Germain, and from the Faubourg Saint Germain to the Marais, and at last was sent, whither go all epistles with incomplete addresses, viz., to the dead-letter office.

The story saith not what were the contents of the letter; but some one must have had the pleasure of reading the address to the great unknown, as all correspondence, when it arrives at the mortuary place, is opened, and, thanks to this measure, a large number of undelivered letters find their way back to the writers.

The office of the *Poste Restante* must be known to most Englishmen visiting Paris. It was formerly situated in an obscure court, without light or air, and without accommodation for a dozen persons. Now, however, the office is located at the corner of the Rue Coq-Héron, in a spacious hall. It is frequented, of course, principally by foreigners; but still, not a few of the visitors consist of another class, comprising veiled young ladies, who make their requests *sotto voce*; enamoured gentlemen, who wish to correspond in secret; &c.

A curious statistic, compiled from we know not what mysterious source, sets forth, that of every 500 letters delivered at the *Poste Restante* each day, 400 are concerning love, 50 upon commercial matters, 30 inquiries or replies to advertisements, 15 containing calumnies, 2 about politics, 2 upon charitable purposes, and 1 for friendship.

It remains now only to speak of the General Post-office itself. This building, situate in the Rue Jean-Jacques Rousseau, is an old building, or rather group of buildings, very inconvenient, and unsuited for its present purpose. The main portion was erected on the ruins of the Hotel de Flandre, and to this have been added several of the neighbouring houses, connected together by seven yards, by narrow staircases, and by a labyrinth of passages almost impenetrable, of which it is affirmed that the *concierge* (and he alone) knows all the windings. It was proposed, in 1866, that a new hotel should be built, but the scheme was coldly received in the Corps Legislatif, and so fell through. The present hotel cannot, however, remain much longer, and upon its fall, another palace will be added to the magnificent crowd already existing.

REVIEWS OF POSTAL PUBLICATIONS.

The International Stamp Recorder and Curiosity Magazine. Dewsbury: A. Tolson & Co.

THE publishers of this magazine give no credence to the statement, that stamp collecting is on the decline, and they are quite in the right to disregard the croakers. We wish them every success in their enterprise, and are glad to learn from the opening address that they have received a larger number of subscribers than they had expected. The magazine contains eight pages of well-printed matter, including a notice of newly-issued stamps, an argument in favour of halfpenny postage, and the commencement of an interesting article entitled, "Down Stairs in Somerset House." As, in addition, an unused stamp is presented, and cheques given, which qualify the holders to draw for prizes, the *Stamp Recorder* cannot be said to be destitute of attractions.

The American Journal of Philately. Published monthly by the NEW YORK PHILATELIC SOCIETY.

THIS, the latest American stamp-paper, is said, as will be observed, to emanate from the New York Philatelic Society. The name sounds well, and we wish the society every success. It is stated, in an explanatory article, to have had its origin in a meeting held by eight stamp collectors on the 21st of March, 1867, and to have held regular meetings on the third Saturday of each month since. How many collectors are now upon its roll is not stated; but it is rather strange, that according to the report of a meeting given in the number before us, *Baron Munchausen* is said to have been elected an honorary member. We should like to know if this gentleman is a descendant of the famous traveller; and also to what college Professor *Bunger*, who is stated to be the owner of a fine collection, is accredited. Pending the arrival of this information, we must be excused for regarding the New York Philatelic Society with a slight shade of suspicion.

Apart from these questionable matters, the journal appears a *bonâ-fide* affair, and is

of decidedly superior appearance. The articles are readable, and the illustrations much better than those generally found in American publications.

Descriptive Price Catalogue of Government Postage Stamps. By WILLIAM P. BROWN, New York.

THIS is an unusually neat publication, which American collectors will not be slow to appreciate. It is of a handy shape, and very neatly printed. As indicated by the title, only "government postage stamps" are included, and we presume the less honoured classes are not sold by the publisher. Mr. Brown has views of his own about stamp collecting, which he ventilates in the preface, and we cannot do better than extract his remarks, that our readers may see which way the tide of American opinion is setting.

In making out this catalogue, we have aimed to leave out all stamps which have not been authorized and used by the different governments to prepay postage. Many prefer to collect locals, essays, revenue, and private companies' stamps, in order to increase the number of their collection; but we believe that those who regard their stamps as objects of curiosity will receive more satisfaction not to include them.

We think that too much attention is given, at present, to the collection of unused stamps. They are much more expensive, few of them can be obtained in complete sets, if not handled very carefully they do not look as well in a collection as used ones, and there is an additional interest to a stamp which has already paid the postage from some far off country, often bearing the name of the town where the letter was posted. We have seen collections made up with special reference to the postmarks, which were very curious and interesting. Where none are taken that are badly obliterated, torn, mis-stamped, or cut too close, we can see but little choice between collections of used and unused specimens.

Well said, Mr. Brown, we must admit; though we confess to a liking for unused copies ourselves, and after them, for the cleanest obtainable used copies. On the whole, we think the postmark looks better on the envelope than on the stamp.

POSTAL CHIT-CHAT.

COATS OF MAIL.—The postmen's uniforms.
ENLARGEMENT OF THE GENERAL POST-OFFICE.—The estimates in 1866 and 1867 included votes amounting to £344,000 for the purpose of a site for additional offices in St. Martin's-le-Grand. The estimate now before the House of Commons proposes a further vote of £20,000, part of an estimated cost of £150,000, for the erection of the proposed new offices.—*Times*.

AN EXTRAORDINARY POST.—It appears that for some time past a decayed pump, situate within an easy distance

of Dorset place, N.W., having been abandoned as an article for the supply of water to the neighbourhood, the handle was taken away, the slit remaining where it used to be worked. Several inquiries have been made of late, at the chief district and general offices, with reference to letters said to have been posted in the locality, but no satisfactory answer could be given with regard to them. A few days ago, however, the parish authorities gave orders for the pump to be repaired, when, upon examining the interior, no fewer than twenty letters were found inside it, the whole of which, we are informed, have been sent to their respective addresses. Of course, as they have no date stamp, the authorities have not been able to tell how long they have remained in this strange receptacle.—*Times*.

AT THE POSTE-RESTANTE.—A servant being sent to a post-office, put his nose close to the delivery-box, and shouted out, "Louder." The clerk supposing him to be deaf, and that he was making a request of them to speak louder, so that he could hear, asked him, in a very loud tone, the name of the person for whom he wanted the letter.

"Louder," cried the servant.

"What name?" bawled the clerk.

"Louder," again yelled the servant, who now supposed that the clerk was deaf.

The clerk took a long breath, and with all his might again roared out into the man's face the same question, "What name?"

The servant (a negro) started back in alarm, shouting at the very top of his lungs, "Louder, Louder. I told you Louder. The name is nothing else but Louder."

"Oh, ay! oh, ah!" said the clerk, "I never thought of that. Here's your letter."

PROPOSED ENGLISH TELEGRAPH STAMPS.—The payments to the Postmaster General for the transmission of telegraphic messages from one place to another within the United Kingdom shall (except for portage) be made in all cases by means of stamps, and the Postmaster General shall cause a proper supply of stamps and stamped paper to be prepared for that purpose, and kept for sale to the public at such of the offices under his control as he may think fit to appoint for that purpose. Besides appointing offices to be places for the transmission of messages by means of the electric telegraph, the Postmaster General may, if he think fit, appoint offices or pillar letter-boxes to be places of deposit for messages, and the messages deposited therein shall, provided they be written on stamped paper of the proper value, or on paper having stamps of the proper value affixed thereto, be conveyed to the offices of transmission without extra charge, at such times as the ordinary collections of post letters are made from the aforesaid places of deposit, and shall forthwith be dispatched by telegraph from the offices of transmission. [Extract from bill introduced for the acquirement of the telegraphs by government.]

CORRESPONDENCE.

AMERICAN ENVELOPE STAMPS.

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

SIR,—The *Philatelist* asserts that the United States envelopes, issue of 1853 and 1857, have been reprinted. This is a mistake. The United States envelope stamps have never been reprinted, either for government use or for collectors, since the original lot became non-postal. It also asserts that the small six c. envelopes exists only as a reprint. I beg to ask what it is a reprint of? In a

reply to a communication from Mr. G. F. Nesbitt, the manufacturer of the United States envelope stamps, he says:

Your favor of the 19th is duly received. In answer, I beg to say that no set of dies, after being withdrawn from use, has again been used. The paper for the government envelopes has always been made upon dandies, lettered the same way. The reason why the letters appear in different positions upon the envelopes is, because to economise paper, the knife is turned different ways. I am bound to have the letters appear upon each envelope, but not bound as to position.

Respectfully yours,

GEORGE F. NESBITT.

The present 3 c. envelope is manufactured upon two qualities of paper. No. 2, letter size, second quality, cost the public 32 dollars 80 cents per thousand; first quality cost about 35 dollars per thousand. There are four sizes: note, letter, extra letter, and official.

Mr. Zevely, third assistant postmaster-general, is arranging for publication a history of the United States stamps and prepaid envelopes. When it is published it will be very complete and desirable for persons interested in such matters.

I am, Sir, yours respectfully,

Boston, Mass., U. S. JAMES M. CHUTE.

THE "ENGLISH SCHOOL" OF PHILATELY.

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

SIR,—Your correspondent, "Pendragon," has drawn down upon his devoted head such a torrent of sarcasm and hard words from "Observant" and Mr. Pemberton, in your April number, that I think he should not be left alone to contend against such odds. I, at least, will join him in upholding the opinions of what I think he is quite right in calling the *English* school of philately. I hope, therefore, that your adherence to the principle, *audi alteram partem*, will allow you to give insertion to these remarks.

I think with Pendragon that the French system of collecting has grown to a most absurd pitch, attention being paid to such trivialities as perforations, watermarks, and the most minute differences (perhaps quite accidental) in the engraving. I have collected stamps for some seven or eight years, and have never paid attention to such things. All the differences which I have ever recognised are just those named by Pendragon, viz.: difference of colour, variation in the engraving, threads, and inscriptions when they cross the stamp.

Mr. Pemberton says that perforation alters the appearance of a stamp. This I deny, as perforations, if properly applied (which, however, they unfortunately very seldom are), do not touch the stamps themselves at all, only occupying the blank spaces left on the sheets between each stamp. Therefore, when the stamp is cut out by its outermost line (as it should be) the perforation is nowhere, and nobody could tell a perforate from an imperforate stamp. We collect stamps, and not perforations. Watermarks also hardly ever make any difference in the appearance of stamps when looking on their faces. As Pendragon says, when a stamp is placed in a book in a proper manner by means of the gum on its back, who can tell if there be a watermark or not?

Mr. Pemberton says that he acknowledges every variety which has official origin, and marks a new phase of the stamp. I suppose, therefore, that he has in his collection complete sheets of all the English stamps, because the letters in the corners of each are different. He cannot say that this does not constitute a variety, and it is, of course, undeniably of official origin.

By-the-bye, I should be much obliged to Mr. Pemberton

if he could explain what he means by a "phase" of a stamp, as I confess I was ignorant of the fact, that stamps possessed such things as phases.

Hoping that you will give this insertion in your next number, and apologizing for trespassing so much upon your valuable space,

I remain, Sir, yours faithfully,

Deal.

T. H. BULLOCK.

A PAIR OF PUGNACIOUS PHILATELISTS.

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

DEAR SIR,—An occurrence, which I suppose to be unrivalled in the records of stampology, took place here yesterday morning, creating much sensation in the Alexandrian circle of philately; no less, in fact, than a genuine and bonâ-fide duel over a postage stamp transaction. The particulars of the case are as follows:—A certain foreign gentleman here, employed in commercial pursuits, and said to possess the finest collection of stamps in Europe [] (having over 2990), lately received a consignment of stamps from Europe, but as he already had copies in his album, a young Neapolitan friend of his undertook to dispose of them to the various collectors here, on behalf of the owner, who was glad to avail himself of the offer, and handed the stamps over at once. Some days having elapsed without hearing from M. de P. (the Neapolitan), Mr. T. (the owner) began to entertain certain doubts as to the issue of the speculation; and meeting a mutual acquaintance, thought proper to express himself on the subject, in an abrupt and unbecoming manner, as to De P.'s motives. The latter hearing of this, politely invited Mr. T. to call at his house, where he would be happy to explain the matter. Mr. T., who (*par parenthese*) is of an excitable temper, forthwith presented himself. Mr. de P., who is as pacific as gun-powder unignited, but otherwise, quite as explosive, gave his visitor a warm reception, by at once rebutting the latter's previous insinuations in most unmeasured terms. Mr. T. replied in language equally polished; the other rejoined; and the affair terminated in the forcible ejection of Mr. T. from the premises. The result was a challenge, which De P. eagerly accepted; and they met the following morning (14th instant), outside the city walls, at six o'clock. The ground chosen was appropriate, but dismally suggestive, being in the immediate vicinity of a cemetery. Here a dispute arose as to the distance. The challenger's second, who was evidently of a nervous temperament, suggested thirty paces. This proposal was indignantly rejected by the other's principal, who values his life at rather less than a penny stamp, and who insisted on ten paces. A happy compromise was, however, finally effected (with much demur on the part of the latter), and they took up their position at twenty-five paces. They fired simultaneously, at a given signal, but the Neapolitan's pistol flashed in the pan, while the bullet of his opponent flew harmlessly past him. Mr. T. called upon him to readjust his weapon and fire, but having fitted another cap, De P. magnanimously refused to take advantage of his position, and fired in the air. The seconds then interfered, and succeeded in dissuading them from further hostilities. The usual apologies ensued, and the parties returned to town.

This, it may be said, was not much of a duel, but as, in regard to the circumstances in which it originated it stands alone, the foregoing particulars may not be uninteresting to your English readers.

I remain, dear Sir, yours faithfully,

Alexandria.

EGYPTUS.

ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS.

H. K. Prescott.—The East Indian stamps with elephant's head watermark, are a later and perfectly genuine omission.

C. H. C., Manchester.—The stamp you describe, inscribed "Stadtpost express," is an old and well-known fabrication—quite valueless.

G. F., London.—The first Austrian stamps were emitted on June 1, 1850, when the series of adhesives bearing the national arms appeared.

H. E. P., London.—Of your two stamps the larger (inscribed GIRO) is a Spanish; the smaller, a Prussian fiscal stamp.

D. G. A. D., Brighton.—The stamps you kindly send are the three lowest values of the new series for the Dominion of Canada: they were fully described in our May number.

B. L. H., Leebotwood.—The rouletted 4d. oct. and 2d. obl., Western Australia, are the two commonest of the rouletted varieties, and not worth more than a shilling each.

W. M., Colne.—This correspondent wants to know how he is to supplement his Lallier, third edition. We should advise him to put his stamps into the recently-issued Moens' album.

F. HANSEN, Copenhagen.—The three stamps about which you inquire are all fiscal. The one inscribed "5 kr." is Austrian, that with portrait of Washington is American, and that with the head of Queen, British.

A. S., Chelsea.—We have your article on postmarks, and only delay insertion to give time to the engraver to prepare the necessary illustrations. The subject, as you remark, is interesting, and well worth following up.

H. F., Barnsbury.—The first stamp you describe was issued for Roumania in the autumn of 1866; the head it bears is that of the present ruler, Prince Charles.—The other stamp is the current 1 centime Belgian.

HIPOS.—Undoubtedly the *fortiter in re* is best combined with the *suaviter in modo*, as you suggest, and we should wish all our correspondents to bear this in mind. Whether "Observant" was right or wrong in attacking "Pendragon" as he did, is a question each reader will decide according to the view he takes of the matter in dispute.

H. W. CLARK, Bridgetown, U.S., sends a tracing of a $\frac{1}{2}$ peso Peruvian stamp, differing from the accepted type in having the spandrels filled in with diverging lines, and also in colour. Of this specimen he says, "I received it from a friend connected with the U.S. legation at Lima. It is marked LIMA, JULIO 5, 58, and is deep-red on white paper. Have any of our readers met with a similar specimen?"—An obliterated set of Wells, Fargo, and Co., would only be worth 10/ or 12/ here at present.

J. M. CHUTE, Massachusetts.—You will find your letter of March 24th in the correspondence this month. It was unavoidably crowded out of our last number.—The list you give of Prussian dates is a very exact one, but as catalogue-makers have advanced nearer the truth than you imagine, we do not think it will be necessary to give it entire. We purpose noting in next month's "Chit-chat" the points it elucidates.—We have duly received the postal blue-book (for which please accept our best thanks), and hope shortly to peruse it.—Thanks also for your communication of April 28th.

Capt. R., Aberdeen.—Your old 24 c. U.S., black, seems in fact to be rather of an intermediate tint between lilac and black. It is certainly not purely the latter colour, and the difference from the usual shade must, we think, be purely accidental. Your other stamp, a rough copy of the 40 c. French empire, we cannot accept as genuine, despite the authenticating circumstances you name. By whatever chance it came on the envelope, it is certainly not a true stamp.

OUR CONTEMPORARIES.

JUNE 20TH.

UNDER this heading we intend to discuss, month by month, in an amicable manner, such points in our contemporaries as may seem to us to be worthy of passing observation.

Le Timbrophile this month contains a long and interesting article on the Cashmere stamps, from the pen of Dr. Magnus, based principally upon the paper which appeared in our February number. The learned doctor quotes Major Cracroft's statement in full, but, whilst acquitting us of any desire to impose on the philatelic world, he prefaces the quotation by remarking, that "the name of the honourable correspondent of *The Stamp-Collector's Magazine* is not of a nature to inspire confidence. The Major Cracroft (change the place of two letters, 'Cracroft') will really seem to many collectors a cousin-german of the celebrated M. Neom" [the author of the Moresnet design]. The doctor's distrust arises from a misunderstanding of Major Cracroft's position; he evidently thinks that we wrote to a resident, and not to *the Resident*. Let us explain, for his benefit, that *the Resident* in Cashmere is the diplomatic representative of the British government at the court of the Maharajah. Major Cracroft, at the date when he wrote his letter, had resigned the post, and therefore subscribed himself "late Resident." We will only add, that even if the name had been "Cracroft," it would not, as far as we can say, have been a suspicious one.

Referring to our supposition, that the Cashmere stamps were printed from separate ivory blocks, like the Shanghai, Dr. Magnus expresses a doubt whether the latter stamps ever were so printed. Our authority was a letter from Shanghai, which we quoted at vol. iv., p. 90; it says:—

Now, as to the stamps. You say they are engraved, but this is not the case, as they are struck off by hand from wooden or ivory dies, doubtless made here by the natives. In fact, a few days ago a friend of mine informed me that he went to the post office for some stamps, and that, not having the ones he required already printed, they struck off some while he waited.

In another article, Dr. Magnus defends the proposition, that the words *right* and *left*, as regards the designs of stamps, are

wrongly applied. We now describe as the left of a stamp that side which is on our left hand as we look at it; whilst we being opposite the stamp when we look at it, it is obvious that side must be in truth the right. Dr. Magnus would have us abandon this inaccurate style, and, following the rule in heraldry, describe stamps by their own true sides. We receive any proposal of his with respect, but we doubt whether it would be easy to obtain the adoption of the present. The words "right" and "left," as they are now used, bear a well-understood meaning, and no one would be better acquainted with the designs of stamps if the meaning were changed. This is one of those instances in which mere theoretic good will not weigh against the convenience of established custom. The proposed change would be confusing to the majority of collectors, and an uncertainty as to the meaning of descriptions would arise, which does not now exist. Dr. Magnus complains of the silence of the English journals on this subject, we have, therefore, given our own opinion, which is decidedly against change.

The American Stamp Mercury gives the following information concerning the Guatemala stamp:—

The 5 centavos stamp brown, once sold for genuine, can now be authentically stated to be bogus. It was engraved on steel by Mr. J. A. J. Wilcox, of Boston, for J. Holland, who was at the time supposed by the engraver to be under government authority, but who, in fact, required it (as Mr. Wilcox since has reason to believe) for the purpose of sale to stamp collectors.

We have taken one or two liberties with the composition of this extract, in order to make its meaning clear, for which we trust our contemporary will excuse us. This is, no doubt, the correct history of one of the most successful of stamp impostures. The concoctors must have reaped a rich harvest by it, as large quantities were sent over to Europe, and the fine appearance of this spurious design led to its general acceptance.

The American Journal of Philately for June contains a report of the meeting of the New York Philatelic Society, at which the question of issuing a new album was discussed. The president of the society, Dr. Morley, is, it is stated, about to start on a visit to South America, and hopes are en-

certained that by his energy and perseverance he will obtain valuable stamp information. We hope he will.

Mason's Magazine.—Our friend *The Philatelist* has been caught tripping in his review of this magazine. It had stated that there were but about ten lines devoted to philately in the number it reviewed, whilst, by an amusing coincidence, nineteen lines of stamp matter from this number were quoted in the number of *The Philatelist* containing the review. "Ah, Messieurs Editors," concludes the writer of the reply in *Mason's*, "you have left the gate open this time, and should be more circumspect in your independent criticisms. We trust that you will notice, in the succeeding or May number, that coins take a back-seat, while philately rides triumphantly in the van." We have not the May number before us, and are ignorant which is the van of the magazine, and which the back-seat; but if the latter portion be that occupied by the information on coins, then, judging from the June number, we should decidedly say that the magazine was principally composed of "back-seat." Out of the twelve pages, eleven are occupied with coin matter, and philately is somewhere "in the van."

Le Timbre-Poste contains, *inter alia*, the continuation of an article by Dr. Magnus on stamped envelopes. In treating upon them, the learned doctor has evidently chosen Strafford's motto, "Thorough," as his own. He commences the exact study of envelopes, by a description of the various kinds of flaps, illustrated with diagrams. Now, though we may perhaps draw upon ourselves his censure, we think it is going a little too far to study thus in detail the conformation of envelopes themselves. *Cui bono?* is surely not an unreasonable question. Dr. Magnus, anticipating the objection, replies, that a knowledge of the shapes of flaps will enable a collector to distinguish between the originals and the reprints of the old Austrian envelopes. This is the only example as yet given of the benefit of this branch of study. There may be some further demonstrable good result, but unless the sum total be greater than we anticipate, the examination of envelope flaps does not seem to have

much of advantage to recommend it, and certainly not enough to justify the elaborate description and encomium of the learned doctor.

Mons. De Rives de Seine, in this number of our Belgian *confrère*, concludes an amusing article on returned letters, in which he gives numerous examples of odd addresses, whence we think we may venture to cull one or two.

"*Monsieur Le fermier M D de génisse a Saints An Drails De Chauffour,*

"*Dorne.*"

should be read,

"*M. Lefermier, marchand de vaches, à Saint-André-d'Echaufour. Orne.*"

Again, we have,

"*Monsieur Puissar à Bodruche,*
"*Propriétaire Marie d'une fille de défunt Jac Rossart aine.*"

That Mons. Puissar had married the late Mons. Rossart's daughter, was surely an interesting fact.

The two following are easily comprehensible:—

"*A sa majesté,*
"*Sa majesté,*
"*Louis Napoléon Bonaparte, président de la république en son hotel au château destueleries à Paris.*

"*à Paris Seine.*"

"*Monsieur*
"*Le Prince Lapereur des frances, autuileries à Paris.*

"*Monsieur lanpereure des franceres.*"

And lastly, here is one for the Empress:

"*Madame*
"*Napoléon notre rene et présidente à son chateau.*
"*à Paris Présidenté.*"

Where could the schoolmaster have been?

The Independent favours us and our Brighton contemporary with the following joint notice:—

Stamp collection appears not to have yet become unpopular. We have before us *The Stamp-Collector's Magazine* and *The Philatelist*, each full of interest to those who "adhere" to their stamps, and have not taken up some new boyish hobby.

We are inclined to join issue with our critic upon those last words, "boyish hobby." We will accept for the nonce the statement,

that collecting is a hobby, but why it should be termed boyish we cannot quite see. If, because boys are collectors, then half the studies and half the pursuits in the world, must, from their being participated in by the rising generation, be open to the same objection. Boys take a share in most things, but they do not infuse a puerile spirit into that which they share in.

As for the term "hobby," we do not see that it is in any degree a term of reproach as applied to stamp collecting. It is one of the first necessities of life that men *should* have hobbies, and that they should pursue them with becoming ardour. It is most requisite that workers and thinkers in every sphere should, in their moments of leisure, have some agreeable employment to fall back on for relaxation; and practically, most people do occupy their spare time in some unexacting pursuit, which accords with their tastes. Some cultivate gardens, others breed animals, others collect ferns, others again butterflies, and so one might continue throughout the page the roll of hobbyists. These occupations, from their intrinsic worth, may not perhaps justify the time spent on them, but when their beneficial influence on the mind is considered, no one can say that, unless carried *too far*, they are not of great use. Among these "off-duty" employments, none has more in its favour than stamp collecting, as has been over and over again demonstrated. It is, as compared with most other hobbies, very inexpensive. A valuable and beautiful collection, of almost unique excellence, would cost less than is often paid for a single piece of old china ware; and if a collector be a person of moderate means, the judicious and gradual expenditure of twenty or thirty pounds may place him in possession of a by no means despicable assortment. As a study, whilst forming a relaxation from graver affairs, it trains the mind into a habit of careful examination and comparison of minute points, and evidences the necessity of methodical action, at the same time that it educates the eye in matters of colour, form, and design.

THE STAMPS OF MOLDAVIA AND ROUMANIA.

BY DR. MAGNUS.

(Translated by permission from *Le Timbre-Poste*.
(Concluded from page 86).)

STAMPS OF ROUMANIA, *continued*.

EMISSION OF 1ST AUGUST, 1866.

THE accession of Prince Charles, of Hohenzollern, to the throne of Roumania, necessitated the present emission, destined to replace that with the effigy of Prince Couza, and that also with the arms of the principalities, which had been temporarily recalled into use.

Rectangular stamps, lithographed in black on coloured paper.



DESIGN.—Effigy of Prince Charles, looking to the right (heraldically), in a beaded circle. Rectangular frame, overlaid at the sides by the medallion, bearing above and below the inscription, and filled in at the sides by a

Greek pattern. The intervals between the frame and the medallion are occupied by horizontal and vertical lines, forming a kind of brick-work ground.

INSCRIPTION.—Above, POSTA ROMANA; below, value all in words; figure of value in a small square at the four angles.

VALUES.—2, 5, and 20 paras.

SPECIES AND VARIETIES.—As in the emission with effigy of Prince Couza, two types of the 20 paras may be distinguished. These two varieties may be found on each sheet of stamps, but, contrarily to the same value of the preceding emission, the two varieties are not placed alternately. The first variety only occurs in (and constitutes) every third row, which gives to the second variety double the number. The differences are observable principally in the border and the legend, in addition to which, there are some very slight variations at the sinciput, and in the section of the neck.

The following are the differences in the frame and in the inscription:

First Type.—1.—The similar parts of the Greek border are opposite—each to each:

that is to say, the hollows to the hollows, the projections to the projections.

2.—The brick ground is finer, and the rows contained in it are eight in number in the upper right angle.

3.—The circle consists of 94 pearls.

4.—Among the letters of POSTA, the P and S are smaller than in the following type.

5.—The O of RO is smaller, and the A of NA almost touches the border.

6.—There is not a point under the D nor above the I of DECI.

7.—The O of the figure 20, in the right lower angle, is smaller than the same figure in the second type.

Second Type.—1.—The similar parts of the Greek border are opposite each other only in the lower part of the frame. In the upper half, the border on the right is like that of the first type, whilst that on the left presents an inverse disposition; whence it follows, that it opposes to the right side a hollow against a projection, and a projection against a hollow.

2.—The brick ground is thicker, and the rows wider apart: there are only six, for instance, in the upper right angle.

3.—The circle contains only 91 pearls.

4.—The letters, P and S of POSTA, are larger than in the first type.

5.—The O of RO is a little larger, and the A of NA farther from the border.

6.—There is a point under the D and above the I of DECI.

7.—The O of the figure 20, of the right lower angle, is narrower and higher than the same figure in the first type.

These are but very slight differences, but they are sufficient to show that there are two types for the frame.

No similar difference is found between the stamps of the other two values; but, on comparing them with the 20 paras, this conclusion may be arrived at:

1.—The effigy is the same for all.

2.—The frame is not the same for all the values. In fact, we find in the circle, on the

2 parale yellow, 95 pearls.

5 „ blue, 96 „

The brick ground also differs; take, for example, the right upper space, and there will be found in the

2 parale, 6 rows of little rectangles.

5 „ 5 „

the sixth " being barely indicated by a white point.

As for the inscription, and notably the words POSTA ROMANA, there is a difference between the letters. We will point out solely that

In the 2 paras the P is a little removed from the frame.

In the 5 paras the P is nearer.

An opposite disposition exists with the A of NA. In the 2 paras, it nearly touches the border; in the 5 paras, it is a little farther away.

We do not speak of that part of the inscription which occupies the base of the frame. The inscription of value entirely in letters has necessitated a difference, explicable on that ground. The word PARALE, inscribed in full on the two lower values, is abridged in the 20 paras.

The comparison shows, then, some very appreciable differences.

These stamps have been printed on two kinds of paper, differing as to shade and thickness.

A.—Impression on strong thick paper.

2 paras bright-yellow.

5 „ blue.

20 „ deep-rose (2 types).

B.—Impression on thinner paper.

2 paras straw-yellow.

5 „ pale-blue.*

20 „ pale-rose (2 types.)

We have seen circulating among collectors some envelopes of yellow paper, offering a particularity, which our rôle of historian obliges us to notice. Being, it is said, short of 5-para stamps, the Roumanian administration hit upon the expedient of sticking upon these envelopes two yellow 2-para stamps, and one half-stamp, formed by a diagonal section of an entire stamp; the three labels being placed together, and forming the equivalent of 5 paras. This plan was a renewal of that employed with the first series of New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, Chili, &c. What was new was not the idea, but the application of the idea to work upon the

* [We have never ourselves met with a 5 paras of this type.—Ed.]

credulity of collectors by some unprincipled speculator. All we need say in explanation is, that the Roumanian post-office had never any occasion to resort to this plan.

The series we have just described is still in use.*

PROPOSED STAMPS.

Several stamps were presented at different times to the postal administration of Roumania, which it will not be uninteresting to note.

The first is that from the pencil of M. Riester. It was destined to compete for the new emission which was prepared in 1865, and which furnished only the official essay we have previously described. M. Riester's stamp was not received until too late, but *malgré* its merits, we doubt if it would have been accepted. The description is as follows:

Rectangular stamps, lithographed in colour on white paper.

DESIGN.—Crowned eagle, holding a cross, and charged upon its breast with a buffalo's head; above, a posthorn, in an oval on white ground. Frame formed of ornaments, leaving blank spaces, destined to contain the legend.

We are acquainted with the following colours :

Black, green, black-brown, carmine, dark-blue.

As was said with reason at the time, the eagle was posed on the stamp in too Napoleonic a manner. It was a foreigner's failing. The situation of the buffalo's head upon the eagle's breast was, at least, singular, if not, as we believe, contrary to the rules of heraldic art. Apart from these slight faults, the composition pleases, and would have merited a better fate.

A second type, which, we think, originated at Florence, because it has a family likeness with the stamps proposed to the Italian and pontifical governments, appear to us to have been less genuine in its character.†

* Since the above was written, it has been superseded by the new emission, of similar type, but impressed in colour on white; values, 2 bani orange-yellow, 5 bani light-blue, and 18 bani rose.

† NOTE BY EDITOR OF *Le Timbre-Poste*.—This and the following stamp, both by M. R., of Florence, stood we are told, a very good chance of success with the



It is rectangular, in relief, and impressed in colour on white paper.

DESIGN.—Lion to the right, holding a dagger, upon a ground of gold (spotted), in an ornamental oval; above, to the right, a

tower; to the left, the moon.

LEGEND.—Upon the sides, POSTA at the right; ROMANA at the left. Below, PARALELO. The two little hexagons were, without doubt, destined to contain the value in figures. We are cognisant of only three colours—yellow, blue, dark-carmine. The author appears to us to have passed the limits of fancy, and were it not for the words ROMANA and PARALELO, the design would have done equally well for Norway or for Finland.

The third type shows the same poverty, and would seem to have been destined for envelopes, as it is impressed at the upper right angle of an envelope. It is, like the preceding, in coloured relief on white paper.

In the centre is a bull's head, upon a ground formed one half of vertical, and the other half of horizontal lines, enclosed in a circle of pearls, in a large star of six branches, bearing;—in the central upper branch, figure 2; in central lower, the word PAR; in the upper right and lower left branches, a tower; in the upper left, the sun; in the lower right, the moon. This design leaves a great deal to desire, and comes from the same hand as the preceding type. The colours are the same—yellow, blue, and dark-carmine.



These are the particulars which we have been able to collect *à propos* of the stamps of Moldavia and Roumania. In giving them to the philatelic public, we have been desirous to obtain, above all, the most circumstantial details respecting the first emission principally, and such we shall be happy to receive.

Roumanian administration, but destiny decided otherwise. M. R. appropriated to himself a rather large sum, and disappeared.

HER MAJESTY'S MAIL IN THE FAR-WEST.

BY J. K. LORD, F.Z.S.

"OUR English post-office is a splendid triumph of civilisation." In this memorable saying of Lord Macaulay, reference is made not merely to the postal organisation of the United Kingdom. The chief office in London, the railway mail-vans, the travelling post-offices, and the whole arrangements for the collection and delivery of letters, are wonderful results of well-devised organisation and ably-directed labour. In all its most conspicuous parts the machinery is so perfect, and works with such smoothness and regularity, that we are apt to forget the vastness and variety of the service. But it is not alone in the organisation and working of the home department that "our English post-office is a splendid triumph of civilisation." In the remotest bounds of the empire the service is sustained with marvellous results—in those regions whose wild solitudes are never startled by the railway whistle, nor cheered by the mail guard's bugle. Yes, even in the far-west of British America the postal service displays an energy, punctuality, and order, such as may stir all other public departments to envy and emulation. The lonely English occupant of a hunting-station or fur-store, in the wilds of North-west Canada, looks not in vain for the welcome despatches from "home." Where railways are not, and wheel carriages find no road to run upon, the mail is taken up by sledges, and the Indians, with their dogs, represent the officers in charge of Her Majesty's mails.

My readers will better understand the kind of outposts and stations to which letters are conveyed, by perusing the following paragraph, extracted from the *Quebec Chronicle*:—"Travellers by steamer up the river Ottawa will have observed on the north shore of the Lake of Two Mountains a small village, situate on a cliff, showing a face to the lake of bright yellow sand; and they have been told that they see an Indian village. The community here resident have just petitioned for the establishment among

them of a post-office. The memorial has the signatures of Irroquois and Algonquin chiefs—Saotis-kurai-iarakoén-kané-gatake, Jakomisakie, L. Satexasenoten, Sosekatsien Haiton, B. Kekatewaje, and others. It is proposed to give the village the name of Oka."

But the postal service in Canada reaches far beyond such villages as Oka, whose population rejoices in names astounding to a London letter-carrier. During part of the year Her Majesty's mails are sometimes forwarded two thousand miles, after losing the help of all steam or horse-power.

In the summer months, the mails are conveyed to all the settlements along the lake shores by steam-vessels; and these huge fresh-water seas afford every facility for a safe and rapid navigation. But when the lakes are covered with a stratum of ice, strong enough and of sufficient thickness to bear up the traffic of London, then a very different system of transport is necessitated. Contracts are entered into by the postal authorities, for the transmission of the mails, with persons who quite understand the work. Throughout all the lake districts on Lakes Huron and Superior the contracts are generally sub-let to Indians and half-breeds, who travel on snow-shoes, and pack the mail-bags upon light sleighs, which are usually tugged along by six dogs, worked in pairs side by side. By providing frequent relays, and, at the same time, being perfect masters in the art of travel, these hardy mail-carriers contrive to transport the letters at the rate of about sixty miles a day.

It was once my misfortune, when cruising in a little schooner upon Lake Huron, to be caught in the ice, and frozen in bard and fast near a small settlement called Cas-ka-awning. As the dwellers at this desolate village had no more provisions for the six months of biting winter before them than were barely sufficient to supply their own wants, I had no alternative but to pack up a small bundle of necessaries, put on my snow-shoes, and tramp off for the nearest place whereat I could pass the winter; leaving my vessel and my tiny crew to take care of themselves as best they could. The haven of refuge towards which I bent my

steps was the Bruce mine—a copper mine situated on the north shore of Lake Huron.

Winter commences in this icy region about the beginning of October, and when once the ice has fairly "set" on the lakes, all communication with the rest of the world is entirely cut off—excepting the traveller resorts to the employment of snow-shoes and dog-sleighs—until May in the year following. As an illustration of the intensity of the cold, I may state that the carcasses of sheep, pigs, and bullocks, intended to be stored for the maintenance of the miners and their families during the winter, are exposed to the air immediately after they are killed and skinned, until frozen as hard as marble. After that, they are hung up in large sheds to be consumed as required. The freezing is a perfect preservative; meat so treated, if kept from thawing, would remain sound and good for years. To be eaten, a joint is chopped off with an axe, soaked in tepid water until sufficiently thawed, and then cooked in any manner best suited to the tastes of those who are going to devour it.

But my present object is to tell how, in this out-of-the-way place, our communication with the rest of the world was kept up, and to describe Her Majesty's mail in these regions.

I have sometimes travelled with the mail-carriers from place to place along the route, and I can truthfully say that it is scarcely possible to picture a more weird scene of desolation than a wide expanse of frozen lake, covered thickly with snow, presents to the eye, more especially when journeying through the night—a course generally followed if there happen to be a sufficiency of light to discover the track. Night travelling is always preferable, because the snow is less trying to eyes by night than it is during the day; hence the risk of becoming snow-blind is materially diminished. Nothing seems to retain any semblance to reality as we tramp along over the snowy waste, with the dogs trotting after, jingling their sleigh-bells. The silvery moon spreads her pale light upon the snow, and the rays, instead of being absorbed or reflected, seem, by some mysterious agency, to accumulate,

until one is tempted to believe himself splashing through a shallow lake of light. Every visible object appears to be transformed into something intangible and unreal; the tracks upon the snow grow into huge proportions; trees dotted along the lake shore resemble giants such as we read of in fairy tales; a hillock of drifted snow takes the appearance of a mountain. Now one fancies rippling water is directly in the path, which, on a nearer approach, proves to be only snow ridged by the breeze, reflecting the light from the burnished facets of its myriad crystals. Anon, you feel certain that a deep ravine is directly in the way, the gloomy depths of which will have to be traversed; but the heart throbs more lightly when the imaginary cleft turns out to be only the shadow of a passing cloud. The silence is intense, and the listening ear fails to catch the faintest sounds, except it be the breathing of the panting dogs, the cheery tinkle of their neck-bells, and the rough crunch, crunch of the snow-shoes as they splinter the crisply-frozen crust upon the snow. How vividly these scenes come back to my memory! I can recall even now the various incidents that marked each night journey over the ice-covered waters of Lake Huron.

The arrival of the mails at the mines was so punctual, that the day on which they were expected was kept as a kind of general holiday. The miners left their work, and the women and children their warm stoves, to group together upon the landing-place where the sleigh track led off across the lake; and it was quite a study to watch the many anxious faces gazing intently into the hazy distance, in hopes of being first to catch a glimpse of the bearers of the good or bad news, as perchance it might turn out to be, from the "old country."

The keenest and best-sighted at last proclaims the coming of the mail; others very soon make it out—a mere speck, however, as yet—moving over the snow towards the mines. Nearer and nearer the loaded sleighs approach, and soon they are at the landing, when fifty willing hands rapidly unpack the sleighs, and sturdy men rush off with the bags of letters to the primitive

post-office. There is no such institution as a postman; hence the system of delivery is managed in this fashion. The postmaster unlocks and unseals the letter-bags, and tumbles their contents out upon a large table; then, picking up a letter and reading the address, he proclaims, in a stentorian tone of voice, that there is a letter for—say Jack Robinson; then Jack Robinson comes to the front, and, if there is any postage due, he has to pay it before he can obtain his letter; and so on the postmaster reads the addresses and delivers the letters until the stock is exhausted. The post-office presents a singular spectacle after the distribution of the mail, which comes only about once a month. The assembly divide into little groups, and each group has its own joys and sorrows. All is in public, compared with the privacy with which letters at home are perused. Soon the groups break up and disappear, and each goes back to his daily avocation; the Indians and the dog-sleighs take their departure; and everything settles down into the hum-drum routine of daily life at the mines, until the recurrence of another month brings about a similar scene on the arrival of Her Majesty's mail.—*Leisure Hour.*

NEWLY-ISSUED OR INEDITED STAMPS.

BOLIVIA.—We are very glad to be able to class the design we described last month among the fully accredited government emissions.



The annexed cut will give our readers a better idea of the stamp than the most elaborately-accurate description. M. Moens thinks it is not so handsome as the essay by M. Riester, which came upon the stamp-market a couple of years back. Whilst

admitting the beauty of the proposed design, we do not think it was so harmonious and well-proportioned in its parts as the one before us. An esteemed correspondent at Valparaiso advises us of the existence of a

5 (*cinco*) centavos green.

and from another quarter we learn that a

50 (*cinquenta*) centavos blue.

(same shade as the half-real Costa Rica) has likewise been emitted. "Though 'last, not least' in point of excellence" must be every one's verdict on these stamps, which attract greater attention from the fact, that they come from such a backward country, and form such a contrast to their predecessors. Of course, no one suspects a Bolivian artist of being the creator of this series, and it is, in fact, to be ascribed to the world-renowned American Bank-Note Company. The values above given do not, we imagine, comprise the entire series; a 15 c., 20 c., and 1 peso are probably included in it.

On the authority of our Belgian *confrère*, we chronicle the emission of a

1 peso blue

of the preceding type.

ECUADOR.—We have just received a specimen of a new value for this republic—



Doce (12) reales dull-red, upon a fragment of envelope, postmarked "New York, April 15." It is printed on white paper, unperforated, and obliterated with

pen-strokes.

LEVANT.—Here is the design which we described last month. *Le Timbre-Poste*, with an amusing misapprehension of our meaning, says that we term the new series a "remarkable" one—whilst, in fact, we said, it was "remarkable, *if for anything*, for its almost ostentatious plainness." Upon the actual question of appearance, M. Moens is fully in accord with us. We learn from his account of these stamps, that the Russian inscription signifies CORRESPONDENCE OF THE WEST. It has occurred to us, that, the value of the new comers being expressed in *kopeks*, they may not, after all, supersede our old friends with the Turkish denominations.



BRITISH COLUMBIA.—The firm of Dietz & Nelson (successors of Barnard) have emitted the annexed design, together with three

other similar ones, all impressed in black on



glazed vermilion paper. The other three stamps bear the following inscription, arranged as we print it:—

FORWARDED BY
DIETZ'S AND NELSON'S
BRITISH COLUMBIA AND VICTORIA
EXPRESS,

and are destitute of the small vignettes which appear in the above illustration. Not one of the series bears any indication of value, nor are we able to supply the omission. We recollect a year or two back seeing an envelope issued by the same firm. We believe the "Express" is a *bond-fide* affair, and that the stamps do prepay carriage of parcels, and probably of letters also.

SOUTH AUSTRALIA.—Philatelists may now, if they please, add a couple of pages or so to the space allotted for the stamps of this colony, as they are now issued to all the various departments of the colonial government, and the initial letters of each department are impressed on the stamps supplied to it. Thus, each public office possesses an entire series of the current stamps, with its peculiar initials on them; and the changes thus rung produce, according to our correspondent, something like forty varieties of each value. He sends us as samples four stamps with different initials on them, as follows:—A. C., P. O., C. S., G. P. The lettering is in block type, about a quarter-of-an-inch high, and quite obscures the portrait. The value of these official labels as a check on the amount of postage due on public correspondence, may be doubted, as, however strictly their employment for private letters may be forbidden, somehow or other they are used for communications which can by no means be termed official.

CASHMERE.—Major Cracroft having seen the article in which we quoted his letter referring to the stamps used in this country, writes us, that at the time when he gave us the information he was not aware of the existence of a round stamp, but has now ascertained that it was in use last year, and was superseded by two rectangular stamps of the current device, both blue, but differing in value: one being $\frac{1}{2}$ anna, and the other 1 anna. The major speaks as if only one round stamp had been in use, but the existence of at least a black and a blue is well authenticated; and the red has also been chronicled. However, his evidence is conclusive as to the fact, that the circular device has been emitted. His want of acquaintance with all the colours is not surprising, seeing how comparatively little stamps are used in Cashmere.

BRITISH GUIANA.—*Le Timbrophile* gives currency to the rather surprising report, that the two stamps of the 1853 issue—rectangular, vessel to left in oval, 1 c. vermilion, and 4 c. blue, and also the rose 1 cent of 1860—are again in use. "They are delivered," it says, "to the Guiana post-offices, and are not simple re-impressions for collectors solely, as is generally believed. We presume the 1853 stamps referred to are part of the perforated supply lately prepared by the engravers—Waterlow & Co.

UNITED STATES.—The same paper says, that the Postmaster-General has decided to change all the stamps and envelopes in use, and that all the portraits are to be replaced by others. The preparation of the new issue has already commenced.

NORWAY.—The series with two figures in lower margin has been completed, by the emission of the 3 skilling bright-lilac, and of a new value, 1 sk. dark-grey.

MEXICO.—The 1 real blue, head of Hidalgo, which, as we are informed, was only used for two mails, has been superseded by the ancient 1 real black, on green paper. We may also mention the arrival of a half-real stamp, same design, greyish-black on bluish paper. The letters, R. P. S., thrice repeated, form the watermark of the sheet of this value.

PARAGUAY.—We refer our readers to the

separate article in another part of this number for proof of the authenticity of the stamp described in our April, and figured in our May number.

CHILI.—Whilst among the South American countries, we may state, on the authority of our Valparaiso correspondent, that as Chili possesses no series of fiscal labels, the postage stamps are used to supply their place; and that the 1 centavo has been added, principally on account of its being required as a revenue stamp.

TURKEY.—There is a report in circulation that a new series for this empire is now being fabricated.

JAMAICA.—The shilling and fourpenny stamps of this island are now printed of a much deeper shade than they have hitherto been.

HISTORY OF THE STAMPS OF NEW CALEDONIA.

BY OSCAR BERGER-LEVRULT.

I HAVE taken note, with a certain astonishment, of the mass of proofs accumulated in the article signed "Wild Hunter,"* which tend to establish the non-authenticity of the stamps of New Caledonia. That article shows strikingly how easy it is to come to an odd conclusion under the influence of a preconceived idea.

I shall now endeavour to disprove, in a decisive manner, all the assertions of "Wild Hunter" as to the genuineness of the stamp in question. I have to observe first, that he has entirely misunderstood my catalogue as to the indication of the date of emission. "1860—1861" signifies "emitted in 1860, suppressed in 1861;" in other words, "in use from 1860 to 1861." If I had had any doubt as to the date of emission, I should have written "1860 or 1861."†

The stamps of New Caledonia were designed on stone by a sub-officer of the marines, and lithographed at Port de France, by order of the governor of the colony. Their principal employment was to pay the postage, from Port de France to Sydney, of

the letters from New Caledonia, which, on their arrival at Sydney, were handed over by the French Consul to the New South Wales post-office.

On leaving Port de France, the letters for Europe were franked:

1st.—By means of a New Caledonia stamp of 10 centimes, representing the rate to Sydney.

2nd.—By means of New South Wales stamps, for the amount of postage from Sydney to destination.

I myself received, in 1860, two letters, which were addressed to me *direct* from Port de France, by a lieutenant in the French imperial navy, and which were franked in this manner. Upon each I found, together with a 10 c. of New Caledonia, a pale-red one shilling of New South Wales. One of these latter, and the two copies of the New Caledonia, are still in my collection, which contains, in addition, two other copies, received direct upon letters about the same time by friends of mine.

The organisation of the postal service being still very primitive in New Caledonia at that epoch, these four examples were not obliterated; but I have frequently seen, in one of the finest French collections, a copy obliterated with the letters P F, which copy must now be in the *Ph.* collection.*

I think I may say that I was the first to possess the stamps of New Caledonia; and it was principally from my copies that they were described, in 1862, in M. Potiquet's catalogue.

As soon as I received the stamps in question, I wrote to New Caledonia, to ask for some more copies, but the officer to whom I addressed myself had left to take part in the Chinese campaign.

I am, furthermore, in a position to explain the suppression of these stamps, which took place in 1861.

I was at Paris in the year 1861, during the months of April and May, I think, and had occasion to see, at the General Post-Office, the head of the postage stamp depart-

* [We have in our own possession a copy similarly marked—the letters P F being enclosed in a single-line oblong,—which was received by us from a friend in Sydney.—Ed.]

* Pp. 89, 90 of June number.

† [This was our misunderstanding, not "Wild Hunter's."—Ed.]

ment. Talking with him generally about stamps, I described to him those of New Caledonia, with the existence of which he was not previously acquainted. It was upon seeing my copies that the General Post-Office decided that the New Caledonian officials had exceeded their powers in emitting a postage stamp without permission having been first granted by the central administration; and that the stamp ought to be suppressed. This decision was carried into effect during the year 1861, and the stamp replaced by the well-known series with eagle in centre, in use in all the French colonies.

It results from the foregoing, that all the explanations given in Wild Hunter's article are completely erroneous. What reason he, or rather the paper he quotes from, had for stating that I had indicated the year 1852 as the date of emission, I cannot understand.

I am not aware whether or not the entire sheets found in a certain number of collections were worked off after the suppression of the stamps; all I can say is, that the entire sheets are incontestably from the original stone; and that I could not discover any appreciable difference between the paper of my four copies, which had passed through the post, and that of an entire sheet which was sent to me from New Caledonia, in 1866, by a French officer. This sheet it was impossible to get at the post-office, and it was only after six months search that he succeeded in obtaining it for me, from a merchant, who had never in any way traded in stamps.

THE NEWLY-DISCOVERED CONFEDERATE STAMP.

By the last number of the *American Stamp Mercury* we find that our doubts as to the value of the newly-discovered 10 c. Confederate stamps are fully borne out, and, rather curiously, it happens that Mr. Offutt, to whose want of knowledge of the stamp we referred, is the very person who comes forward to denounce it as an impostor. "Prevention is better than cure," and we are not sorry that we have published the correspondence respecting this spurious stamp, as it will serve to guard our readers against being imposed on by the copies

which will probably find their way to this country. The following is Mr. Offutt's communication:—

To the Editor of "THE AMERICAN STAMP MERCURY."

New York, April 14, 1868.

DEAR SIR,—Your letter of the 13th inst. has been received, and I do not hesitate to pronounce the postage stamp described in your magazine, a fraud on those interested in collecting specimens.

My attention was called to the stamp in question by a stamp dealer in this city, who purchased those mentioned in the letter of Mr Stevens, which you printed; and he brought to me a letter from the person who claimed to have engraved the so-called *Jackson stamp*, giving a history of them so full of errors and mis-statements, that I exhibited to the dealer official documents in my possession, which satisfied him that he had been duped. Mr. Randolph never had the slightest connection with the preparation of the postage stamps used in the Confederate States, or with the post-office department. Judge John H. Reagan, of Texas, was appointed Postmaster-General in February, 1861, and I was the First-Assistant-Postmaster-General from the organisation of the post-office department to the end thereof; and during the absence of the Postmaster-General, all of the duties devolved by law upon me, so that at no time during its existence did it become necessary for the Secretary of War (Mr. Randolph) to interfere in its management. As chief of the Contract Bureau of the Post-Office Department, it was my duty to obtain postage stamps, and I accordingly made a contract with Messrs. Hoyer & Ludwig, Lithographers in Richmond, Va., for stamps in the following order:—First, of the denomination of five cents, head of Jefferson Davis; second, denomination ten cents, head of Thomas Jefferson; and third, denomination two cents, head of Andrew Jackson. All designs were submitted to me for approval; and I have proof impressions of all designs that were ever considered by the department. I never heard of the Stonewall Jackson postage stamp until it was shown

to me in New York last winter; and as all stamps were required to be approved by the department at Richmond, and issued therefrom to postmasters, it is difficult to understand how I could have remained in ignorance of its existence, as it was my sworn duty to know all about the stamps, and I believe I performed my duty, in that respect at least.

I do not know anything about Mr. Carroll's "Union feeling," or why "he never made or was able to get any money for his designs." I only know that Hoyer & Ludwig were paid in full for all the stamps they printed and delivered to the department, and that the engraving was done by one of the members of the firm, and not by Mr. Carroll. Messrs. Keating & Ball were not the successors of Hoyer & Ludwig, and never engraved a single stamp for the department. They printed stamps for the department from plates designed and engraved by the firm of Archer & Daley, who succeeded Hoyer & Ludwig, as contractors for furnishing stamps. Mr. Archer engraved the first steel-plate postage stamp for the department; and a Mr. Halpin, employed in his office, engraved all the others; and the plates, dies, &c., were the property of the department, and delivered by me to Keating & Ball when I made a contract with them, after it became impossible for Archer & Daley to furnish them. Mr. Archer and Mr. Halpin are both engaged as engravers in this city at this time, and neither of them have any knowledge of the stamp claimed to have been adopted and used by the department from the time it was engraved (at the suggestion of Mr. Randolph, Secretary of War) to the time when Keating & Ball obtained the contract. The plates furnished by De La Rue & Co., of London, England, were purchased by an agent sent out by the department; and his name was not Major Gorgas; and my collection of stamps and designs was brought to me by the agent from the office of De La Rue & Co., and has their imprint on it.

I have permitted myself to write at much greater length than I intended, because I feel indignant that any one should attempt to foist upon stamp collectors a bogus

stamp; and if you will call at my place of business, I can show you official documents to prove it to be an imposition.

De La Rue's stamps were not engraved on steel, as stated in the published letters I am receiving. The plates were simply electrotypes.

Respectfully,

H. ST. GEO. OFFUTT.

THE INDIAN "SERVICE" STAMPS.

WE have received from a correspondent at Madras, the following copy of the official regulations in reference to the use of these stamps, taken from the *Fort William Gazette*, of 1866.

HOME DEPARTMENT.

No. 567.

Simla, the 4th May, 1866.

From the 1st of August next, the authority to frank letters on her Majesty's service only, which was given to the offices enumerated in the two franking lists, is withdrawn, and the following rules for the payment and settlement of accounts of postage on official correspondence will be in force:

PRIVILEGED OFFICE.

The public offices enumerated in the annexed list will be privileged to send and receive (without payment) all letters on her Majesty's service. The post office will keep an account of the postage due on the official correspondence of such privileged office.

(Then follow detail regulations.)

Official communications, which are not sent by or to a privileged office, will be treated in all respects like private correspondence. Postage labels, marked with the word "Service," will be made available for the prepayment of such correspondence.

Service labels are never to be used in payment of the postage of any letter which is not *bona-fide* on Her Majesty's service. Every cover must be endorsed by the person by whom it is dispatched.

The copy of these rules is accompanied by four "service" stamps of the ordinary type, the $\frac{1}{2}$ anna blue, 1 anna brown, 4 annas green (old type), 8 annas rose. The two former have the added word in type double its size on the second pair.

In reference to this matter, and in order that our readers may duly appreciate the energy of our esteemed correspondent in obtaining the above information, we will quote the following from his letter:

It is a most difficult thing to obtain information in this "sleepy hollow," even from those whose duties would lead them into inquiries; they content themselves with receiving orders from Calcutta or Simla, without even making an inquiry beyond their own practical and mechanical duties. Thus I have never been able to learn the history of the six anna postage stamp, used for a short

time in 1866. There is a very good reason for converting the half-anna *bill*-stamp (of which I enclose a specimen) into postage labels for the superintendent of stamps reported recently, that the stock of this particular stamp was *sufficient to last 400 years!* Some similar reason probably causes the use of the two-annas bill-stamp.

It would appear from this last piece of information, that some Indian official must have been blessed with a remarkable amount of forethought.

THE NEW PARAGUAYAN STAMP.

REALLY the philatelic world is under considerable obligation to American collectors for their energetic efforts to obtain information upon doubtful stamp matters. They constantly make use of their influence in official quarters to procure authoritative statements as to date of issue, genuineness, &c., &c., and have succeeded in clearing up, once and for all, not a few mysterious points.

This preface is justified by the receipt, from a correspondent in the States, of the following letter addressed to him by the American minister at Asuncion, in which the character of the Paraguayan stamp we described in our April number, is fully elucidated. The letter was written in reply to one from Mr. C. P. Wright (our correspondent), requesting information as to the worth of a set of the so-called Paraguayan stamps (the 1, 2, and 4 reales, described in *The Stamp-Collector's Magazine*, vol. iv., p. 25), which he had purchased, and of which he sent drawings.

"United States Legation.

"Asuncion, Paraguay, Feb. 5th, 1868.

"Mr. Charles P. Wright, Yonkers, N.Y.

"SIR,—Your communication of December 20th, 1867, came to hand in due season, enclosing drawings of Paraguayan stamps. In answer to your inquiries regarding them, I beg to state that I addressed a note to the Director of Posts, who kindly gave me the following information, which I translate and give *verbatim*, as nearly as possible.

"Hon. C. A. Washburn, U.S. Legation.

"Your esteemed favour now lies before me with drawings of stamps. In reply I would state that no such stamps were ever authorized or issued by this government for the prepayment of letters, or other mailable matter, and I am quite at a loss to under-

stand for what purpose such stamps were prepared.

"We have but one stamp which is used for interior letters and newspapers, which was authorized by law, Sept. 8, 1867, and issued December 15, 1867. It was executed for government by an engraver in Lima, Peru, who charges at the rate of 20 centavos per thousand, ready for use. I enclose you several impressions for your examination.

"We have under consideration the issue of an entire series, but the present unsettled state of the country seems to render useless any such attempt. Having, I trust, given you the information you desire,

"I have the honour to be,

"Your obedient servant,

"Don Jose Marillo,

"A. G. D. Correos."

"Trusting this may be satisfactory, and thanking you for the confidence reposed in me,

"I remain, yours respectfully,

"C. A. WASHBURN,

"Minister Resident."

The stamps enclosed were copies of the design we have described. With regard to future prospects, "if this should meet the eye of" Don Jose Marillo, we would suggest that the philatelic public would be grateful for a postage-stamp portrait of President Lopez.

"WENDEN" STAMPS.

WE have received the following communication from Mons. Berger-Levrault, in reference to these stamps, which we commend to the careful attention of our readers:

"Among the number of controverted questions is found that of the authenticity of the stamps of the 'Wendenschen kreises.'

"To me these stamps have always seemed exceedingly suspicious, for, to mention only one reason, briefly indicated by a note in my catalogue, I know from a trustworthy source, that a dealer of St. Petersburg, who supplies with the greatest ease the unused copies for which he receives orders, has never been able to produce a stamp *authentically* obliterated. I have to-

day met with a document which gives a decisive settlement of the question. It is a letter from the head post-office of Russia, which says 'The circle of Wenden has never received authority to introduce special stamps.'

"A declaration so clear, appears to me to cut short all further discussion, and to establish, almost indisputably, that the famous Wenden stamps are pure and simple inventions."

We cannot but agree with the writer's conclusion, though we do so reluctantly. Like him, we have never been able to obtain, nor for the matter of that, to get even a sight of a post-marked specimen; and this inability had previously raised a doubt in our own mind. If, as we must now believe, all are spurious, the rarity of the oblong rose stamp is surprising. What motive could the fabricator have for stopping the supplies?

Well, we have been, in American parlance, "extensively sold," and in common with our readers, can but congratulate ourselves (as a last resource) that these false stamps have been the means of our gaining some real knowledge as to the whereabouts of Wenden.

This discovery as to the Wenden stamps, we may add, in conclusion, gives us the opportunity of expressing our coincidence with Mr. Overy Taylor in his suspicion as to the character of the pair of Honduras stamps. Has any one ever seen an obliterated copy, or can any one give proof that they are, or ever were, used?

REVIEWS OF POSTAL PUBLICATIONS.

A Descriptive Catalogue of American and Foreign Postage Stamps, issued from 1840 to 1868. Fourth Edition. By F. TRIFET, Boston, Mass.

This is a well got-up work, upon the model of our publishers' catalogue, printed in pages of three columns, and interspersed with cuts. The stamps are not, however, numbered, but as far as possible the emissions are dated. A supplement brings the list up to date of publication. In outward appearance the book is plain and respectable, and will recommend itself to the attention of American collectors.

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

It is hardly necessary for us to say more respecting the above than that it is a fresh edition of the well-known work which we reviewed in February. The fact that a tenth edition has so soon become necessary, amply proves the general appreciation of the alterations and improvements made in the ninth. This new edition is substantially the same as its immediate predecessor, but the stamps which have been issued in the interval, between the publication of the two, have been included.

Catalogue Prix-courant de Timbres-Poste, essais divers, timbres-télégraphes, timbres fiscaux, timbres de chemins de fer, &c.
Brussels: J. B. MOENS.

M. MOENS having abandoned the system of giving a monthly list of prices with his journal, has published in its place the catalogue now under review, which vies with the best previously issued in neatness and completeness. Indeed, when the reader learns that it contains notice of 5532 stamps, he may think it outstrips them all in the latter particular. This number, however, includes, as the title imports, essays, telegraph, fiscal, and railway stamps, but—a new and praiseworthy feature—these are catalogued separately from the postal. The plan of the work may be described thus. The postage stamps of all nations are described in the first part, and are alphabetically arranged within the five divisions. Under this heading, 4344 labels are comprised. Part 2 contains all the other species of stamps, and is subdivided into sections. Essays and proofs leading the way, telegraphs following, and so on. This method is the most clear and precise of any, as those who are *but* postage-stamp collectors are not confused by the appearance of descriptions of the sundry other kinds after the list of postal emissions proper of each country.

The catalogue, we should add, is of a portable form, and the covers are orna-

mented with cuts, among which, curiously enough, figures M. Moens' own design for Moresnet.

Timbres d'Offices Americaines avec leurs prix de vente, précédée d'une introduction sur leur origine par feu M. JAMES LESLEY, Brussels: J. B. Moens.

THIS little brochure forms the third and concluding part of M. Moens' price catalogue, and is worth the sixty centimes at which it is published. It does not aim at being discriminative, but fulfils its purpose of being complete, and its value is increased by the insertion at the end of the sheets of lithographed illustrations of locals originally included in his larger work. 150 types are thus represented, and many collectors would prefer the copies to the originals. At the end of the catalogue of locals is a supplementary list of M. Moens' prices for the United States uncut government envelopes.

Timbres-Poste Album du Collectionneur.
Paris: A. MAURY.

THIS new comer is specially prepared for beginners, and is attractively printed and bound. We fear, however, to prophecy a wide success, as it has some defects which detract considerably from its value. It is entirely without guards, and in consequence would bulge out in an unseemly manner when two or three hundred stamps had been mounted. The squares also are of uniform size, and would be found too small for many varieties: it would be impossible to arrange oblong stamps upon them. M. Maury gives some sensible advice to collectors, as to removing from stamps the fragments which adhere to the back, and as to the mode of mounting. His plan is, to gum a slip of paper on one side, cut it up into little bands, fold each band in the middle, keep the gummed side uppermost, and then attach one half of this gummed side to the stamp, and the other half to the page. This "hinge" plan is very simple, though, by the way, not easy to describe accurately, and has the advantage of permitting of easy reference to watermark, &c., and of the removal of the stamp at any time without injury.

POSTAL CHIT-CHAT.

AT PILCOT, IN HAMPSHIRE, A TOMTIT has built a nest in the post-office letter-box. It laid twelve eggs in less than a fortnight, and hatched nine of them.

FISHY VALENTINES.—The Scotch, with that *dry* humour for which they are so conspicuous, have a habit of sending red herrings through the post as valentines. This year a large number were received, some of them ornamented with lace paper, &c., but all of them were ruthlessly confiscated by the (hungry?) officials. Some of these piscatorial communications were sent of malice prepense, as was evident from the addresses they bore.

WATCH THE WASTE PAPER.—A girl, employed in an American paper mill, in separating the waste paper purchased from postmasters, some time since found several letters, one of which contained 30 dollars in U. S. Treasury notes, and another contained a note for 500 dollars, and an order to cancel stamps placed upon a note since it was signed, as stamps could not be obtained at the place where the note was signed. The above letters had been thrown into the waste basket by some careless postmaster or clerk, and sold at 5d. per lb.; and some other clerks have been under suspicion, and had this girl been dishonest, they might never have been able to prove their innocence.

THE NEW RAILWAY OVER MONT CENIS.—The postal service between France and Italy has already been accelerated by the opening of this railway. Formerly a letter posted in Paris at eight o'clock in the evening arrived at Florence two days afterwards, but so late at night that it was not delivered until the next morning. Thus letters which left Paris on Monday evening were distributed in Florence on Thursday morning. They will now arrive on Wednesday morning, and be at once delivered. This secures a gain of a day. Letters from London might equally share in the advantage of the new system, if the post-office authorities in Paris did not detain them for twelve hours, and a night service were organised over Mont Cenis.

SIR R. NAPIER'S REPORT ON THE ABYSSINIAN POSTAL DEPARTMENT.—The post is carried by two sowars, from station to station, averaging a distance of from 10 to 15 miles. The 10th Bengal Cavalry take it from Zoolla to Addigerat; the 12th Bengal Cavalry, from Addigerat to Ashangi; and the 3rd Bombay Cavalry, from Ashangi to the front. All the riding ponies in the lowland train have been ordered to be distributed along the postal stations, for the purpose of carrying heavier bags, containing newspapers and parcels, along with the sowars on duty. The last post received has taken nine days from Zoolla to this station (Abdikoom); the sowars *en route* are often much delayed, meeting troops and convoys of stores moving up to the front, the road or footpath across the hills being, in many places, so narrow that it is impossible, or would be very dangerous, for two animals to pass each other." This report is dated April 1st, and signed by "J. T. Holland, Assistant-Quatermaster-General."

TELEGRAMS AND POSTAGE STAMPS IN DENMARK.—The writer of a letter in the *Times* gives the following information on this subject: "Messages from places where there is no telegraph office, may be sent to the nearest government telegraph offices, either by the post, or by any other conveyance. Such telegrams must be paid by common postage stamps affixed to a place marked on the form. The forms, together with printed envelopes, may be had at any post or telegraph office. On the back of these

forms is printed an extract of the rules and regulations for the transmission of messages. The stamps are cut off the forms, and sent to the financial department, together with the monthly cash balance. It is the intention to extend this arrangement also to the private and railway telegraph offices. Money to the amount of 50 rigsdalers, say £5 10s., can be made payable at any post-office by means of the telegraph. The amount is to be deposited at the post-office, from which an official telegram then orders the payment to the addressee named. The telegram, charged as a single message, is the only expense paid in addition to the deposited amount. There is a uniform charge of 9d. for a single message of 20 words between any of the 89 stations.⁷

MISHAPS OF THE ABYSSINIAN POSTAL DEPARTMENT.

—Problem: Given the beginning and the ending of a letter, to guess all the contents. It is a riddle almost as difficult as the old nautical joke, "Given a ship's course and the height of the mainmast, to find the captain's name." Some of our conquering countrymen have had a puzzling experience of this kind. The postal department attached to the Abyssinian expedition has broken down; letters have been unaccountably lost; bags have come to hand containing only a mass of pulp, or a collection of letters minus covers, and covers minus letters. The post-office people are now taking steps to discover the addresses of the various fragmentary epistles in their possession; lists are published, giving the opening and concluding words of each letter. As a consequence, there have been long lists of "Darling Bobs" and "Beloved Freds;" and it must require some coolness to say to a post-office clerk, "If you please, I'm the darling Bob referred to in fragment 593." It appears that the letters home have been mixed and mashed in the same way, so that the whole camp knows that they have amongst them an "ever-faithful Tom," who has at home a "darling Kate," to whom he "sends a thousand kisses." One letter from home ends with "Susan and the kids send their love." We can quite fancy that some endings must be strongly provocative of all kinds of emotions—such terminations as "I am, however, otherwise quite well," the rest wanting; or, "The other children are all right," the preceding part illegible; or, "Let me know at once what I have to say to him—ever yours," the remainder pulp. Then two or three gentlemen may have "Susans" and "kids," and fight for the nearly unreadable fragment. It would be almost better had the letters been utterly lost, for then it would only be a re-writing and great patience; now vexation is added, and the "general camp, pioneers and all," have learned the sweet syllables of Amelia's name, with the exact terms in which her devoted Bob addresses her. Nothing but the crowning victory of Magdala could have compensated the poor fellows for such a cruel yet comical catastrophe in correspondence.—*Daily Telegraph*.

ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS.

W. VIBOND, Nether Hearth Mine.—Your communication has been crowded out and shall appear next month.

PENDRAGON.—We intended inserting your second paper this month, but have been compelled to defer its publication until our next.

WALTER ANDREWS, Toronto.—Your one-cent red United States, whether taken off a letter or not, is unquestionably a forgery and bears a forged postmark.

JACOBUS, London.—There is a green as well as a brown fivepence Ceylon. The latter colour is now obsolete.—

There are two shades of the penny red Swan River—the first issued, rose; the second, carmine.

ISAAC A., Blairgowrie.—Mons. Moens, 7, Galerie Bortier, Brussels, charges 6 francs for a photograph of the sheet of New Caledonian stamps and 30 cents for a photograph of a single stamp.

J. V., Glasgow.—Sends us a specimen of the 1d. New South Wales newspaper-wrapper stamp obliterated by the words THE SYDNEY MORNING HERALD printed across the face in two lines. The variety is of some interest and worthy of preservation.

A. S., Peckham.—The stamp of which you send so carefully-executed a drawing is a newspaper stamp impressed upon the paper itself and representing the duty formerly payable as well as the postage.—We shall have no objection to examine your "suspects."

C. VAN RINSUM & Co., Amsterdam.—Are you sure that your deep-brown $\frac{1}{4}$ schilling Mecklenburg Schwerin is not a changeling. To us it appears to be no more.—What you term a Japan stamp is no more than a piece of the ornamental border of a sheet of the one-anna India.

B. C., Piccadilly.—When Mr. Overy Taylor stated that the rumour of the issue of a provisional series of Montevidean stamps at the beginning of 1866 was unfounded, no specimens, so far as we know, had been seen in this country, and there was a probability that the report was destitute of truth. Subsequently, confirmation of the emission was received, and there is now no question as to its genuineness.—Your Montevidean is one of the thin figure series.

RUTERA, Melton Mowbray, suggests the insertion of blank leaves upon the guards of Lallier's albums, and would like M. Lallier to prepare leaves accordingly headed with the names of countries. This correspondent has a copy of the third edition of Lallier, but if his idea were carried out, M. Lallier could hardly be expected to prepare the leaves to suit that edition. We fear our correspondent, if he wishes to have an orderly album, must, unpleasant though the change may be, dismount his stamps, and place them in at least a newer album.

A POSTAGE STAMP, Liverpool, wants to know whether boys of from 11 to 13 years old would be admitted into the proposed philatelic society. As the society is still *in nubibus* we cannot give him any answer.—Indian "Service" stamps may, we should imagine, be obtained from any dealer.—We have "heard of such a thing as a 3 groschen North German stamp,"—heard of it ever since we became collectors, and are happy to possess specimens of the various emissions of this value. Does our correspondent mean a 3 groschen of the new German Confederation?—that would indeed be a novelty.

B. H., Braintree.—Thanks for your kind commendation of our paper on "Locals." A list of all the varieties would have occupied too much space. The Moresnet are decidedly to be classed among "shams"; the Brunswick ST. P. FR. and Hanover BESTELLGELD FREI (which we omitted to notice) come under our first division as stamps emitted by the state; the Austrian complementary labels are of no real value; the Venetian Declaration stamps are commercial; the Bavarian "Instruction" stamps have a postal character and are perhaps worth collecting as curiosities, but are neither local nor government emissions proper.—A "fiscal" label is a stamp representing a tax or duty, and is not necessarily a "bill" stamp.—We regret we have not space for a list of telegraph stamps.—"Label" is rather an incorrect term to apply to the French newspaper stamps, they being in fact impressed upon the journals themselves. They cover the tax and the postage.

THE TWO SCHOOLS.

BY OVERY TAYLOR.

RECENT articles and letters in this magazine have made it evident that there are a great many collectors who are opposed to the style of collecting which finds favour with continental amateurs; in other words, it may be accepted as true that there are "English" and "French" schools of philately in existence, whose respective disciples look upon the collection of stamps from different points of view. The motto of the English school might be, "the stamp, and nothing but the stamp;" the motto of its opponent, "the stamp, and everything connected with the stamp." The English school maintains that stamps should be studied solely with reference to their designs, and to those details which directly affect the designs; whilst the French school advocates the careful study of everything which appertains to the stamp—the watermark, the paper, and the perforations, in addition to the device, and the colour.

Upon the English school, which has only lately taken to itself definite shape, an attempt has been made to throw cold water. Its advocates (though we admit they have not shown too much judgment in their case) have been treated with undisguised contempt, and its tenets have been ruthlessly picked to pieces. Now, whilst we should personally be disinclined to range ourselves under the banner of "Pendragon," we think the English school is entitled to greater respect than it has received. We are disposed to view its establishment as a protest against the extreme views which are sought to be propagated by more exact collectors. There has been in the writings of the most noted amateurs a tendency, by frequent and prominent reference to minute details, to strongly recommend, we might almost say to enforce, the collection of the more finely-marked varieties; and now comes the re-action. We believe that the writers on this topic represent, more or less effectively, the opinions of a large body of collectors, and consider that, however loosely their protest may be worded, it deserves to be thoughtfully admitted and examined.

We would wish to guard against being understood to advocate that the secondary details of stamps should not be studied, but we certainly believe that their systematic investigation will always be conducted by a select few, who will not be followed by the general philatelic public; and we therefore urge that the objectors to a style of collection, which is based on special recognition of such details, have a right to be heard. We ourselves collect stamps perforated and unperforated; stamps watermarked and unwatermarked; stamps on thick and on thin paper; all strongly-marked varieties of shade; envelopes of one and the same series, with inscriptions to right, and inscriptions to left; and genuine local stamps. It will be seen, then, we can hardly be classed with the strict English school, but neither can we take rank with the French philatelists, who, in addition, distinguish between and collect varieties in the quality of paper,* and in the number of perforations. As we before said, we think it desirable these varieties should be noted, but as their only extrinsic value must consist in their forming a characteristic of genuine stamps as against forgeries, we do not think it is necessary to insist upon them so prominently as at present in special papers and notices of new stamps.

This, however, is but a parenthetical statement of our own opinions, which we are not seeking to push into notice.

What we would plead for, is the honest recognition of the fact, that there is in existence a very large number of collectors, whose opinions differ from those which have of late been principally expressed—who do not believe in differences caused by perforation, watermark, or paper, or anything of the sort.

If experienced collectors, who have been for a long time past the principal exponents of philatelic doctrine, should seek to check the development of the new school, will they not be acting contrary to the best interests of their favourite pursuit? Give

* As we have said, we collect stamps on thick and on thin paper, by which we mean the thin and the thick paper Turkish, and a few other equally marked individuals, but not those stamps distinguished from each other solely by such fine variations in quality as are mentioned farther on.

the new students a cordial welcome, say we; they will form the militia from which the standing army of more advanced collectors will be recruited.

That there is a modicum of good in their protest, we sincerely believe. Continued refinement in matters of detail must eventually render philately a close pursuit. Catalogues, magazines, guides of every sort to its study, will become so encumbered with technicalities and abstruse distinctions, as to become unintelligible to a beginner, and thus many who might be disposed to collect would be deterred through the difficulty of comprehending what they ought to collect. Already, for instance, if we look in Berger-Levrault's catalogue, which is intended for general use, we find among the list of abbreviations no less than fourteen kinds of paper enumerated,* to distinguish between some of which would require a special knowledge of paper-making,—knowledge few would be disposed to seek for, merely in order that they might judge on what particular quality of paper a stamp was printed.

Now, it is to no one's interest that the number of collectors should diminish; for should the number fall below a certain point, dealers would not gain enough to justify their continuance in the trade, and then where would even the select few be, deprived of almost all means of further study?

It is open to the disciples of the French school to urge, that whatever may be their opinions, every one is free to collect after his own style. That is true enough; but in philately, as in most other things, the force of the continued assertion and advocacy of one class of opinions must lead those who hold to another class to suppose that theirs are treated with contempt, and that their style of collection is considered inferior, and not worthy of recognition. Such a conclusion must have a disheartening effect on collectors who take it home to themselves, rendering them dissatisfied with their col-

lections, which appear to be so far below the mark, and indisposed to incur further expense in the study of a science daily expanded by minute details.

Philately being, as it ever must be, an ornamental pursuit, or rather shall we say (following the editor's train of thought last month), a leisure-hour occupation, is nothing if it does not give pleasure. Under ordinary conditions there is in it enough of the scientific in the arrangement of the stamps, &c., to brace the mind; enough of the beautiful and interesting in their designs and colours, to please the fancy. But if the collection of all the secondary varieties be enforced by the literary organs and standard catalogues, then the labour of examining and connoting stamps by themselves, and stamps with each other, would, with many persons, rob the pursuit of all the pleasure attached to it. It is the boast of philately, that its objects are so easily attainable, and at such slight cost, that they may be collected by persons of the most moderate means; but those very persons, from their positions in life, have probably not too much leisure, and were it, so to speak, obligatory on them to study and collect the minor varieties, they would have no time for anything else, and would be compelled to throw their albums aside. To such persons the additional sums required for the purchase of the examples of variations, would also be a source of inconvenience; for however little the price of one stamp may be, that little multiplied by two or three hundred will make a respectable total.

We trust that in these remarks we have not given offence to collectors of either school, as our purpose has been to conciliate. To the English collector we would say—do not sneer at the more advanced principles of your French *confrère*, bearing in mind that his researches have so frequently led to the elucidation of difficult points; to the French collector—respect the prejudices of the opposing school against some ideas which you cherish, remembering that it is not every one who cares, or is able to go to extremes, and that the more earnest philatelists there are in the world—no matter what their mode of thinking—the better.

* The following are the fourteen kinds: bluish, white, coloured, machine-made, machine-made bluish, machine-made white, machine-made bluish (imitative of laid), machine-made white (imitative of laid), laid, bluish laid, bluish English laid, white English laid, white laid, coloured laid.

ST. THOMAS AND TORTOLA.

THE island of St. Thomas, which not long since was the scene of so much hurricane violence, is one of those few islands in the Virgin group which belong to the Danes. England owns Tortola, the chief island in the cluster, and many of the adjacent islets. The Virgin Islands were discovered in 1493 by Columbus, who gave them their present name in honour of the eleven thousand virgins who left Bâle under the guidance of St. Ursula, for the purpose of converting the Huns to Christianity, and who perished, according to the legend, at Cologne, where their bones are now exhibited. Buccaneers were the first settlers, and seized the islands on their own account, but Charles II. of England having assumed authority over them, these islands were included in a commission of government, which was given by that monarch to Sir William Stapleton.

By the fortune of war, which has, at different times, subjected these, and all the West India Islands, to many masters, St. Thomas and a few other small places remained to Denmark at the close of the great war in 1815. As a country producing the usual West India products,—sugar, rum, and molasses,—St. Thomas is not in the first, or even in the second rank. It is, nevertheless, the centre of a vast traffic, being, though Danish, the station for the Royal Mail Steam Packet Company's trade to and from the West Indies. To St. Thomas, passengers and goods to and from Europe have been for some years conveyed, as the starting point for their final destination. Large and powerful steamers, plying between Southampton and St. Thomas, have carried passengers and goods across the Atlantic; and at St. Thomas an intercolonial service, still under the authority of the company, has transported them to their respective destinations; as many as six steamers being constantly employed in thus carrying to and from the port of the Southampton steamer.

A glance at the map will show the reason why St. Thomas has been thus chosen, in preference to any of the English islands, for the mail service. It lies at the northernmost point of any of the islands, Anegada

excepted, and is well adapted, not only for the reception and departure of the ocean steamers, but also as the trysting-place of the colonial steamers, whose farthest points lie equidistant from the island. The harbour is a commodious one, though perhaps inferior to that in the British island of Tortola, hard by—and in other respects St. Thomas has been found, till lately, the most suitable place in all the West Indies for the English mail service.

Latterly, however, the glory of the island would seem to have departed. Yellow fever, imported probably from the more southern islands, took up its abode there, and would not depart till the dreadful hurricane, which has cast so grievous a destruction upon it, blew the fever right away. An enormous floating dock, which bid fair to be of great use to the numerous ships frequenting the island, and to prove a remunerative speculation to her owners, sunk in deep water, and was but the prelude to other misfortunes which have followed quickly on each other in the commercial world there. The latest news about St. Thomas, before the news of the hurricane, was, that it had been included with other Danish West India islands, in a contract of sale, by which the rights and interests of Denmark were transferred to the United States for twelve millions of rix-dollars. The Royal Mail Company's depôt had already been shifted to another place in consequence of the fever, which was so abiding—so that Ichabod might fairly have been written across the name of St. Thomas on the chart.

Tortola, concerning which the Atlantic cable sent so graphic and grim a message the other day—"The island of Tortola submerged, 10,000 lives lost," is, as has been said, the chief of the Virgin Islands, and belongs to Great Britain. Its extreme length is twenty miles, and its extreme breadth four in the widest part. It is wholly made up of a succession of precipitous and rugged hills, which run east and west along the length of the island, and of which the valleys are buried countless fathoms deep in the Carribean Sea. Deep water lies close to the island, as is always the case where

land rises steep and sheer; but, in order to compensate for this drawback to the shipping, Nature, ever kind, even when seemingly cruel, has given Tortola one of the finest land-locked harbours it is possible to imagine. This harbour was, during the great French war, the principal rendezvous for West Indian merchant-ships that were waiting for a convoy to England; and it was no uncommon sight to see collected there a fleet of three hundred sail, laden with all sorts of West Indian produce, which was to be carried across the Atlantic under escort of some of the king's cruisers. But the importance thus given to the place was only temporary. With the peace which the world had after the fall of Napoleon I., vanished the trade and profit which the accidents of war brought to Tortola. Ships had come there for protection, not for produce; their cargoes they had taken in at the other islands, from which they came to Tortola, trusting to their good fortune not to be snapped up by an enemy's cruiser on the way. All the trade they did with Tortola was an artificial one, in stores, provisions, and necessaries for the voyage, and this trade, of course, ceased with the cessation of the causes which gave rise to it.

Tortola is too rough and rocky for cultivation to any appreciable extent, and even those spots on her sides which might be made available for sugar-canes, can only be worked at a cost for labour which would preclude the planter from a fair competition with the planters of other islands. The yield of sugar, therefore, is very small; and, latterly, the inhabitants have tried, not without success, though that has been limited, to cultivate the cotton-plant, which is less exacting than the sugar-cane in its demands upon the soil, and can be cultivated at less cost, and for a better profit.

The chief town, indeed the only place worthy the name of town, is called by the name of the island—Tortola. It lies on the south side of the island, close to the water's edge, in the western extremity of the fine harbour already mentioned. Here and there, in other parts, there are small settlements, as the need of the planter or the fancy of

the squatter require; but other town than Tortola there is none.

The island is included in the government of St. Kitts, which lies a degree and a half to the southward, and a little to the eastward of it. The total revenue of the government is under £2,000;—a fact from which the extent of its political importance may be deduced. The population in 1828 consisted of 787 whites and free-coloured males, 986 women, and 5399 slaves. In 1861, the population of the British Virgin islands, including Tortola, was under 6100.—*Beeton's Journal*.

[The information that the island of Tortola is included in the government of St. Kitts is not correct. It has a separate administration, at the head of which is the governor, Sir Arthur Rumboldt.—Ed.]

ON THE COLLECTION OF VARIETIES.

BY PENDRAGON.

HAVING in a recent paper disposed, to the best of our ability, of the innovations recommended by the foreign schools, it now only remains to be detailed in what manner the collection of varieties, as allowed by us, affects the study of philately.

The term "varieties," as understood by English collectors, comprises all those departures from the normal type, either in design, colour, or shade of paper, which are indicative of a distinct phase of the stamp's existence, although a purely accidental deviation on the part of those by whom it was issued.

Of varieties of *design* there are several series of stamps, which from the fact of each die in a sheet for a certain value having been executed separately by hand, cannot be said to possess an individual normal state at all, any one of the dies (unless strangely differing by reason of error) having as much right to that position as another.

The most striking instances of this are afforded by the native Mauritius die-prints, Sydney views, and the earlier stamps for Luzon.

With respect to the first mentioned, the backgrounds of both the penny and twopenny were purposely diversified by the engraver, who appears to have been influenced by a respect for the old adage, "variety is charming,"

and, as Mr. Pearson Hill observes, doubtless thought that no question would be raised in connection with the subject, much less that it would eventually give rise to discussion, which it has done, on and off, ever since the collection of stamps was first mooted. To us, therefore, any one of the varieties of each suffices as a representative of the value; the others which differ from it falling in, as a matter of course, as *its* varieties.

On one die, however, in the plate of twopenny stamps, the engraver used the words POST OFFICE, instead of POST PAID, from which circumstance this stamp, when obtained, cannot reasonably be retained in the above situation, as in consequence of the error, it is entitled to be considered an altogether *distinct* variety.*

As to the Sydney views, there exists a normal type for each value, and the differences chiefly occur where, from the fact of their having been separately engraved, a greater or less amount of delicacy or roughness of the execution is observable, or where minor details in the design have been, through carelessness on the part of the engraver, included or omitted. These varieties of design occur more generally with respect to the penny and twopenny values. The engraving of the threepenny is considerably better.

The rough penny and twopenny Sydneys should, I think, be referred to a period when the workman was tired, or in a bad temper, the finer designs being assigned to his brighter moods; for the short period during which the stamps in question were in circulation precludes the possibility of more than one plate having been engraved for each value, as has been, to my mind, somewhat unadvisedly hinted at.

The fact that all the threepenny alike display a greater degree of artistic skill, may be accounted for with great probability, by ascribing them to another hand than that which designed the above. Consequently we have only three spaces allotted for the views in our albums, the rest finding their proper sphere among the variations.

The first stamps for Luzon present a case for consideration similar to the die-printed Mauritius; here, in like manner, each die having been separately engraved, any variety (since all are varieties) may stand sponsor for the specimen, the different types following it as *its* varieties; and in this case also a similar error to the Mauritius one is observable, viz., the substitution of CORROS for CORREOS on one of the dies in the plate for the one real, making, by reason of the error, a *distinct* variety.

A parallel case to that of the Mauritius, Sydneys, and Luzon, quoted above, may likewise be found in the various types for the provisional issue of British Guiana, which were emitted in 1862. It has been ascertained beyond doubt, I believe, that two different borders have been found on an uncut pair of the 2-cent stamp, and if so, this will prove my hypothesis with regard to them to be correct. I think myself, that the printer not having sufficient of a certain border-type to make up a sheet of that value, put in a few odd types by way of a makeshift, and hence we have those variations which prevent our allotting any particular normal design to it.

The same may also be said of the two other values, the varieties of all three having always been of the highest degree of rarity, as they must necessarily be, if my theory is correct, for probably only a few dies found their way in this manner into the printer's form.

Minor differences of design, which affect the study of philately in the same way, are to be observed in the 1860 issue of British Guiana, 1862 issue Argentine Republic, the recent issue for Bolivia, &c.

Errors of design, colour, or colour of paper, including those of the former, which I have already commented on, are looked upon, like them, as *distinct* varieties only.

* Of the first mentioned I may include, in addition to those previously noticed, the following as a few of the instances which we have, viz. :—

Peru, cornucopia on *white* ground.

Lubeck, 2 sch. brown, with the value TWO-AND-A-HALF in words at the sides, &c.

* [Has our correspondent ever seen a stamp showing this variety of inscription?—Ed.]

Oldenburg spelt OLDEIBURG on the stamp.
Modena, errors in setting up the value in
type, *i.e.* :

15 CNET.
15 CETN.
40 CNET.
40 CETN.
49 CENT.

Among errors of colour, the following are
some of the most important :

Prussia, 3 s. gr. *blue*, block-printed.

„ eagle, 2 s. gr. *brown*.

India, 1854, $\frac{1}{2}$ anna *red*.

„ present issue, 2 annas *green*.

Liberia, 24 cents *lilac*.

France, Republic, 1 franc *orange*, &c.

And deviations as to the colour of the paper,
which in many instances *may* have occurred
of necessity (*i.e.*, when in want of the pro-
per paper), although in the majority of cases
undoubtedly of an erroneous character, pre-
sent us with the following specimens :

Ceylon $\frac{1}{2}$ d. on blue.

„ 6d. ditto.

India, 1861, 1 anna on blue.

„ „ 2 annas ditto.

„ „ 4 „ ditto.

„ „ 8 „ ditto.

Great Britain 4d. rose on blue.

United States envelope, 3 cents (1861),
on blue, &c.

As has been previously observed, all these
varieties, whether distinct or otherwise, are
best preserved in the album on the back of
the previous page to that on which the issue
to which they belong occurs, and consequently
opposite to it, the collector taking care to
place the stamps in a line with the series of
one individual of which it is a variation.

I believe that I have now considered fully
all those classes of varieties the characteris-
tics of which it was requisite to touch upon,
in connection with the discussion which is
the subject of this and my former paper.

In conclusion, however, I should wish to
revert to one of the questions entered into
in the latter, *viz.*, the collection of water-
marks, as a couple of cases, the settlement
of which it involved, but which I did not
then expatiate upon, have recently occurred
to my mind.

French collectors pretend to collect the

watermarks in all their entirety, and every
distinct phase of them that can be found—
errors of course included.

Now, the idea suggests itself to me, that if
it is necessary to have the whole of the
Russian envelopes entire, that their beautiful
(?) watermarks may be observed at the col-
lector's pleasure, it is likewise no less neces-
sary to have the whole sheet of each of the
Tuscany's on blue paper in the album, in order
that the elaborate and artistic device of
crowns and bordering which it displays,
may be preserved for any future observation
that may be deemed expedient or pleasing.*

Then again, we have in errors of water-
mark the present sixpenny New South
Wales, constantly occurring, on which the
watermark 6 is reversed, consequently the
stamp is watermarked 9.

Do French collectors notice this distinc-
tion, or indeed intend doing so? I think
not, but they undoubtedly should, if they
allow any distinction of this class at all.
Let them but consider what a bright and
exhaustless field of enterprise is here open to
every ardent and aspiring philatelist, and
many of them will doubtless live to thank
me for the suggestion, with which remark
I close this article, trusting it will go its
way, carrying with it the good it was in-
tended to diffuse.

THE EGYPTIAN OFFICIAL STAMPS.

ON more than one occasion we have referred
to these stamps, but until the present have
never been able to give much account of
them.

We are indebted to a correspondent at
Alexandria for the ability to give a more
detailed description now, though there are
many points still to be cleared up.

The only stamps of which we have hitherto
heard, are those bearing the inscription
POSTE VICE REALI EGIZIANE, but our correspon-
dent informs us that there was a series
emitted anterior to these. We quote his
statement:—

* [Our correspondent's sarcasm loses much of its point
from the fact, that the collection of a sheet of each of the
Tuscany's, on blue paper, however "necessary" it might
be supposed to be, is impossible, as not a single entire
sheet of such stamps is in existence.—Ed.]

“Before the ‘Vice-royal Egyptian post-office’ bore its present name, and belonged to government, it was called *Posta Europea*, and belonged to a gentleman of the name of Chini. During that time no postage stamps were issued, and the official correspondence was marked by those round stamps on which POSTA EUROPEA is to be read.”

Of this emission our correspondent sends us two specimens, both printed on coloured paper and generally resembling the government issues hereafter described. The circular inscription reads thus:— AMMINISTRAZIONE DELLA POSTA EUROPEA IN EGITTO; the centre contains the name in three lines.

Uffizio di Birket-el-Sab, deep-rose.
 „ „ *Tauta*, yellow.

The first of these two is printed much more clearly than the second.

The stamps of this semi-private series, we are informed, are all rare, and some are very rare. “Of Cairo” (says our friend) “I do not believe I could find more than two or three dozen in the whole country.”

We are not told what are the colours of this series, but the names of the varieties are as follows:

- Cairo.*
- Alessandria.*
- Damanhour.*
- Kafr Zayat.*
- Tauta.*
- Zagazig.*
- Benha.*
- Birket-el-Sab.*
- Suez.*
- Damiata.*
- Zefta.*
- Mehalla.*
- Samanud.*



The first series of official stamps issued by the vice-regal post-office, was of the annexed type, which it will be seen is very simple. The impressions are in black, on coloured porous

paper, and comprise the following varieties:

- Alessandria*, pink.
- Cairo*, green; *variety*, pink.
- Atfe*, deep-yellow.
- Birket-el-Sab*, red-brown.
- Took*, brown.
- Benka*, light-green, yellow-ochre.
- Zifta*, grey.
- Damiata*, yellow.
- Suez*, rose.
- Abuhomus*, pink, light-brown.
- Damanhour*, grey.
- Kafer-Zayat*, deep-brown.
- Zagasik*, light-green.
- Samanud*, bluish-green.
- Kafer Duar*, deep-blue.
- Ramle*, brown.
- Galiub*, green.
- Teh-el-Barud*, dull-grey.

The second issue constituted, in point of design, a considerable advance on its predecessor.



The circles were increased in number, and were more correctly drawn, and the inscription more neatly printed. Moreover, the new issue presented a better appearance from

being printed in colour on white paper, and the size was increased.

Some of these stamps have such brilliant tints, as, despite their comparative plainness of design, to make them quite attractive, particularly when the peculiar characters of the central inscription is taken into account.

The varieties are as follows:

- Alessandria*, marone.
- { *Took*, pale-pink.
- { *Took*, vermilion.
- Cairo*, black.
- Atfe*, blue.
- Tantu*, marone.
- { *Konstantinopoli*, vermilion.
- { *Costantinopoli*, „
- Smirne*, grey.

Minet-el-Gamp,	orange.
{ Jeh-el-Barud,	vermilion.
{ Tek-el-Barud,	”
Porto Said,	blue.
Gedda,	grey.
Jbafi-Zajat,	yellow-ochre.
Zefta,	green.
Mahallat-Roh,	brown.
Suez,	green.
Galiub,	green.
Benha,	grey.
Zagozig,	light-blue.
{ Damanhur,	green.
{ Damanhour,	”
{ Abuhomos,	marone.
{ Abuhomus,	chocolate.
Mansura,	mauve.
{ Birket-el-Saat,	green.
{ Birket-el-Sab,	”
Kafir-el-Zajat,	light-yellow.
Jbafi-el-Dauar,	yellow.
Damiata,	deep-blue.
Mahalla,	orange.
{ Samanua,	deep-green.
{ Samanud,	”
Scibin-el-Anater,	brown.
Bilbes,	yellow.

And in addition, two used by the chief office, inscribed in the centre DIREZIONE GENERALE, one without any name in the lower part of the border, the other with the word ALESSANDRIA, and both printed in vermilion.

The third emission is less attractive, but more elaborate than the preceding. In this



the centre bears a groundwork of perpendicular lines, and so much of the external border as contains the uniform inscription has a ground of crossed lines, the letters themselves being

light and shaded at the edge; this part is also cut off from the rest by a bar at each end, the name of the town below being in thick black letters. This latest series is printed in black on coloured paper. The following are the varieties:—

Alessandria,	pink.
Cairo,	blue, red-brown.
Tanta,	deep-blue.
Medinet-el-Faium,	lilac.
Galiub,	brown.
Massaua,	green.
Desur,	grey.
Benisueff,	grey.
Fasene,	violet.
Mahallet Roh,	buff.
Mugaga,	yellow.
Minia,	blue.
Zagazig,	green.
Mansura,	neutral-brown.
Ghisa,	blue.
Uasta,	magenta
Damanhour,	light-yellow.

Among the second series, several pairs may be observed bracketed together; the first of each pair shows an error in the spelling.

We have thought it well to give a detailed list, in fulfilment of our duty as chroniclers, but we do not for a moment suggest the collection of all. Their character and their number both stand in the way of their general acceptance.

These stamps are termed “official” stamps, and very probably if placed on official letters, would be taken to indicate the nature of such letters, and free them from charge. But we take it that they are also used as a species of seal, and that it is indeed their principal employment to show simply whence comes the packet of letters to which they are affixed. The idea of these stamps was borrowed from the Italian post-office, in which similar labels are used to seal the bags of letters, and it will be in the remembrance of our readers, that a large number of more or less ornamental designs were offered for these stamps, when the emission of a new type was decided on. We believe that the Egyptian are put on all official letters emanating from the office whose name they bear; and indeed it is only on the supposition that they are intended to indicate the place of origin of the letters to which they are affixed, that the emission of stamps for each office can be explained. Their number is, as the above list shows, considerable. We should ourselves recommend philatelists to remain content with two or three samples of each series.

NEWLY-ISSUED OR INEDITED STAMPS.

If no news be good news, then assuredly our readers have every cause to be satisfied with our account of new emissions this month. Such a dearth of novelties has never been known in stamp annals. If we glance at the different countries we find that for the present at least they are pretty well supplied with labels, and no immediate necessity, by reason of political change or tariff alterations, exists for the emission of new series.

In our own country the existing issue seems likely to be long current. The immortal penny shows no sign of decay—would it did. Were it even perfect in design we should be inclined to ostracize it from very dissatisfaction at its long existence. The values issued last year are now in regular employment and are consequently getting commoner, though as all three are used more especially for prepayment of postage on letters to foreign countries they will none of them become entire drugs on the market, like their predecessors. Of the two shilling and five shilling it is very hard to get a decently-marked copy, on account of the seemingly intentional custom of the post-office clerks of obliterating them as heavily as possible. The higher value affords, it is true, quite a tempting mark for a steady-handed stamper, but the two shilling must, we should almost imagine, be sought out.

GREAT BRITAIN.—Whilst speaking of our own labels, we must not omit to state that we have been kindly informed by Mr. Pearson Hill, that the sixpence is shortly to submit to a change of colour, from lilac to deep-purple; as owing to its present similarity in tint to the recently-issued penny receipt stamp, the latter is frequently put on letters by mistake. We think this a change for the better, and welcome it accordingly.

HOLLAND.—The 15 cents of the new type was emitted on 27th or 28th June. The colour is a warm reddish-brown. The one cent is still unemitted, and M. Moens states that, having experienced some difficulty with regard, we suppose, to the impression of this

stamp, the Dutch authorities have solicited of their Belgian brethren the loan of a printer from the government office. He is to go shortly, and philatelists will await his handiwork.

SAXONY.—Our sole engraving this month is of a type more handsome than valuable.



It is that of the newly-issued envelopes of the Dresden Express Company. These are accompanied by a new series of adhesives, or we should rather say, the pre-existing type has been issued with the denomination changed from *neu-groschen* to *groschen*. The values are as follows, and the colours are the same for both species of stamps.

$\frac{1}{4}$	groschen green.
$\frac{1}{3}$	„ violet.
$\frac{1}{2}$	„ orange.
1	„ rose.
2	„ blue.
5	„ bistre.

The envelope design is very neat and effective, as will be seen, and the colours being deep and good contrasts, the set looks well. As to the character of these stamps we cannot do better than reproduce the comments of *Le Timbre-Poste*.

“S. EXPRESS [the inscription on the envelopes] signifies, it is said, *Saxon Express*, the service of the company, instead of being confined to the city of Dresden, having been extended throughout all Saxony. This does not seem at all clear. The stamps lead us to suppose a local service for Dresden and the envelopes, strange to say, for the whole of Saxony. We shall be curious to know how this service is conducted side by side with that of the state, which always reserves to itself the monopoly of the distribution of the correspondence; it is for this reason that we call for further details.”

We cordially endorse these remarks of our contemporary. Philatelists resident in the towns where such locals as those under notice are said to be current would render no small service by investigating their claims to be considered genuine, and reporting the results. These small fry, which collectors hardly know whether to accept or

reject, there is such a semblance of authenticity about them, should be proclaimed once for all true or false, and we regret we have not ourselves the means of tracing them out.

SERVIA.—Our publishers were before us in announcing the existence of unperforated 2-para stamps, which they did by presentation of a specimen of the new variety with each copy of the magazine. The general appearance of the stamp in its unadorned condition is so different as to tempt the sternest advocate of "only one of a value," to make an exception in this instance. The one para is also emitted unperforated, and collectors who value these varieties should lose no time in obtaining an example. Perhaps our publishers might be persuaded to follow their own example with respect to the one para.

The Servian series with head of Michael form another example of the historical value of stamps. We doubt if any coins were issued bearing his head, and if so the postage stamps, in conjunction possibly with the revenue labels, bear the only authentic portraits of a man whom death has made to some extent famous, and who at least deserves to be remembered as a ruler who honourably distinguished himself by his mode of government and national spirit. It is a comment on the character of the times, that within the short space of four years two ruling men have been struck down by the hand of the assassin—Lincoln and Prince Michael; and a third—Maximilian—has suffered death at the hands of blood-thirsty enemies; and it is interesting to the stamp collector to possess little portraits, emitted by the state, of all three.

NEW GRANADA.—Two *erreurs d'impression* among the stamps of this country have been discovered. They are the 20 cent and 50 cent of the 1863 issue, printed, the first in green, the second in red, on white paper; the reverse being the proper colours. The Belgian journal, *apropos* of this discovery, complains that all the world cries out, and especially the English, when an unknown stamp appears, "It is a re-impression," or, "It is an essay." We have ourselves certainly expressed our doubts from time to time upon suspicious arrivals, but surely M.

Moens, with the remembrance of the Moresnet design in his mind, cannot charge English amateurs with excessive incredulity—nor the French either, for the matter of that!

GERMANIC CONFEDERATION.—The German stamp journal, *Briefmarken Sammler*, says that the Berlin post-office commenced, on the 1st ult., to work envelopes of 1 and 2 *groschen*, in quantities of ten thousand, for private parties, charging at the rate of 17½ *groschen* per thousand (1s. 9d.) over the facial value.

CANADA.—*The American Journal of Philately* states that another value is to be added to the new series for the Dominion—a 5 cents, slightly distinguished from the rest by showing a beaded circle round the portrait. The colour is unknown, but a proof has been seen in brown. We have ourselves also seen a proof of the new 1 c. in the same colour.

SPAIN.—Our correspondent at Hamburg, on the authority of a friend at Malaga, states that the 10 mil. brown has been withdrawn, forgeries having been found in circulation. If this be the case, no doubt another type of the same value will be shortly emitted.

FINLAND.—HELSINGFORS.—The local stamp for Helsingfors (and Sweaborg), in lieu of being printed green with red bar, is now brown with blue bar. Under its new aspect the stamp appears as effective as before.

MEXICO.—We give the following additional stamps of the Guadalajara series on the authority of *Le Timbrophile*.

2 reales rose, plain paper.

1 peso dull-rose (*lie-de-vin*) perforated and unperforated.

ITALY.—Collectors who are nice about shades may note that the 20 c. is now printed of a lilac tint.

WURTEMBERG.—We are indebted to *Le Timbrophile* for the announcement that a new series will be emitted for this country on New Year's day, of which the type has been already submitted.

VENEZUELA.—The half cent, half real, and one real of current series are now issued perforated.

THE CANADIAN POST OFFICE.

THE morning sun of the new Dominion is sending forth its first bright ray, therefore we think this a fitting opportunity to give our readers some particulars respecting the introduction, and subsequent success of the postal system in Canada.

For much of our information we are indebted to the *Canadian Postal Guide*.* The earliest records of the administration of the post-office in Canada, are dated 1750, at which period the celebrated Benjamin Franklin was Deputy Postmaster-General of North America. At the time of his appointment, the revenue of the department was insufficient to defray his salary of £300 per annum, but under his judicious management, not only was the postal accommodation in the provinces considerably extended, but the revenue so greatly increased, that ere long the profit for one year, which he remitted to the British treasury, amounted to £3,000.

In the evidence given by Franklin before the House of Commons in the year 1766, in regard to the extent of the post-office accommodation in North America, he made the following statement:—

The posts generally travel along the sea coasts, and only in a few cases do they go back into the country. Between Quebec and Montreal there is only one post per month. The inhabitants live so scattered and remote from each other in that vast country, that the posts cannot be supported amongst them. The English colonies, too, along the frontier, are very thinly settled.

In 1774 Franklin was recalled, and the following year the war of independence broke out, and the office was filled by Mr. Hugh Finlay, who had, under his predecessor, been postmaster at Quebec.

Canada is divided into Upper and Lower. From a Quebec almanack of 1796, we glean that there were seven offices in the former, and five in the latter, Mr. Finlay is designated as "Deputy Postmaster-General of His Majesty's Province of Canada."

At that time mails were despatched monthly to England, and semi-weekly between Quebec and Montreal, or Halifax. At Baie des Chaleurs the visits of the postman

must, we conclude, have been few and far between, as they were only favoured with a mail "as occasion offered."

In 1800 Mr. George Heriot succeeded Mr. Finlay. At this time Prince Edward Island, Nova Scotia, and New Brunswick, were all under the authority of the Canadian administration.

The following is taken from the advertising column of the *Upper Canada Gazette*, printed 1807:—

The mail for Upper Canada will be despatched from the post-office at Montreal, on the following days, to wit:

Monday, 14th January.

Monday, 12th February.

Monday, 10th March.

Monday, 7th April—the last trip.

A courier from Kingston may be looked for here in 14 or 15 days from the above periods, where he will remain 2 or 3 days, and then return to Kingston.

Another courier will proceed from this with the Niagara mail, *via* Messrs. Hatts', where the Sandwich [co. Essex] letters will be left, both from Niagara and this, 'till the courier comes from there to return with them.

Letters put into the post-office will be forwarded any time by

W. ALLAN,

Acting Deputy-Postmaster.

Mr. Heriot resigned in 1816, and was succeeded by Mr. D. Sutherland, who, on his accession to office, found Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island wholly withdrawn from the Canada charge. New Brunswick, however, continued to be included in it. This appears also to have been withdrawn in 1824, so that from that date until just lately, we have to do with Canada proper.

In 1827 there were 101 post-offices, and 2,368 miles of established post-route. The number of miles of mail-travel being 455,000. The letters that year were estimated at 340,000, and newspapers, 400,000. From the Canadian Postmaster-General's report for 1865, now lying before us, we find the number of letters had increased to 12,000,000; the miles of annual mail-travel was 6,350,000, the mails being carried regularly over 1,931 miles of railway route.

The following extract from the *Quebec Mercury*, published on July 18, 1829, conveys some idea of the postal communication with England at that period:—

No later advices have been received from Europe since our last. Some further extracts from the London papers, to 31st May, inclusive, brought to New York by the *Corinthian*, will be found in another part of this number.

* *Canadian Postal Guide*, compiled by JOHN DEWE.
Montreal: E. Pickup.

In the *Montreal Courant*, dated September 2nd, 1829, was the following paragraph, showing the improvement which had been effected in the communication between Prescott and that city:—

EXPEDITIOUS TRAVELLING.—On Saturday last, the Upper Canada line of stages performed the journey from Prescott to this city in about 17 hours, leaving the former place at a little before 3 a.m., and arriving here a few minutes before 8 in the evening. Not many years ago this journey occupied two, and sometimes three days, but owing to the great improvements made by Mr. Dickinson, the enterprising proprietor, by putting steamboats on the lakes St. Francis and St. Louis, and keeping his horses in excellent condition, it is now performed in little more than one-third of the time.

Even so late as 1833, newspaper proprietors found it (particularly in the Upper Province) better to employ their own couriers. As a proof of this we transcribe from the *Queenston (Niagara) Colonial Advocate* of that year, the following advertisement:—

POST-RIDER WANTED IMMEDIATELY.

The proprietor of this newspaper wishes to contract with a steady man (who can find and uphold his own horse) to deliver it to the subscribers once a week during the winter, on the route between York and Niagara, *via* Ancaster.

Mr. Thos. A. Stayner was postmaster in 1841, and through his recommendation a uniform rate of 1s. 2d. sterling, per half ounce, was adopted between any place in Canada and the mother country. About this time regular steam communication across the Atlantic was established.

The transfer of the Canadian post-office from the control of the imperial authorities to the Colonial government, was effected April 6th, 1851. Mr. Stayner then resigned, and the office was filled by the Hon. James Morris, who was the first Postmaster-General. This may be termed the red-letter year of the Canadian post-office. In the first place, the postage which had hitherto been according to distance, and had averaged 15 cents on each letter, was reduced to a uniform rate of 5 cents per half ounce. The newspaper charge was also considerably lowered. Within a year after, the number of letters transmitted through the post had increased 75 per cent. The operation of the department was greatly extended, and last, but most decidedly not least, was the introduction of postage stamps. In February, 1855, the money-order system was first begun, and

has within the last few years been greatly extended. Letters seem to have been first registered in 1856. In October of that year the Grand Trunk Railway was completed as far as Toronto, so that in connection with the Great Western, an unbroken line of postal communication was established between Quebec in the east, and Windsor in the west.

The decimal system of coinage was introduced in 1859; this of course, as is well known, necessitated a new issue of postal labels.

The rule of the United States posts respecting envelope stamps is in force here, for we are informed in the *Postal Guide*, "A medallion stamp cannot be accepted in prepayment of postage, if separated from the envelope of which it may have formed a part." In Baden, or countries in which the envelope stamps are not cancelled, this enactment may be one causing a saving of trouble, but we certainly are unable to see the utility of it in Canada, unless the government wishes to punish those whose penmanship is not good, and who accordingly spoil the envelopes.

We now arrive at the issue of labels for the new Dominion. The post-office act was passed on the 21st of December, 1867, and came into operation the 1st of April last. The internal rate is reduced from 5 cents to 3 cents the half-ounce; but the postage to this country remains unchanged.

The following is the order for the issue of new labels:—

POSTAGE STAMPS.

To enable the public to prepay conveniently by postage stamp the foregoing rates, the following denominations of postage stamps for use throughout the dominion, have been prepared, and will be supplied to postmasters for sale:—

Half-cent stamps, one-cent ditto, two-cent ditto, three-cent ditto, six-cent ditto, twelve-and-a-half-cent ditto, fifteen-cent ditto, all bearing as a device the effigy of her Majesty.

The postage stamps now in use in the several provinces may be accepted, as at present, in prepayment of letters, &c., for a reasonable time after the 1st of April; but from and after that date, all issues and sales to the public will be of the new denomination.

For a full description we refer our readers to our May number.

A correspondent informs us of having seen one of this new series impressed with

the letters N. S. in black ink across the face, for use in Nova Scotia. We have not noticed one ourselves, but know the lately-issued revenue labels are so effaced.

The law against the counterfeiting of stamps is very stringent in Canada. The act states:—

If any person forges, counterfeit, or imitates, or procures to be forged, any stamp, or knowingly uses, offers, sells, or exposes for sale, &c.; or engraves, cuts, sinks, or makes any plate, die, or other thing, whereby to forge, &c., except by permission of the Minister of Finance, or of some officer who may lawfully grant such permission; or removes from any such stamp any writing or mark indicating that it has been used, such person shall, on conviction, be liable to be imprisoned in the Provincial Penitentiary for any term not exceeding twenty-one years.

We should not greatly regret to see such an act as this put into force against some of our fac-simile friends.

W. D. A.

POETICAL ADDRESSES.

THE "march of intellect" in America has had some peculiar results, among which may be ranked the abnormal development of the rhyming faculty among the masses. We have seen it stated that there are 200,000 poets or rather poetasters in this country, and we should imagine there must be double that number in the States and the Dominion, to judge by the quantity of verse in all classes of publications. Rather than "blush unseen," those apparently who cannot get their effusions into a "poet's corner," seek a dubious publicity through the post-office, torturing their brains and their language to produce doggerel addresses. We have been much amused by reading a number of specimens of these productions, and our readers, we think, will share our amusement upon perusing them in turn.

Here is the first:

Know ye the spot, either sand or sod,
North side of South of Old Cape Cod,
Where dwells, in toil or luxury rife,
A lady—Mr. McKennon's wife?
If so, speed me on to that very place,
That there I may end my wild-goose chase.
Please keep it going until it reaches its place of destination.

This is in the indefinite-geographical style. Neither in "sand" or "sod" does it seem exactly likely that a lady would dwell, particularly in "luxury rife."

To Forestville go, find your way
To J. H. Rockwell, without delay;
In Connecticut State you'll find the spot;
The last I heard from him he was making lamp tops.

What delightful familiarity! Mr. Rockwell we fancy must be a gentleman of unstable purpose. The "last time" his correspondent heard from him he was making "lamp tops," but what he may have turned his hand to since, no one can say.

Now, send me along at a furious rate
To the Southern part of the Sucker state;
In the office at Centralio to rest I desire,
Till Miss Josephine Harris for me shall inquire.

O'er hill and dale, on rail or wire,
Swift speed thy flight, and never tire,
To *Worth P. O.*, direct and straight,
In *Mercer Co.*, Pennsylvania state;
And if my loved one should be there,
Miss L. C. Williams, so young and fair,
With her you may rest yourself a spell;
So go where I bid you, fare thee well.
Yours, P. O. Clerk, Kingsville, Ohio.

Oh! "happy fair," to possess such witty beaux. No. 3 is impatient his letter should reach its destination quickly, and therefore begs that it may be sent at a furious rate, and kept till a young lady, "which her name is Harris," should inquire for it. No. 4, equally impatient, is a little more communicative. He lets us into the secret that Miss Williams is "so young and so fair." Fancy the post-office clerk inquiring of the lady applicant for the letter, "Are you the young and fair Miss Williams?"

In the country of Pulaski, at present there doth dwell
A gentleman, whose name ere this is known to all full well;
Within the city of Little Rock Col. Josiah Snow is located,
Hie! postman, with this letter run! for I have forgot to date it.

Why must the postman needs run because the vivacious correspondent had forgotten to date his letter? Rhyme and logic are both wanting here.

To Frederick Green, so wise and so great,
This letter's directed with care,
In Pearl Street, New York, No. 958,
You will probably find him enthroned in great state,
His throne being made of a chair.
He the young man who "dosen't like hash,"
And when he feels dignified, always says, "trash!"

This is a fine imitation of the Ingoldsby style, and we doubt not the recipient felt flattered.

Mr. Postmaster, when you go away,
Please take me along to America;
When you get there, at Belville, Illinois,
Give me to Frank Dougherty, one of the telegraph boys.
Leave me in care of that good old feller,
The Railroad Agent, Harry W. Miller.
Belleville, Illinois.

Bundle away to Beverly, Mass.,
And seek that radical rascal,
A glorious feller you'll find him, too,
And his name is Garrie Haskell.

These are in the rollicking style. The first would seem to have been penned on this side of the water, and the writer seems to be under the illusion that the postmasters go over to America with the mails. The writers of both rejoice in the use of the expression "feller."

The two following are comparatively uninteresting:

I am going to Oil City, State of Pa.,
Please hurry me on without any delay,
It is Saturday night, almost eleven,
Put me in box one-hundred thirty-seven.

This letter to Colbrook town must go,
In Coos county, N.H., you know,
And when it gets there, I presume to say,
Mr. George B. Eastman will take it away.

Here is another of the amatory addresses:

Under guard of the "Hero" this paper please send,
He "tickets it" through, and will closely attend;
With "Uncle Sam's aid," it shall go safely there,
By rail, boat, or stage, sent to *A. King's* care;
To *North Sandford Broome Co., N. Y.*, with due speed,
For *Miss Mary King* to open and read.

Is *Mr. A. King* an obliging brother, or is he the father of *Miss Mary*, and a lover in his old years of the poetical?

The next is a soldier's effort.

Uncle Sam,—
Please send this letter via Louisville,
And oblige a soldier whose name is Bill,
Who has a wife in the Hoosier State,
Or left one there at any rate;
At Princetown, C. H., Gibson county,
You'll find her there, I'll bet my bounty;
Just take it then, the next thing do,
'Chuck it in box one sixty-two,
For Mrs. W. B. Kimball,
And she for it will duly call.

There is a mingling of doubt and confidence in this effusion. The writer says he "has a wife in the Hoosier State," but as a doubt crosses his mind, he qualifies his assertion, by stating that "he left one there at any rate," but then his confidence returns,

and he closes by offering to "bet his bounty" she will be found at the address he gives. We trust his confidence was rewarded.

We will close with another of the amatory addresses.

There is a girl well known to you,
Who lives from town a mile or two,
One name is Rose, and Cleland to her,
And Bob, you see, is her big brother;
This letter give to Fales on Monday,
Or else to Bob or Johnnie Grundy.
Lebanon, Ky.

As this young lady appears to have been so well known, the writer was indifferent to whom it was given—any neighbour would take it to her, but we should have thought an ardent lover would have been rather more particular as to the messenger. Who knows but that Bob or Johnnie Grundy may be disposed to improve on the absence of the favoured suitor?

REVIEWS OF POSTAL PUBLICATIONS.

Catalogue Descriptif, illustré d'un grand nombre de gravures de tous les Timbres-poste créés de 1840 à 1868. Troisième édition. Paris: A. Maury.

THIS is the third edition of Mons. Maury's price catalogue, ornamented on the outside with coloured engravings, and profusely illustrated within. Its arrangement is simple, and we can find no fault, except with the placing of essays immediately after the stamps of each country. The work is prefaced by a lucid explanation of technical terms and of the subjects (watermark, paper, &c.) to which they refer. We do not doubt but that this third edition will be received by French collectors with satisfaction.

Sur l'abolissement des ports internationaux et de transit. Par JOSEPH MICHAELSEN, sous chef de bureau a la direction generale des postes de Danemark. Copenhagen.

We have lived to find so many once-contrived proposals for the comfort or improvement of the race adopted that we hardly like to question the ultimate success of the scheme which Mons. Michaelsen sketches out in the little pamphlet before us. His idea is briefly this: that international letters should be conveyed free of all cost

(except the interior postage of the country wherein they are written) from the place where they are posted, through the intermediate countries, to their destination. He argues that the existing machinery of the independent state post-offices of Europe might easily be adapted to meet the new system, and that there would be no financial loss, as each country would be recompensed for carrying the letters of other nations over its territories by the possession of the same advantage of free transit for its own letters through other countries. He indeed thinks that so far from proving a loss, the system would be an actual gain on account of the increased correspondence, as each country would still collect its charge for interior postage upon its own letters. The writer suggests that the few countries whose position would prevent their reciprocating the advantages they would derive, should pay over an annual sum to those states who would suffer most by the loss of their transit charge on letters.

The body of this pamphlet bears date July, 1859, but a postscript has been added dated March, 1868, in which Mons. Michaelson alludes to the "unification" of states in Europe which had taken place in the interval as the result of the various wars, and points out that the new condition of the continent is very favourable for the adoption of his plan. In his concluding sentence he draws an encouraging augury from the fact that some of the mails are now sent in closed bags through the countries over which they have to pass in transit.

POSTAL CHIT-CHAT.

IT IS SAID, that the collection of coins in the possession of King George of Hanover, numbers nearly 22,000.

BAVARIAN STAMPS.—It may be worth while to note that the last series of stamps with figures, have not been formally suppressed. This fact was evidenced by our receiving an old 12 kr. green on a letter lately, side by side with a 6 kr. arms.

SIR ROWLAND HILL.—Mr. Peter Hollins has completed, for the sum of 950 guineas, a statue of Sir Rowland Hill, to be erected at Birmingham. The statue has been cut out of a block (three tons weight) of Carrara marble. In the right hand Sir Rowland holds a roll of penny postage stamps, suggesting the work on which his fame chiefly rests.

A NOVEL LETTER BOX.—M. Replovsky, deacon of the Russian church at Stutgard, has presented to the post-

office administration of St. Petersburg, a letter-box organised in such a way, that the person who deposits a letter in it receives immediately a ticket showing the year, month, and day of the act. A commission appointed to examine the invention, has found it perfectly practical, and well-suited for the object proposed.

THE LATEST TELEGRAPH FACILITIES.—For persons who are in the habit of sending telegraphic messages, a new system has come into operation in Paris, which will be a great convenience to them, and will show at the same time to how great an extent the telegraphic wires are now employed. From the commencement of this year, adhesive telegraph stamps have been issued to be put on the original despatches by the senders themselves. Special boxes for the receipt of these despatches are placed at the Bourse, the tribunals of commerce, and in the different quarters of the city. These boxes are cleared every ten minutes. As the despatches are sent to the different offices by the atmospheric tubes, they must be enclosed in envelopes of given dimensions, in order to ensure their immediate transmission.

CORRESPONDENCE.

"WHAT IS A POSTAGE STAMP?"

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

DEAR SIR,—At the present time, when stamp-collecting is almost universally acknowledged (although I believe there are yet some few bigoted individuals who continue to speak of it as a waste of time, trouble, and money) to be something very much higher than a mania, and but little lower than a science; and when it has for its followers thousands, not of maniacs (for most of them have dropped off, thank goodness), but real *bonâ-fidè* collectors of all nations and professions, the question at the head of this letter becomes one of some importance. May I, therefore, be allowed briefly to give, according to my lights, an answer to this question, and then to make a few remarks, based on my answer, on the subject of stamp collecting? My answer to the question would be as follows: A postage stamp is a piece of paper (there are I believe but two exceptions to this) bearing a design in some way impressed upon it, which piece of paper being attached to a letter or parcel entitles that letter or parcel to transport by the mail or by the post as the name *postage* stamp would imply, that is to say, to transport at the public expense; and I say that no label which does not confer this privilege is a *postage* stamp. A *stamp* may be anything, it includes any label, to say nothing of those stamps with the foot, which used to be employed by the timbro-manics when they were unable to obtain the postage stamps they desired.

I do not, therefore, acknowledge any stamp to be a postage stamp which does not, to some extent, frank the letter to which it is attached through the post-office, or, that which corresponds to it, in the country in which that label may be issued.

I do not consider that the question, by whom the stamp is issued, is of much importance. I have seen many articles on the subject of locals and private-office stamps, and various arguments for and against their being admitted into a collection as postage stamps. I think that the question might easily be settled, by addressing a civil letter to the postmaster of the country in which the stamps are issued, describing fully, or enclosing a specimen, and asking whether, if such a stamp were placed on a letter, newspaper, or parcel, and it were dropped through the slit in the post-office window, it would be entitled to be forwarded to its destination post free; if,

the answer were Yes, I should call it a postage stamp; if No, I should not do so.*

With regard to stamps issued by a private firm, and only franking a letter or parcel by conveyance provided by that firm, I do not think that they can be said to have any more right to be called postage stamps than railway tickets have.

I have no wish to force my opinions on this subject on any one else. I may have started on a wrong basis, in assuming that a postage stamp must necessarily be connected with the post-office; but if I am right in my text, I do not think that I can be far out in the sermon I have deduced from it. So much, then, for the definition of a postage stamp as regards its uses.

I will now say a few words on the physical constitution of a postage stamp. It consists of a piece of paper, with a device imprinted upon it; the paper may be white or coloured, and the device will be in black, or some other colour. We have, therefore, three things to consider: the paper, the device, and the colour of that paper or device; and I hold that a variation in any one of these three things constitutes a variety in the stamp. I merely offer this as a general statement. I cannot undertake to define the amount of variation necessary to constitute a variety, admissible as such into a collection: that, I think, must be left to the taste and fancy of the collector, for you may be certain that no catalogue will ever be made that will suit everybody. Variations in device are usually sufficiently marked to leave no room for doubt; variations in quality or watermark of paper will not, I imagine, be much considered by those who gum their stamps down upon paper, though I am far from agreeing with one of your correspondents, who appears to consider that the only legitimate method of arranging a collection. Intentional variations in colour will not, I think, be excluded by any but the colour-blind; to accidental, I would apply my original test of whether they ever had the power of franking letters through the post; while variations in shade may, of course, be collected à discretion.

I am now about to make a statement, from which I shall draw certain arguments, which I fear will be held to be rank heresy by many of your readers; if they can upset my statement, of course anything based upon it falls to the ground; but if not, I will stick to my own opinions.

I say that a postage stamp consists of so much only of the paper as is enclosed by the outermost line of the device, and that all beyond that line is no more a part of the postage stamp than the frame or margin of any other engraving is part of the engraving; and therefore, that no variations which occur outside that line can constitute a variety in the stamp. I hold that if I cut out the stamp all round close to the outer line of the device, I still have a perfect specimen of the stamp. I acknowledge that a margin adds to the beauty either of a stamp or of any other engraving, but deny that in any case it is an essential part.

If you extend the stamp beyond the limit I propose, I would ask how far you extend it; if you say to the perforations, I would first inquire what you would do with those that have no perforations; and would, secondly, point out that you must then admit two varieties of the sixpenny, and some other values of the current English series, of which you find specimens both with and without a blank space on one side; and in both cases is the perforation complete on all four sides of the

stamp. I hold that perforations are but the frame of the picture, and that their absence only leaves the picture unframed; and therefore, variations in the perforation do not constitute varieties in the stamp.

With regard to envelope inscriptions, I am not sure that they ought in any case to be acknowledged to affect the stamp; but I think that a stamp with the inscription across it must be considered different to one without, and therefore, a variation in the inscription may be held to constitute a variety in the stamp, if it crosses it; otherwise, I should say that it affects it no more than the printed matter in a newspaper affects the newspaper stamp. I acknowledge that if the whole envelope be attached it adds to the beauty of the stamp, but I think that it is not more necessary to possess the entire envelope than to possess the entire newspaper. I again apply my practical test, and say that the envelope stamp only includes so much as it is necessary to include if you wish to cut it off the envelope on which it was originally printed, and attach it to a plain envelope, in order to frank it through the post; if the envelope inscription, or part of it, must be included, it is part of the stamp; but if not, it is not part of the stamp.†

I repeat that I do not wish to lay down the law in any way, and I do not expect to convince any of the followers of the so-called "French" school of philately. I am a private collector, I collect according to my own ideas, and I think others should be allowed to do the same; but I believe there are some who are as yet uncertain what to admit and what to reject, and if any of the ideas I have tried to put forth are of any service to them, I shall be fully satisfied with my success.

Malta.

CHETH.

ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS.

X. Y. Z.—The Servian stamps are only used to pay the postage on interior letters.

INQUIRER, Dublin.—We noticed the "quadrilateral" pattern on the raised back of the U. S. stamps in our April number, to which we beg to refer you.

Mons. M., Alexandria.—Accept our thanks for the samples of Egyptian official stamps, and details concerning them, which you so kindly sent. You will see we have made use of your information.

Mr. H. GRAPTON, New York.—We are happy to receive from you the assurance of the *bona-fide* existence of the New York Philatelic Society, and have also to thank you for forwarding the Saint Louis stamp for our inspection.

C. J. S., St. Louis, Mo., U. S.—Dr. Gray is right in saying that the ship on the Pacific Steam Navigation Company's stamps turns to left on the $\frac{1}{2}$ oz., and to right on the 1 oz., according to the general acceptance of those terms. The ship's bows are turned to the right and left, respectively, of the observer.

J. W. C., Manchester.—The Geneva stamp to which you refer is one of a series of fiscal labels.—It is a matter of personal decision whether American revenue labels are worth collecting.—The stamps impressed on English newspapers formerly represented the amount of duty payable on them, and the postage; now they represent the charge for postage only.—The Fenian essay was a worthless American fabrication. There is no likelihood of its ever becoming current.—The design, of which you give a sketch, served equally for the envelopes and adhesives of the Finland 1856 series.

* [This would be quite unnecessary. There are few if any stamps whose character is in doubt. We would refer our correspondent to our own papers on "Locals," which lately appeared, if he wishes for information as to what stamps do and what stamps do not prepay letters through the state post-office.—Ed.]

† [The envelope stamps of many of the Continental states are of no use, if cut off the envelopes on which they are impressed, and stuck on others.—Ed.]

OUR CONTEMPORARIES.

OUR notices of last month, under this heading, were crowded out. We now insert them, and, following them, our notices for the present month.

JULY 20TH.

Our article under this heading must necessarily be a short one, for there is scarcely anything in the papers of noteworthy importance.

In our friend, *The Philatelist*, a long and carefully-compiled reference list of Victorian stamps, by Mr. Pemberton, forms the *pièce de résistance*, and leaves little room for other matter.

Le Timbre-Poste is occupied principally with the continuation of Dr. Magnus' article on stamped envelopes, in which those of England are in part described. Another amateur contributes an amusing paper on the "right and left" question, pointing out that Mons. Mahé, who gave in his adherence to Dr. Magnus' views, has forgotten his new creed in describing the Dominion stamps, which he says have the head turned to right.

Le Timbrophile.—The editor, in his article *Le Vieux-Neuf*, reports the receipt, from an Italian friend, of a Sicilian 2 grana, with the word SICILIA changed to *Sicilla*; of a 20 gr. of same series with a badly formed figure 1 before the 20, making the value appear 120 gr.; and of a series of Modena, first emission, each stamp of which showed POSIE in lieu of POSTE, the letter I having been accidentally substituted for T, and then he adds,

As some persons are fond of saying that these stamps are reprinted at will, and that at each working new faults are *nude*, we have made search among our obliterated stamps for the Sicilian and Modenese, and we have found the 2 grana of Sicily and the complete series of Modena with the error indicated. We have not met with the variety of 20 grana Sicily, having just at present but a very small number of obliterated specimens of this value.

This is interesting as militating, to a certain extent, in favour of the authentic nature of all the other errors which have been found in the Modenese stamp. We are not surprised that this particular error has not been discovered before, as attention appears to have been hitherto solely directed towards the inscription of value. The existence of this rarity in every value goes to prove that

both upper and lower inscriptions were more than once set up.

From the pen of that indefatigable and accurate writer, Dr. Magnus, is an article on the 5 cents Sandwich Islands (figure), in which four types are described. 1. Genuine; HAWAIIAN POSTAGE repeated on both sides, all the letters of the inscription of same size, and no point after the fractions of the inscription. 2. False; capital letter at the commencement, and full stop at the end of each word, including cents. 3. Probably genuine; HAWAIIAN POSTAGE on the right, INTERISLAND on left, no capitals and no points. 4. Probably false; HAWAIIAN POSTAGE on each side, no capitals, but point after each word. The doctor raises incidentally the question of the genuineness of the 13 cents figure, which appeared in May, 1866. No proof having turned up of its authenticity, nor any reason for its employment, we cannot but admit with him its falsity.

The American Stamp Mercury does us the honour to say, that we did not understand the letter which we extracted from its columns, and published in our June number. "Mr. Stephens," it says, "speaking of the one and ten-cent stamps, does not mean the TEN, head of Davis, as the magazine has it, but of the ten Jackson." It is evident the *Mercury* has not understood us. We spoke of the TEN cent Davis at the close of our article, in order to draw an inference from the fact, that it had been so long known, although less used than the new comer was said to have been. Our previous supposition, that the design of this Jackson stamp "was identical with that of the 1 and 5 c., furnished by De La Rue," is confirmed by the engraving which appears in the last number of the *Mercury*.

The American Meeting of Philately gives an account of the meeting of the New York society, on the 20th June, at which papers were read upon the chronological system of arranging an album, the Confederate States postal service and stamps, and the United States locals and their counterfeits. We are glad to see that these papers were "ordered to be published," and trust they will throw additional light on the subjects of which

they treat. A paper is published on the chronological system, by Mr. Freeman; but as it consists principally of a list of stamps, it cannot be the one which was read. This chronological list, the first of its kind, bids fair to be a very useful one, if carefully compiled. In the number before us, the years from 1840 to '48 are dealt with, the average number of stamps emitted in each being only about half-a-dozen.

AUGUST 22ND.

Place for a rare visitor. *Le Collectionneur*, once a regular monthly, but now only occasionally issued. If M. Maury's readers rely only on his paper for their information, they must get sadly "behind the times." Issues which have become comparatively ancient are crowded into his chronicle, together with new arrivals; and so many candidates for his notice have accumulated, that his single sheet is entirely occupied with their descriptions.

Le Timbrophile gives as its principal attraction an article, by Dr. Magnus, on the gum of envelopes, in which the exact space occupied by the adhesive matter is stated, and its quality commented on. The value of these researches is said to consist in the discovery of differences in the quality or quantity of gum on reprint envelopes as compared with original; such reprints being not otherwise detectable.

Beside this, a full description is given of a very close imitation of the excessively-rare Mauritius shilling envelope, which is being sold as genuine by at least one respectable English firm. Space will not permit of our extracting the description this month, but it will appear in our next; and meanwhile, we would caution our readers against investing in cheap "copies" of this valuable stamp.

Le Timbre-Poste is occupied with a continuation of Dr. Magnus' article on envelopes, in which those of England are reviewed carefully, and, we feel bound to say, with praiseworthy accuracy. Another contributor continues the article on Italian essays, suspended since the notice of Josiah Mason's trademark. It is now stated, that the design was only submitted in proof of the designer's ability. That may be, but it

is rather a pity that this fact was not stated at first.

The Philatelist.—Of our excellent Brighton contemporary, we have only space to observe, that it contains an able article from the pen of the Editor, *re* the Shanghai stamps, which all should read who desire to be accurately acquainted with them

NOTES ON THE PROOFS AND ESSAYS OF GREAT BRITAIN.

BY THE AUTHOR OF "THE POSTAGE STAMPS OF
BRITISH GUIANA."

FOR some time past it has been our intention to present to our readers a few remarks on the essays of our country; chiefly regarding them from a collector's point of view. We have rather delayed fulfilling our self-imposed task, in expectation of the appearance of the elaborate *History of the Introduction of Cheap Postage*, upon which Sir Rowland Hill has for so long been engaged, but as our purpose is entirely distinct from his, and our facts and notes chiefly such as would interest the philatelic community, we no longer delay the following paper. Whenever Sir R. Hill's work appears from the press, no doubt many of our surmises and guesses will be resolved by the official information from which he will be able to compile, and it is not only at the risk, but with the certainty, that much of what here will be submitted is tentative, and may contain erroneous inferences, that we present it, for what it is worth, to our readers' indulgence. In justice to ourselves, we premise that we are rather attempting to supply a want long felt by all collectors, viz., an approximatively correct list and description of the known proofs and essays of Great Britain, rather than a complete history of our postal system, such as Sir Rowland Hill promises.

In enumerating and describing the following stamps and essays, we have most sedulously taken the descriptions from actual specimens, to which, in but one or two instances (and those duly noted), we have had access; and we think we may safely affirm, that with the exception of the official archives of the general post-office, there is no collection of importance in this

country which has not been consulted for the purpose of adding to, and verifying our results.

Foreign catalogue-makers and writers have naturally been deficient in their attempts to deal with English essays, and when we look on what has been done in this respect by those who published their works here, we cannot wonder at the imperfections apparent in compilations made abroad.

Mount Brown, in the first and second editions of his catalogue, 1862, pp. 21, 22, chronicles five essays. The third edition, of December, 1862, makes the division into stamp and envelope essays, and comprises some ten of the former, reckoning varieties of colour, and a like number of the latter. The fourth edition, May, 1863, has nearly twenty envelope essays, while the 5th (and last) of March, 1864, comprehends twenty-seven stamp, and fifty-four envelope essays, a list very far from complete, even so far as mere private collections have gone. Mount Brown's great merit was, that he mostly collated his descriptions against the stamps themselves, and he formed his list chiefly on the well-known collection of the late Rev. F. J. Stainforth, who was one of the first and most diligent collectors of that period. So far as Mount Brown goes, his descriptions may usually be relied on. Where he fails is in taking from report colours which he never verified, and some of which do not exist.

Dr. J. E. Gray, of the zoological department in the British Museum, has published a catalogue, the four editions of which testify to its popularity. In the last edition, 1866, pp. 155-162, the author describes some thirty-three distinct kinds of essays, ranging them under adhesive stamp and envelope designs, and these, reckoning each colour as a variety, would probably amount to some hundred or more. Dr. Gray had in his album, which passed into the hands of the writer of these lines, a very fine collection of such essays, chiefly in envelopes, acquired through the kindness of Mr. C. F. Whiting, Beaufort House, Strand, whose name is so well known in connexion with our postal reform. Dr. Gray possessed nearly all the stamps he describes, and if his descriptions

err at all, it is on the ground they are over-elaborate and minute. Their accuracy is very great, and, assuming the doctor to be right in his principle of description (and scientifically no doubt he is), his execution is nearly perfect. Our view, however, is, that for a catalogue it suffices to say as much as will identify clearly and prevent confusion, and that there is no need of a written photograph of each specimen. For some colours the doctor trusted to Mount Brown, who unfortunately catalogued several which never existed. We shall often return to the doctor's catalogue, and make use of it hereafter. Bellars and Davie in 1864 published a second edition of *The Standard Guide to Postage-Stamp Collecting*. In part ii., p. 100, they enumerate a few English essays, but in number and accuracy are far behind Mount Brown. In the *Magasin Pittoresque*, for 1863, M. N. Rondot describes a large number of essays, but his papers rather trench on the subject which Sir Rowland Hill will fully deal with, and though excellent for reference, they fail to present any adequate idea of the present state of our collections.

The above, with occasional and disconnected notices of particular stamps and essays in the pages of *The Stamp Collector's Magazine* and *The Philatelist*, we believe, include all the available and accessible British written sources of information on the subject.

M. Oscar Berger-Levrault, in the preface to his catalogue, June, 1867, p. vii., speaks of his intention to publish a second part, comprehending essays, proofs, stamps proposed, &c.

In anticipation, then, in part of what Sir Rowland Hill may enlighten us with, and in part of what M. Berger-Levrault may compile, we now proceed to render our mite of assistance to our fellow-collectors. Considerable difficulty has arisen in forming a decision on the mode of arrangement to be adopted, but for reasons sufficiently disclosed hereafter, we ultimately preferred to treat of

I. Specimens and proofs of stamps and envelopes as actually issued.

II. Official proofs of stamps and envelopes in different colours to those finally adopted.

III. Proofs of stamps and envelopes which were finally adopted, but showing differences in the state of the die or the design.

IV. Official propositions of the postal authorities.

V. Designs and propositions submitted for approval, but never adopted.

VI. Miscellaneous, not falling within the above divisions.

I.—First, then. *Specimens and proofs of stamps and envelopes as actually issued.* Whenever the postal authorities of Great Britain put a stamp or envelope in circulation for public use, the practice is to obliterate a number of specimens by marking them with some defacement, so as to prevent their use for postal purposes, and to circulate them among the various post-offices throughout the country, in order to accustom the officials to the form and appearance of the stamp. The most usual method of achieving this object, is to print the word SPECIMEN, in black ink, across the face of the stamp in a straight line, horizontally or vertically. The lettering is generally in what printers call Egyptian type, sometimes thicker than at others.

The stamps and envelopes thus marked are, in our judgment, well worthy of a place in all collections; being early impressions of the die, and in the originally-selected colours, they are normal types of the value.

We are not aware of any of the penny or twopenny stamps being thus marked, until the penny red of 1854 (*fil.** large crown), and the twopence blue of 1841 (*fil.* small crown), perforated 14, were sent out, marked SPECIMEN. These are very scarce, and difficult to obtain. It may here be remarked in passing, that copies of the penny adhesive stamp, red, *fil.* small crown, and perforated 14, can be found; it is therefore incorrect to suppose they were only issued perforated 16. We have also been able to verify this fact for the twopence blue, white lines, same watermark. The threepenny, fourpenny, sixpenny, ninepenny, and one shilling, of 1855-6, and of 1862,

* *Filigranne*—watermark.

are readily to be found, marked SPECIMEN; and the comparatively rare fourpenny on blue paper, bearing the smaller garter for the watermark, is to be thus met. So also are the embossed sixpenny, tenpenny, and one shilling of 1842, with silk threads and no date. We have a copy of the one shilling of this issue, with SPECIMEN printed in red letters.

The recent tenpenny, two shilling, and five shilling, were sent out marked SPECIMEN, on a printed circular, dated June, 1867, addressed, "*To Postmasters who obliterate stamps,*" thus clearly showing the idea and use of the obliteration by the authorities.

Of the present stamps in use, threepenny, fourpenny, sixpenny, ninepenny, and one shilling, large letters in the angles, we have never met with *specimens*; probably none were ever issued, as the postmasters were thoroughly well-acquainted with their appearance, and no need existed to distribute a fresh series, merely on account of the alteration in the size of the lettering.

Among envelopes thus obliterated, despite all our inquiries, we never met with a Mulready on which we felt we could rely. Once, in Paris, a copy with SPECIMEN in black lettering was shown us; but all the earliest stamped envelopes we know of thus marked were lettered in red, and though we do not deny that Mulreadys marked SPECIMEN may exist, we have yet to ascertain the fact.

Copies of the envelope and cover of Jan. 7th, 1841, one-penny oval, rose, without date, may be obtained occasionally. They are lettered SPECIMEN in very large red letters. This cover, by the way, is very rare; it is struck on a half-sheet of white letter-paper, with three silk threads in the substance thereof, and the impression is so placed as to permit the paper to be folded in two, to form a sheet of note, which being doubled in three for the post, leaves the stamp at the right upper-corner of the letter.

In May, 1859, the threepenny envelope was issued on a small sheet of thick plain white paper; the stamp was dated 27, 5, 59, obliterated SPECIMEN, and the legend is: "*Embossed postage-stamp, to be struck upon paper and envelopes.*"

Similarly the fourpence, dated 8, 12, 55; the sixpenny, dated 5, 12, 55; and the one shilling, dated 7, 12, 55, were all three issued, marked SPECIMEN, on a sheet of thick cream-laid paper, with a legend similar to that of the threepenny, and dated Nov. 26, 1855.

We have also a copy of the fourpenny, cut round, on blue-wove paper, marked SPECIMEN, dated 5, 3, 58. This was in the De Saulcy collection. The foregoing, we believe, disposes of all stamps and envelopes actually issued and marked SPECIMEN.

We now come to proofs of stamps issued, but not so marked. These, as may be expected, are few in number, and of considerable rarity.

In 1863, a trial sheet of the one penny, letters in the four angles, was printed off, an example from which we have. It is finely printed in very red carmine, and lettered A A A A in the four angles. There is nothing to distinguish it as a proof, and except from the source from which it came into our collection, we should hardly have supposed it to be such.

In 1866, at the instance of Mr. Pearson Hill, Under-Secretary of the General Post-office, and son of Sir Rowland Hill, examples were struck for the Paris exhibition of most of the current stamps of Great Britain. These were taken with great care, and form beautiful specimens of the dies.

There were sheets of the one penny, letters in all four angles, struck in carmine and black, and of the twopence in blue. These were printed on a thickish cartridge paper, and are of course unperforated. Also examples, on the usual paper, were struck off, of the threepenny, sixpenny, and one shilling; watermarked with the heraldic flowers; and of the fourpenny, with the garter; the series being that with small letters in the angles. These were gummed, but not perforated, and are therefore readily recognizable. Being created for the purposes of the exhibition, and to show the engraving, they are remarkable for their beauty and finish.

There also exists a proof in carmine, on thin white unwatermarked paper, of the threepenny stamp, large letters in the four

angles. The copy we describe from, has the lettering I R R I, and the plate No. 4, which appears to have been the earliest used for this value and variety.

In concluding this section, we advert, though somewhat out of place, to the v. r., which, notwithstanding the many careless counter-assertions, never was in issue. *The Philatelist*, April, 1868, speaks of *postmarked* copies. So may postmarked copies of the proofs of the one penny, angle effaced, be found, and therefore that does not help the argument. The stamp was approved, prepared, and printed for use. At the last moment, and before issue, it was stopped, and the sheets were mostly destroyed. Several copies, however, the writer has seen at the general post-office, effaced in the sheet by a very thick black postmark, formed of concentric circular rings, broader than the similar postmark used in the Mauritius; these completely effaced the stamp, and no doubt were applied to prevent its being used for the post. Remembering that no English stamp once issued has ever been recalled; that a penny black queen's head is available for postage to-day, and would be obliterated by the defacing stamps now in use; and that the postmasters would hardly detect the difference between one penny black, and a v. r., nothing appears easier than to get a v. r. obliterated by a genuine postmark, and to make it serve in the post, if one were disposed so to sacrifice such a valuable stamp.

II.—*Official proofs of stamps and envelopes in different colours to those finally adopted.* In this division we propose to treat of those impressions which proceed from official dies in their complete state, but are struck off in different colours and shades, whether for the purposes of selection, or otherwise. We purposely exclude all impressions from dies of those stamps or envelopes which never were actually in circulation.

There seems to have been considerable hesitation and doubt before fixing on black as the original colour for the first penny stamp issued, and after the twopenny Mulready envelope had been in use in blue for some time, even then the penny stamp was struck off in blue on paper watermarked with the

small crown. The tint of blue was somewhat dull. After consideration, it was resolved to adhere to blue as a standard for the twopenny value, and black for the one penny, though this latter did not long continue, owing to the difficulty found in properly obliterating, and it was superseded by red.

Accordingly our first proof under this head is of stamps, die of 1840.

One penny, blue, *fil.* small crown, complete impression.

This is of extreme rarity, as but one sheet was ever printed, and that by the authorities at the post-office.

Next there are proofs of the sixpenny of 1856, without letters in the angles. This stamp was produced by Messrs. De La Rue & Co., and the proofs of the die were struck on thick cartridge unwatermarked paper. They are all obliterated by a black circular postmark, dated 2, 4, 56, beneath a crown, and with the name HELMS (which is all that is legible) within the circumference.

Sixpenny, green, of two shades.

Of the same issue there exist proofs of the die of the one shilling, in various colours. They appear to have been taken before the die was quite completed, as little white spots are found in the angles, showing where it was fixed in the engraving.

These proofs are on plain, unwatermarked, thin, white paper; they are, so far as we know, in three colours, viz:—

One shilling, carmine.
 „ „ bright-green.
 „ „ blue.

The first is obliterated by a white cross, a scratch on the impression; the others, by an oval barred mark, enclosing the number, 39, in a diamond (probably an essay of obliteration, like that on the sixpenny), to prevent improper use being made of these proofs.

In the Paris exhibition, 1867, were exhibited proofs by Messrs. De La Rue & Co., of London, of the new tenpenny, two shilling, and five shilling stamps; they were as under:

Tenpenny, in bright-blue, orange, carmine, and bistre.

Two shilling, in maroon, green, and blue.

Five shilling, in green, orange, and carmine.

We do not believe that any of these proofs have found their way into collectors' hands. We happen, however, to possess an *unperforated* copy of the threepenny rose, watermark, the rose with leaves, in present use. This probably accidentally escaped perforation.

Envelopes.

We have a proof of the die of the one penny dated envelope now in use, struck on thick cream-laid paper, in plain white relief, without any colour at all. This bears date 9, 1, 64. The great thickness of the paper (almost card), and the sharpness of the relief, preclude the idea of its being an under sheet, impressed at one operation with the top sheet, in error. — *untrue*

III.—We have now arrived at our third section, embracing *Proofs of the stamps and envelopes which were finally adopted and put into circulation, but which show modifications or alterations in the die or design, as issued to the public.*

Our last section dealt with mere differences in colour, and these two sections may with propriety be held to form one division, the distinctive feature of which is, that they include only official dies of stamps and envelopes actually issued, in varieties of colour, design, and state of the die.

Ranging these as well as we can into adhesive stamps and envelopes and covers, we first mention the proofs and trials for the one penny stamp of 1840.

Once the die being fixed, to enable a choice of colours to be made, a variety of impressions in different coloured inks was struck. One angle of the die was covered with wax to prevent a complete impression being made, and at that time the letters had not been added in the lower angles.

The subjoined list includes all the colours known to us; some of them are in various shades almost indescribable in difference from others; to these we append the letter V.

Black.

Red, a carmine shade.

Red, the shade of the stamps first issued (French, *amaranthe*), V.

Red-brown, V.
 Brown, reddish, V.
 Mauve-pink.
 Purple.
 Grey.
 Slate.
 Slate-purple, V.
 Blue, light and dark, V.
 Blue-slate.

Some twenty or more varieties of shade and colour can readily be made among the foregoing. Bellars and Davie call these the "Rainbow series," a title they fairly enough were warranted in then applying, but which the makers of the pseudo-essays of the day may now successfully claim for their spurious issues.

Examples obliterated in black by the Maltese-cross mark first used by the post-office are to be found, some of these have also the adhesive gum at the back, no doubt an *essay* of adhesive matter. This is the gum first adopted, and it appears thick and very sticky in its nature. The copies which have it curiously demonstrate the truth of the suggestion made by the writer years ago in the *The Stamp-Collector's Magazine*, viz., that the appearance of *blue* paper on the early stamps of Great Britain is due to the combined action of *ink and gum* on the paper, for when the back of the stamp has *not* been gummed, no such appearance exists, and where it has been gummed it only extends over such parts as have the ink on the other side, and the corners where, owing to the wax, the plate left no ink, although gummed, show the paper quite free from the bluish-green tinge spread over the rest of the stamp.

There also is not uncommonly met with in good collections a proof of the twopence, 1841, with white lines, and spaces for the letters in the lower angles only. These angles are blank. The proof is unperforated, and on paper, small crown in watermark.

Twopence, blue.

1862. Rectangular stamp, being the threepence first issued, with what Mount Brown calls a *lined ground* filling up the angles left white in the stamp as issued. Watermark, the heraldic flowers, perforated 14.

Threepence, rose-pink.

The filling-in appears to our eyes composed of rather minute engine-turned work, and its effect certainly detracts from the clear and bold appearance of the stamp as finally issued. Abolishing this work altogether greatly improved the effect.

Copies marked SPECIMEN are not uncommon, but without this obliteration are scarcely known.

We now pass on to envelopes, and first have to speak of the Mulready series. These envelopes were first issued to the public May 6th, 1840, in the shape of half-sheets, so printed and designed as to fold into a cover. The envelopes were of a somewhat later date. The covers were printed in sheets comprising four rows of three in each row; thus the entire sheet was severable into twelve covers. They were printed from stereotyped plates taken from the original wood block, engraved by John Thompson, and printed by Messrs. W. Clowes and Son. Proofs before the value was added,—*i.e.*, *before letters*,—are known, but there exist two kinds, viz., artist's proofs from the original woodblock itself, and those taken from the stereotyped plates. They are all on plate paper—*papier de chine*, but the superior clearness and softness of tone of the former, are evident at a glance to a practised eye. We now enumerate the proofs, noting they merely extend to that part of the Mulready design which was visible from the front when folded for the post.

1. On plate paper, no value, from the wood block.
2. On plate paper, no value, from the stereotyped plate.
3. On greyish-green paper, no value, from the stereotyped plate.

We now go to the essays for the Mulready cover, showing how, after the facial design was once chosen, the entire production was developed and arrived at.

1. A half-sheet of paper, leaving the space for the Mulready design entirely blank, having the printed matter in the same place as in the Mulready covers, and with the directions as to rates of postage, price of stamps, &c., substantially the same, but

printed in smaller and thicker type, and slightly differing in phraseology from that adopted. The two parts of the cover which, when folded, formed the back of the letter, entirely covered by a minute engine-turned groundwork, with an inner bordering, and the word POSTAGE. In the same relative place this word appears in the Mulready cover.

2. The like cover as the last, printed in black, with the Mulready design applied to the face, and blurred by an intentional spot on the plate, to prevent improper use being made of the specimen.

3. The like as No. 2, but with the engine-turning at the back not printed, except in one part shaped as a label, about half-way above Britannia's head. The sheet shows that the suppression of the engine-turned device was effected by putting a piece of paper over the part intended to be left blank, for traces of the engine-turning are to be seen at the edges all round. The printed columns are, as in Nos. 1 and 2, enclosed in an edge of double lines, the outer one much thicker than the other.

4. Like No. 3, except that there is no label, and the engine-turned device is allowed to appear as far as its inner bordering, *i.e.*, about half-an-inch wide round the outer edges, and the lines separating the columns of printed matter are plain thick black ones. There are also two thick black lines at the base of the Mulready design, covering the space where the value and engraver's name appear.

5. Like No. 4, except that the entire engine-turned device on the back appears.

All the foregoing are of the highest degree of rarity, being almost unique. It will readily be seen that what was finally selected was the label from No. 2, brought to the word *postage*, and the residue of the engine-turning was effaced from the plate.

Envelope series of 1841.

To describe all the numerous essays and attempts before the die of the one penny of this issue was chosen, would be impossible, unless one had access to the archives of the post-office, and probably to the papers and records of Mr. Wyon, the engraver, and Mr. Whiting, with whose aid and concurrence most of the suggestions from time to

time arising, were carried out. Here it is we feel the great want of the information which we sincerely trust Sir Rowland Hill's work may afford, but as we do not profess to speak *ex-cathedra*, we can but venture forward, in the belief that whatever is obscure time may clear up, and that the interest our readers may take will help to correct any misconceptions on our part.

We start of course with the great fact, that a penny postage has been conceded and in operation for some time; that envelopes are found more convenient, as a rule, than covers; and that an embossed envelope-stamp, bearing the queen's head, is to be selected. In our fifth section we must deal with the various proposals made. In this we assume the die has been substantially chosen, and look only for varieties and modifications.

The head produced by W. Wyon, the engraver to the seals, at first was without the pendant curl behind. It was in the oval frame, surrounded completely by the engine-turned looping, still visible on the lower half, without any legend or lettering.

A.—The proofs first to be described comprise the foregoing, surrounded by a second oval border, with a netted groundwork, at the lower edge of which is a bouquet of rose, shamrock, and thistle, while above is the lettering in white relief, POSTAGE ONE PENNY.

Several varieties are known to us, all in white relief, and showing in colour the full round of the die.

1. In azure-blue, on a half-sheet of note paper, struck at the left side; lettering in large white Egyptian type.
2. In deep-blue, on a piece of thickish white paper, formed as a band, struck on left side; lettering the same as No. 1.
3. In rose-pink, on card, the lettering is on plain ground, the net-work cut away for it, and in Roman type.

These are No. 11 of Dr. Gray, and No. 10 of Mount Brown.

B.—Same device as A, but the edges of the die cut away, so that the impression only shows the two ovals; lettering as in A 3, on plain ground, in Roman type, but with a pendant curl added to the chignon.

1. In azure-blue.
2. In deep-blue.
3. In clear chocolate-brown.

All impressed on card. Mount Brown, No. 11, describes more colours than are known to exist; Dr. Gray, No. 12, has here followed Brown.

C.—In this series the second surrounding oval was still retained, and the variations are entirely in the outer oval frame. The head remains without any depending curl, and the inner oval shows the interlaced looping uninterrupted.

The outer oval has about two-thirds of its net-work cut away, so as to form a plain ground, with the legend in Roman letters, POSTAGE 1D: HALF-OZ., and the bouquet of flowers beneath more condensed. Dr. Gray, No. 13; Mount Brown, No. 12 and 12A.

1. Black, on plain paper.
- 1A. Ditto, on card.
- 1B. Ditto, on laid paper, *vergure* oblique.
2. White, on plain white relief, on plain paper.
3. Light blue, on plain paper.
- 3A. Ditto, on laid paper, *vergure* vertical.
4. Rose-pink,
5. Bright brown, } all on plain paper.
6. Green,

These stamps do not show the size of the die, which had evidently been cut away before the impressions were taken.

D.—The foregoing all had an exterior oval frame, which caused the stamp to look too large for utility or grace; accordingly it was decided to do away with this frame, and make trials with only the one inner oval surrounding the head.

The first proof we shall mention is simply the head without the pendant curl, and with the plain border, showing the looped engine-turning, without any inscription; a rim of colour shows the size of the die.

1. No value, deep-blue.

Struck on card. No. 9A Mount Brown; No. 10, Dr. Gray.

Same die, with the upper half of the engine groundwork of the oval cut away, and inscribed in Roman letters, POSTAGE ONE PENNY.

2. In deep-blue, } on card showing size
3. In clear-brown, } of die.

4. In black, on paper.

Same die and inscription; outer edge of oval surrounded by a frame of beadwork.

5. In pink on card. Mount Brown, No. 9.

Same die, the engine-work left, but inscribed in small sunken letters, POSTAGE ONE PENNY, in the upper part.

6. In deep-blue, on card.

Mount Brown, No. 8; Dr. Gray, No. 9.

E.—Same die, small oval, fine pendant curl added behind, without any inscription, blue, on card. Mount Brown, No. 13; Dr. Gray, No. 17. With large sunken lettering, POSTAGE ONE PENNY.

2. Black, on plain paper.

3. Blue, on card.

4. Clear-brown, on card.

Mount Brown, No. 14; Dr. Gray, No. 19.

F.—Same die, small oval, with pendant curl added, with engine-turning left, and no inscription, sunken letters, POSTAGE ONE PENNY; letters larger than in D 6.

1. In deep-blue, on card.

This is a proof of the die of the stamp as first issued. Dr. Gray, No. 18.

We are not aware, and cannot trace the existence of the essays described by Dr. Gray, p. 159, No. 20, *a.* and *b.* We can only suppose the author means to specify proofs of the envelope die as issued, but there appears no reason why he should not have said this in terms, if he meant it. Mount Brown chronicles no such essays. Mr. Whiting, from whose courtesy we have derived much information, does not appear to identify them. The writer can vouch for their not being in Dr. Gray's own collection, nor in that of Mr. Pearson Hill. Altogether, and until made evident in proof, we must be excused from inserting them in our list.

Of the current series of envelopes, we are not aware of any proofs or essays, except the undermentioned, viz. :—

Threepence, trilobate form. In the album of Messrs. De La Rue exists a proof of the original die, which was manufactured by that house. The proof is on glazed card, and the little circles where the figures of the date appear are quite plain. The proof was struck before the die was handed over to the post-office authorities at Somerset House.

Threepence, bright-mauve.

A threepence in yellow has been mentioned in some lists; we never could find it, either in stamp or envelope.

Fourpence, circular. Proof of the die on thick plain paper, struck from the original die before the three circles for the date were drilled in the little engine-turned pattern beneath the bust.

Fourpence, vermilion.

This proof is almost unique, and being taken when the die was incomplete, no reproduction is possible.

This concludes the list under our third section.

IV.—In this section we shall treat of *Official propositions, which never were adopted into circulation*, or issued to the public; and, adhering again to our plan of mentioning stamps first, and envelopes afterwards, we first describe—

1860. Rectangular stamp, head of Queen Victoria, diademed to left in a curvilinear triangle, inscribed POSTAGE THREEHALFENCE. Watermark, large crown, perforated 14.

1½d., lilac-pink.

This essay was produced to anticipate a proposed reduction in tariff, which would require the halfpenny value to be used in combination with the penny, but as the reduction has never taken place, no necessity has arisen for the issue.

There are two distinct varieties of this in colour, the one being a rosy-lilac, the other a more blue tinge, which latter we incline to ascribe partly to the adhesive matter at the back.

The copies met with are usually marked SPECIMEN; but those not so marked are very rare.

Envelopes.

April 2nd, 1860. Simultaneously with the proposed 1½d. stamp, an envelope of the same value was approved.

Queen's head, diademed, to the left, in a curvilinear triangle, inscribed POSTAGE THREEHALFENCE.

1½d., rose-pink.

This was struck on thickish cream-laid paper, *vergure* diagonal, and the colour was like the common penny envelope, as in the

preceding case, with the word SPECIMEN across it. The essay is comparatively common, while undefaced it is extremely rare. In a well-known collection we once saw, the possessor had carefully cut two copies, so as to leave pieces that would join without showing any trace of the obliterating word, a procedure possible in days when people were not aware of the absolute necessity of mounting stamps so as to permit access to both sides. Of course this plan entirely spoilt both the copies operated upon.

The above two essays are, in strictness, the only two ever proposed or adopted by the authorities at the post-office, but the postal committee of 1837 had submitted for their approval, among the host produced before them, the three following designs for envelopes, which the committee in their report of 1840 approved, and recommended to parliament for adoption. Copies of all three were appended to the report, and are to be found in the parliamentary blue-book containing it. The numerous examples to be found in the hands of collectors and dealers chiefly come from this source, the blue-books being on sale at the parliamentary paper office, and being worth purchasing at the price (7/6, we believe) for the mere sake of these three essays. We have been informed that the demand for the report on this account has been so great, that it is now difficult to procure a copy of the blue-book.

Parliament, while adopting the reduced tariff and ordaining the rates for penny postage, wisely refrained from prescribing the precise details of carrying out the reform—whether by stamps or envelopes, or either method—and left it to the discretion of the postmaster-general to institute and organize his own plans and devices in these respects. Consequently, though in one sense these three essays may be deemed authentically approved designs, yet they never were really officially approved by the only authority that had the decision of the matter. They will head our list in the next division of the subject.

(To be continued.)

I never published the rest.

F. A. J.

NEWLY-ISSUED OR INEDITED
STAMPS.

STILL a dearth of novelties. What can be the reason?—it must be the weather. Yes, the weather, which has already enough to answer for, must bear the blame. At the least, it must answer for Western Europe. What overworked post-official has the energy to think of tariff alterations, of negotiations with other post-offices, of improving postal facilities, or of anything else which requires unusual mental effort? They must “take it coolly,” if possible, or rather, must have *had* to do so; for by the time these lines meet our readers' eyes, we may anticipate that the mercury in the thermometer will no longer leap up to fever heat. All things must come to an end, even the heat and the dearth of stamp novelties. Meanwhile, we can but chronicle for our readers' edification such *morceaux* as we are possessed of.

ECUADOR.—It will be remembered that a short time since we mentioned that we had seen a 12 reales red for this country, attached to the fragment of an envelope. We then refrained from expressing any opinion as to the genuineness of the stamp, and now feel bound to admit that its genuine character is far from being established. On comparison with other values of the same type, various discrepancies will be found, notably, the arch, over or on which the sun is apparently fixed, is wanting. This arch is intended to indicate the equator, and would hardly have been omitted had a new die been struck. But there seems no reason for making a new die without changing the type; and had the new comer been printed from the old die, the arch must have shown. The value, 12 reales, is also both high and exceptional. We should advise the rejection of the new comer, in default of good evidence of its authenticity.

SUEZ CANAL Co.—Borrowing from the transitory *Collectionneur*, we have to notice a forthcoming series from the Suez Canal company. We are informed, that for a long time past a gratuitous postal service has been conducted, at the company's expense, for the benefit of its workpeople of all classes, but as they are daily increasing in number, and forming towns on the banks of the canal,

the company has resolved to make a charge for the use of its post. Hence it is about to emit four stamps, by no means beautiful (excuse the word, M. Moens), of oblong shape, and bearing in the centre a steamer sailing to the right in an oval, above which are the words CANAL MARITIME, and below DE SUEZ; below which again appears the word POSTES; and to complete the design, the figure of value is repeated in the four angles. The stamps are lithographed, and look rather like the Hamburg “imitations.” The paper used is white, and the stamps are not perforated. The values and colours are as follows:—

1 c. (centime)	black.
5 ” ”	green.
20 ” ”	blue.
40 ” ”	pink.

BOLIVIA.—Mons. Mahé declares that the 1 peso blue of this country is a spurious stamp, but gives no reasons. We have examined the stamp, and do not find such a difference from the others as to warrant us in positively confirming his statement. We acknowledge, however, that the old type offers great facilities for the exercise of the forging power, and therefore advise our readers to be cautious in accepting this label.

The arrival of another individual of the new series is reported—a *five-hundred centavos* black. Collectors who have invested in the 5 and 10 pesos of New Granada have again an excellent opportunity of “placing” their money, the facial value of this stamp being from twenty to twenty-two shillings. This “little treasure” is said to be very handsome, showing up the fine points of the design to greater advantage than do the others, but its colour will prevent the obliteration from being clearly seen. To remedy this evil, the stampers must either use coloured ink or deface the stamp beyond all recognition. If they have any feeling for a rarity, no doubt they will choose the former expedient.

PARAGUAY.—The editor of *Le Timbre-Poste* still refuses to believe in the authenticity of the five centavos, notwithstanding the official account given of its emission. In further confirmation we may say, then, that

we have received from an esteemed correspondent (Mr. Chute) a cutting from a Paraguayan paper, in which the emission of the stamp is noticed, and its execution ascribed to an American artist, resident at Lima.

INDIA.—The eight annas has undergone a change of design, which, no doubt, will sooner or later be carried through the series. The Queen's head now appears encircled with a differently-formed crown. The new shape is that of the crown on the four annas, and on the lately-issued six annas and eight pies; and the change has been produced in the eight annas, by introducing the new central die into the old frame.

PRUSSIA.—Once again we have to notice a field-post envelope. This time the subject is of a different and slightly more ornamental design. In the centre is the Prussian eagle enclosed in a circle, which bears the motto, *STUM CUIQUE*. This is contained in an eight-pointed star, which in turn is surrounded by an outer ring, inscribed *KONIGL. PREUSS., I, GARDE DRAGONER REGIMENT*. The impression is in black on yellow.

VICTORIA.—The recently-emitted five shilling has already changed its coat, and now, instead of being attired in blue and yellow, comes to us gaily marked in blue and white, with its crown and inscription printed in red; so that, as M. Moens remarks, it now presents the national colours—red, white, and blue. Like its predecessor, it bears the watermark crown and V.

TURKEY.—The probability of a new emission is greatly increased, we may say is changed to a certainty, from the fact, that the post-office at Constantinople, to which the dies and *matériel* for printing the present series were lately removed, has been burnt down. For this piece of information we have the authority of M. Maury.

TRINIDAD.—To the same source we are indebted for information, that the sixpence green of this colony is found with the words *TOO LATE*, twice repeated, printed on the face. The words are impressed diagonally and form a cross on the stamp.

RUSSIA.—According to *Le Timbre-Poste*, the 20 kop. envelope is now printed pearl-grey in lieu of blue.

BRITISH COLUMBIA.—M. Mahè asserts that

the Dietz & Nelson stamps have nothing to do with the post. The company's business is simply to carry packages and various objects.

DANUBIAN STEAM NAVIGATION COMPANY.—The 10 soldi, the sole stamp in use, is now impressed in green.

URUGUAY.—Specimens of the 10 centesimos, inscribed down the figure, *DIEZ CENIÉSIMOS*.

PORTUGAL.—The 50 reis has appeared perforated.

NOTES ON PENDRAGON "ON THE COLLECTION OF VARIETIES."

BY AMATEUR.

THE following matters are alleged as facts by Pendragon in the paper which appeared in last month's number. As they are entirely inaccurate, it is right they should be corrected at once.

MAURITIUS (see p. 117).—"On one die, however, in the plate of twopenny stamps, the engraver used the words *POST OFFICE*, instead of *POST PAID*." So says Pendragon. The editor sensibly asks, did Pendragon ever see this variety? This whole statement is wrong. The error, *POST OFFICE*, exists on two plates, not one only—in the one penny, as well as the twopenny—as a reference to any of the later articles on the stamps of the island would show. The pair, which remains unique, is now before me—the penny, bright rust-red (*rouille*); the twopenny, a full deep, positive blue. Pendragon must clearly admit the two varieties.

SYDNEY (see p. 117).—All Pendragon says about the stamps with view of Sydney is a series of misstatements. There is no "normal type for each value:" he would be much more correct in saying a *normal colour* exists for each value. The "varieties of design" do not "occur more generally in the penny and twopenny than in the threepenny," except in so far as all copies of the threepenny are scarce, and therefore varieties among them are rarer. The engraving of the threepenny is not "considerably (or any) better" than in the other values. The fine twopenny, vertical-lined background in the spandrels, is the finest engraved, and dis-

plays far more "artistic skill" than the threepence, or any other variety or value of Sydney. Let any one observe for himself from a good copy of each value or variety.

BRITISH GUIANA.—The present writer is not aware "it has been ascertained beyond doubt that two different borders have been found in an uncut (*qq.*, unsevered) pair of 2 cent provisional stamps." This probably is little to the point, although he has taken every care to collate provisional stamps of this colony which have always had peculiar interest to him. It is not a little singular to see how Pendragon announces, "*I think, myself*, the printer had not enough of the border-type," &c., after the papers which have appeared in *The Stamp-Collector's Magazine* on the stamps of British Guiana.

PERU.—Cornucopia on white ground. Pendragon admits this as a variety: a mere state, and very defective state, of the lithographic plate.

He calls (p. 118) India $\frac{1}{2}$ anna red and (1862) 2 annas green errors of colour.

Also the 24 cents *lilac*, Liberia.

Whoever saw this, or, till Pendragon's letter, heard of it? If the 12 cent lilac on thin paper be intended, its history is well known: it never existed as a stamp at all; but a few copies on this paper and in this colour were surreptitiously struck off by a printer's workman, and sold to a dealer. It is not generally known these stamps were (and, for aught known to the writer, now are) printed in London.

Pendragon's classification of stamps on blue paper is amusing.

CEYLON $\frac{1}{2}$ d. on blue, 6d. ditto.—The latter is not in blue, if, as admitted, the former is. The $\frac{1}{2}$ d. is on clearly blue tinted paper; the hue on the 6d. is produced by the combined action of ink and gum, so often pointed out in these columns before, but is on white paper.

INDIA, 2 annas on blue (1861).—This variety may exist, but is at present hardly known in the philatelic world. Has it been reserved for Pendragon's keen detective eyes?

TUSCANY.—Pendragon truly conjectures: the want is supplied. Some of the finest collections boast of considerable portions of

sheets of the Tuscan lions on blue paper, showing the entire crown and jewels in the watermark, and also a great part of the lettering in the inscriptions.

These matters all appear in the two pages above mentioned—117 and 118. Do these statements of Pendragon fairly represent the accuracy, either in observation or statement, of "the English school"?

THE SAINT LOUIS STAMPS.

Our readers will remember that in our number for June we referred, under the rather inaccurate title of "The Confederate States' Stamps," to certain doubts expressed in *Le Timbrophile*, relative to the genuineness of the pair of stamps for the town of Saint Louis. At the time we did not consider the evidence adduced by our contemporary sufficient to condemn these labels, and we have just received very strong proof in their favour. Mr. Grafton, vice-president of the New York philatelic society, having observed our article, has kindly sent us a letter with one of these stamps on the back, postmarked.

The letter in question is written in German, and is apparently a business letter. It is dated St. Louis, the 17th December, 1845, and occupies three sides of a sheet of letter-paper, which was folded to receive the address on the fourth side. The stamp, which is the 10 c., is placed on the letter itself, at the upper left corner of the square formed by folding, and is postmarked with a single-line circle, in the upper half of which, and following the circle, are the words *St. Louis*, and in the lower part, *Mo.* The centre is occupied by the date in two lines: *Dec. 18.* The upper portion of the postmark crosses and obliterates the stamp itself, and, we should observe, is in red ink. In addition, on the other side of the folded square is the word *paid*, also stamped in red; and beneath, the initials of, probably, a post-office clerk. Finally, the letter was addressed to a firm in New York.

The occurrence of the word *paid*, and the initials, need not create doubt, as, in conjunction with the date, it still appears, side by side with the stamp, on many English

letters. As to the initials, it is not to be wondered at that, in those postally-primitive times, the clerk's signature was thought necessary.

We have been minute in describing the letter and its appearance, as very much turns upon the question, whether the letter be genuine. We see no reason whatever to doubt it. Ink, paper, colour, the value of the stamp (10 cents), everything, agree, and we therefore feel no hesitation in ourselves accepting this obliterated stamp as proof of its actual emission, and also of the genuineness of its companion.

We have only to add, that our cut of the 10 c. gives a very faithful representation of the original.

Since the above was written, we have received a communication from a trustworthy and valued correspondent at St. Louis, in which, after repeating the statements of the writer in the French journal, he gives the following conclusive history of these stamps and their origin.

The engraver of these stamps—a Mr. Kershaw, who is still a resident of this city—informs me that about the year 1848 he engraved two plates, each containing six stamps, viz., 5 and 10 cents, for John H. Wymer, who was at that time postmaster, and to whom the plates were delivered. And also—the supply of U.S. stamps not being sufficient to meet the demand—that he (Mr. Wymer) sold them to the citizens for the purpose of franking their letters. This statement has also been corroborated by several of the “old citizens” of whom I have made inquiry. I myself have a set which I know were taken from letters received through the St. Louis office. The plates of these stamps were either destroyed or lost; for Mr. Kershaw informs me that he is making a collection of all his old pieces of workmanship, but that he has been unable to find the plate of the stamps in question. The writer takes a great deal of trouble to point out an error of the Editor of *Le Timbrophile* in calling St. Louis a *State*. Before he commences to criticise the geographical or typographical errors of others, he should first inform himself: for any one who has been in Missouri “many times” ought certainly to know that Jefferson City and not *Colombia* is the Capital. There is no such place as *Colombia* in the state, but there is a small place called *Columbia*. It is generally known that the supply of the first issue of United States stamps was not adequate to the wants of the public, and that the postmasters of several of the cities issued stamps to supply the deficiency. Although the St. Louis stamps were perhaps not authorized by a decree of the general government, they were emitted by the postmaster, and while in circulation bore an official character. In conclusion I will say, for the information of collectors who do not possess these stamps, that there were only about 500 printed altogether.

Believe me, Sir, truly yours,

Saint Louis, Mo., U.S.

C. W. D.

POSTAL CHIT-CHAT.

INTERESTING TO PRINTERS.—The most extraordinary *letterpress* in the world is to be seen at the General Post-office on Valentine's day.—*Judy*.

THE FIRST of the regular line of post-office packets to New South Wales was the *Mary Sharp*, which left Gravesend for Sydney on February 2nd, 1844.

HAVE YOU EVER REFLECTED that when you stick a stamp on a letter, you shoot out your tongue at your sovereign? though it is true you get behind him to do so. Perhaps it is for this cause that many stamps, bearing the august effigies have been replaced by arms.—*Le Collectionneur*.

A FINE OFFICIAL STYLE.—The *Pall Mall Gazette* says, a gentleman who applied at the Sydney post-office for information respecting a letter which some months previously he had addressed to the care of the Poste Restante there, was informed, in reply, that the letter “had become invalid, owing to the effluxion of time.”

LABOUR SAVED.—A clever invention by Pearson Hill, Esq., son of Sir Rowland Hill, has just been introduced into the Edinburgh post-office, after successful trials in the General Post-offices of London, Manchester, and Liverpool. It is a machine, worked in a very simple way, for stamping letters, so as to lessen the labour involved in hand-stamping, and to secure more perfect impressions. We are sure Mr. Hill deserves the thanks of both the *employés* and the public for his valuable invention.

DATES OF EMISSION OF PRUSSIAN STAMPS.—Mr. J. M. Chute, of Massachusetts, has favoured us with a list of these dates, which may be relied on as correct, as it was obtained, with a couple of sets of stamps, through the United States legation at Berlin, from the Prussian postmaster general. On checking this with Gray's catalogue, we found the dates (of the year) generally agree; the day of emission is not quoted there. Berger-Levrault's work is in exact accordance with the list, except with respect to the first envelopes. He places the entire series under the date September 15th, 1851, whereas on that day it appears only the three lower values, 1, 2, and 3 s. gr. came out; the remaining four not seeing the light until the 20th November, 1852. Levrault, and with him Gray, place the emission without threads under 1857, but the true date appears to be November 2, 1853. We should note that the two sets of stamps above referred to, which were sent from Berlin on the 4th of March of the present year, did not include the 3 pf. and 6 pf. envelopes said to have been issued in or about January. Query—had these envelopes any actual currency?

CORRESPONDENCE.

THE INDIAN TWO-ANNAS GREEN.

(PRESENT TYPE).

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

DEAR SIR,—I notice in your magazine for this month (page 118) that the Indian 2-anna postage stamp of the present design, printed in green, is described as an “error of colour.” This is a mistake.

When the Indian postage labels of the present design were first issued, the 2-anna stamp, green, formed one of the series, the colour being the same as that of the old 2 anna square stamp, but it was quickly changed, owing probably to the difficulty of distinguishing at night the green 2 anna from the blue $\frac{1}{2}$ -anna stamp.

The 2-anna (green) postage stamp was in actual use in 1853 or 4. It is probably one of the rarest of our colonial

stamps; but of its being a genuine stamp, and not a mere "essay," or due to accident, there is, or rather there should be, no doubt whatever.

In 1853, the Indian post-office was requested to furnish this department with specimens of their postage stamps, and the 2 anna (green) formed one of the set which they then forwarded.

Yours truly,
PEARSON HILL.

General Post-Office, London.

"WHAT IS A POSTAGE STAMP?"

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

DEAR SIR,—Seeing "Cheth's" letter in this month's number of your valuable magazine, I hope I may be permitted to make this reply.

"Cheth" says, a postage stamp is contained between the marginal lines of the device. Now, if that is the plan on which he collects, how does he preserve himself from unscrupulous dealers who may pass for an envelope stamp an adhesive which they have cut close (the gum may be easily removed), and *vice versa*? I think this a good reason for extending my margins to the reasonable width of one-eighth of an inch for envelopes, and as far as possible for adhesives. I do not think I should need two sets of English for the reason that he gives.

As to varieties: I would give seven:—1st, device; 2nd, colour; 3rd, paper (thick or thin); 4th, colour of paper; 5th, perforate or imperforate; 6th, watermarked, unwatermarked; 7th, varieties of watermark; leaving the minor varieties of number of perforation, accidental variety of colour, &c., to timbroniaics, and I think still leaving room to make a collection large enough to satisfy most collectors of ordinary means. I would not collect the whole envelope, but leave margin enough, as I said before; that is, if it would go into one of the squares of my album.

My idea of a local stamp is a stamp issued for use in a single town, franking the passage of a note or parcel through the post-office, and delivery by letter carriers in the town; if a local will not do this, I will not give it a place in my album. I do not think Mr. Taylor could class me with either the French or English-schools of philately. If he or "Cheth" will be the leader of a moderate school, I should be happy to enrol myself under his banner, or any other person's who will be moderate.

Apologising for making my note so long,

I am, dear Sir, your obedient servant,

LEODIENSIS.

MR. PEMBERTON ON PENDRAGON AND THE TWO SCHOOLS.

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

DEAR SIR,—I do not think Pendragon is at all happy in his examples of what constitute *varieties*, and he is palpably incorrect in some of the instances he advances. He considers as "varieties" all those departures from "the normal type, either in design, colour, or shade of paper, which are indicative of a distinct phase of the stamp's existence, although a purely accidental deviation on the part of those by whom it was issued." How is it to be determined, might I ask, whether a stamp is "a purely accidental deviation," or a deviation resulting from design?—(whether the deviation is in the design, the paper, or the colour). The errors in design which are given are correctly termed varieties, excepting in the matter of Sydney, of which more anon. But on what grounds does he support the adoption of the term, variety or purely accidental deviation, for the following stamps?

India, 1854, $\frac{1}{2}$ anna red.

Liberia, 24 c. lilac.

France, Republic, 1 franc orange.

Does he never read the stamp magazines, that he classes the $\frac{1}{2}$ anna red Indian as a mere variety of colour? is he not aware that it is from a die distinct from either half anna blue, or one anna red? and does he require to be told what has been long ago discussed and proved, viz., that no postmarked copy is known, and that there is every reason why the stamp should be considered an essay?

What grounds are there for assuming the one franc orange of the French Republic is an accidental deviation of colour? By orange I presume he means what is more usually termed the vermillion one franc. If this stamp resulted from an accident, whereby the one franc had been printed in the colour of the 40 c., well and good; but, unfortunately for this theory, the one franc vermillion was issued (with the 20 c. black) Jan. 1, 1849, and in the August following became carmine; four months after, the 40 c. was first issued; so finding the one franc in the colour of the 40 c. does not prove it a variety, as it was so issued in that shade (and withdrawn) before the 40 c. was emitted. This vermillion one franc is in two shades—vermillion and orange-vermillion; had it been accidental, it would only have appeared in one. With the next stamp he mentions, Liberia, 24 c. lilac, I am unacquainted. I fancy that Bellars & Davie once mentioned such a stamp. I want Pendragon's reasons for considering the following stamps on blue paper as varieties, "which in many instances *may* have occurred of necessity (*i. e.*, when in want of the proper paper), although in the majority of cases undoubtedly of an erroneous character." I certainly cannot follow his meaning here. The stamps are:

Ceylon, on blue, $\frac{1}{2}$, 6 p.

India, on blue, 1, 2, 4, 8 an. (Why omit the 8 pies?)

Great Britain, on blue, 4d.

United States envelope, 1861, 3 c., on blue.

I consider the Ceylon, Indian, and English 4d, on blue, as the first phases of these stamps. As Pendragon pretends, in his writings to your magazine, to take no note of differences in paper, of course he would not acknowledge these stamps as an issue; but I cannot let such an assertion as this, that these eight stamps on blue paper are to be termed varieties, or accidental deviations, pass unchallenged. Of course, he has reasons, and others besides myself would be glad to hear them. The satisfied manner in which he writes, as if he had now laid down the law for all disciples of the English school (whom I do not mention in any carping spirit, for many of them are among my most esteemed correspondents), is amusing; one would think, too, that in disposing of the Views of Sydney, and asserting, *ex cathedra*, that there is no possibility that more than one plate was made for each value, he would have given some reasons for contradicting, in so few words, and so idly, what others have spent years in satisfactorily proving. His hypothesis, that the good and bad engravings of various Sydneys may be referred to periods when the engraver was, or was not, "in his moods," is quite untenable. If he will kindly read my papers on Sydneys, and produce for me a 1d. Sydney of the fine type, and one of the rough type, unsevered, or even separate copies, on the soft unglazed paper peculiar to the 1d. fine and 2d. rough, No. 1, I will then acknowledge I have worked foolishly for years in attempting to prove what Pendragon (with an innate perception that I am quite wrong) can deny off hand. Till then, I adhere to the opinions I have enunciated, which Pendragon considers "somewhat unadvisedly hinted at." I consider Mr. Overy Taylor's paper on "The Two Schools" very much to the purpose, and written with his

usual good taste and judgment; and I am glad to think that my own letter to *The Philatelist* last month, on the same subject, was in accordance with his opinions. There is a large body of collectors who have not the time to devote to a more minute study of stamps than their faces, or who, perhaps, do not care to go to the extra expense consequent on collecting all the varieties of the French school; and to such a body the tenets of the English school are acceptable. Even amongst themselves they differ, but I think they ought to have some fixed tenets. These Pendragon has attempted to fix; in many things he is right; but, whether we belong to the English or to the French school, we ought all to combine to keep the philatelic well of truth free from stain. To whichever school we belong, we ought not to allow assertions like those of Pendragon, upon which I have touched, to pass unchallenged, and perhaps to become fixed tenets of a great portion of the English school. That any attempt has been made to "throw cold water" on the English school is due to themselves for their singularly injudicious and dogmatic style of argument. All they who have become their spokesmen can do is to contradict flatly, and refer to the age and unblemished respectability of their albums (I, of course, exclude Mr. R. F. Wilme from this category, but by no means Pendragon), and I think that is all. We of the French school know what our object is, and that object is the perfect knowledge of all our stamps. We are not likely to be deterred by the remarks of any of our opponents, but when they contradict without any attempt at proving themselves in the right, it is not surprising that a metaphorical shower of cold water should ensue.

If the researches of the French school, based on minute details, were to find no place in the stamp magazines, because a portion of the amateurs belonged to the English school, and would not be much interested, the contents of the said magazines would soon become of the driest; a review of new stamps, and a few histories of stamp countries, would be all we could expect in future. With very, very few exceptions, histories of stamps lately have been by French philatelists, and have been based on minute details; without due regard for these, I must maintain no history of stamps can be complete, and there can be no classifications. The fact is, the faces of stamps are becoming exhausted, and if all details but the faces are to be excluded from philatelic magazines, there must some day come a stoppage. I am aware this contingency is remote. Another thing occurs to me; it is easy to foresee that it will be impossible in a few years time for a beginner to make a perfect collection on the French system; the difficulties are already great, and stamps (like the *pelure* New Zealand) which I found quite common two years ago, are now quite unattainable, unless from old collections that are being cut up, or some accident. What will this difficulty be then? Long obsolete stamps will each year get rarer; and stamps which are now common, will, in the course of time, become rare. Collectors of the French school will then, I think, have to be contented with a piece of the globe instead of the whole of it. Some must take European stamps in all their varieties; others, Asiatic, or African, &c.; but whatever we come to, we must not be divided: we all know what came of the house divided against itself. We ought to cease these disputes, which bring about so little good, and cause no good will; and let the English and French schools take their separate stands, and work together for the common weal. What we now want is a philatelic society, to concentrate all the information, and become the organ of collectors; cannot our London brethren "set the ball going?" As Mr. Taylor says, "the more earnest phi-

latelists there are—no matter their way of thinking—the better."

To Cheth's letter I do not wish to reply at length, as it would only bring me into the great ground of difference between the two schools. This much I concede, the difference in the number of perforations are not to my mind necessary objects for collecting. I agree with Cheth, that the perforation is simply the frame to a stamp; but, as a French-school collector, I notice everything which goes towards forming the stamp. Of course, perforation is but a mode of severance; but the great want for some ready means of severance caused all sorts of queer expedients to be adopted, as roulette, oblique, serpentine, pointed, and other perforations; and, as a collector of the French school, I consider these to be worthy a place, and to repay searching for, even whilst I admit they do not affect the stamp itself. Watermarks I consider as binding as varieties of colour, but perforations I look upon as much more secondary, and to be collected at the bent of the amateur. The absence of perforation I, of course, consider forms a distinct variety, with a stamp showing it; and any peculiar method of perforation is worth collecting, as illustrating in part the history of the stamp. In a less degree, varieties in the number of dents do this, but I still consider them of little consequence.

Yours faithfully,

Birmingham. EDWARD L. PEMBERTON.

P. S.—When I agree with Cheth that perforation is the frame to the stamp, I am forgetting that on many of the German stamps the perforations are marked out beforehand by dotted lines, which give a neatness and wonderful finish to the stamps. These dotted lines being printed in the colour of the stamp, give to such stamps new phases, quite as marked as the Liberian with the frame of a single line, and which most philatelists of the English school would acknowledge.

ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS.

GEO. FORD.—You will find a complete list of Hawaiian stamps at p. 38, vol. iv. The unperforated 2 para Servia has only recently been issued.

W. M. C., Melton Mowbray.—Both your stamps are forgeries, the first of a Paraguayan essay, the second of an old Moldavian emission.—Thanks for your kind wishes and commendations.—We think the large-figure Argentine entitled to be considered genuine.

E. S., Darlington.—The stamp you describe is a Prussian revenue label.—We have no space for an "Exchange" column.—The pursuit of stamp collecting, like all others, is perpetually gaining and losing adherents, but we see no reason to suppose that its popularity as a pursuit (and not a mania) has in any degree diminished.

N. H.—A lady once informed us that she had heard that a friend of hers had received a 10 c. Peru, with figure in centre, on a newspaper from that country. This is all the evidence, within our knowledge, of the figure series having been used at any time as postage stamps, and it is certainly weak enough, for, to our belief, only letters and interior papers can be prepaid.

MOONRAKER, Salisbury.—1. The small Bolivar are genuine. 2. The 1 and 2 groten Bremen you refer to are revenue labels. 3. The blue 50 c. Bolivia is genuine, the yellow we have not ourselves seen and cannot affirm anything of its character, but we should add that *Le Timbrophile* roundly denies the authenticity of the 1 peso blue. 4. The Magdalena stamp is beyond doubt a fiscal.

OUR CONTEMPORARIES.

SEPTEMBER 18TH.

LET us give the first place this month to our American cousins, commencing with

The American Stamp Mercury.—This paper contains a notice of the Newfoundland stamps, founded on *data* furnished by Mr. Chute, from which we learn that the first series was manufactured by Mr. L. Stanford, of London, and issued on the 1st January, 1857. The date of the *lake* series is also fixed as September, 1862. Of the current emission, 600,000 stamps were printed, at a cost (including the plates) of £420; and of this supply, two-thirds still remain in stock.

The continuance of an article on U. S. local stamps appears also in this number. The initials at the top make known the writer, but the style alone would convince any one that the writer could be no other than S. A. Taylor, the conductor of the now defunct *Record*. The concluding paragraphs so well exemplify his peculiar notion of what constitutes humour, that we would gladly have quoted them, space permitting.

The American Journal of Philately.—The September number contains a letter, or rather extracts from a letter, supposed to have been written by Dr. Morley, headed "Corrientes and its stamps." The extracts bear no date, but it would seem that they were written at Corrientes, judging from internal evidence. Dr. Morley has certainly not been long in getting to Corrientes; we should have thought it hardly possible to have arrived there so soon, as it was only in June that his *intention* to leave New York was stated. In the interval, Dr. Morley has made the voyage to South America, has gone up the Rio Parana to Corrientes, has written his letter to the philatelic journal; it has been carried from Corrientes to New York, and has reached there in time for publication in the number which appeared on the 1st September, and which must have been in press some few days before. This is quick work—*very* quick work. The letter opens abruptly with these words—"The province of Corrientes, anterior to the breaking out of the war for the liberation of the Spanish colonies from the tyranny of the northern country, formed part of the

vice-royalty of Buenos Ayres." Not a word about the voyage, but, in its place, a strong smack of the cyclopædia. Dr. Morley's journey to Corrientes has not resulted in much addition to the stores of philatelic knowledge. His letter, commencing with a cut-and-dried description of the country, its extent and fertility, goes on to state, that the inhabitants are active and temperate, but—strange characteristic of an active people—disinclined to work. Then follows a paragraph describing the city of Corrientes in equally set terms, such as a traveller in the present day would hardly use in writing of a strange and distant place; and then some details about the stamps of Corrientes, which, whatever their merit, are certainly not new. One statement is, beyond question, incorrect, viz., that the "gauchos" formed the first Buenos Ayres stamps. That they are essays, and nothing more, is well known, and it is generally understood that they were prepared about the time when the ship series was suppressed.

On the whole, we must say there is an unsubstantial look about this letter, and the dictum of Longfellow, "Things are not what they seem," will warrant us in expressing our doubts. Nothing is easier than to send a friend on a voyage of philatelic discovery, no matter how long; for with a good stamp catalogue and a geographical dictionary he can make his way, in the most speedy and inexpensive manner, in any part of the world.

The Philatelist.—The author of "Hints on Collecting" discusses, in this number, the argument of Dr. Magnus; that reprints ought to be generally collected for their own worth, as evidence of "the last state of the die," and decides, as we think rightly, that such collection is much to be deprecated. We do not ourselves profess such contempt for reprints as is shown by some philatelic writers, for we consider them the best obtainable substitutes for originals, and, as such, far preferable to the forgeries with which many beginners decorate their albums; but we should never think of advocating their collection side by side with originals, except by makers of catalogues, and contributors to the journals.

In the correspondence columns, Pendragon contradicts his alleged conversion to the views of the French school, and declares he shall "only be too proud to be, as he has hitherto been, the sole champion" of its English opponent.

A letter also appears from Mr. Pemberton, in which he advocates the establishment of a Philatelic Society, and makes some suggestions as to the use of the high values for New Granada, which we transfer to our chit-chat column.

Le Timbrophile continues, in its current number, the article on English locals, by Dr. Magnus. This article will have more interest for foreign than for English collectors, as few persons here care for the stamps it describes. For reference, however, its value cannot be overrated, as its accuracy and completeness are remarkable. Following this, is a short paper, entitled "The Truth about the New Caledonian Postage Stamps," from which we shall take the liberty of making some extracts in our next number.

Le Timbre-Poste continues to be occupied with Dr. Magnus's article on envelope stamps, and in the present number the article on Italian essays is concluded. In this latter some interesting details are given respecting the 15 centesimi stamp. The following will be new to our readers:—

The accident which happened to the matrix of the 15 centesimi, obliged Messrs. De La Rue to refer to the Italian government for instructions. They submitted at the same time (March, 1864), through the Italian representative at London, the annexed type [the type is that of the lately-issued 20 c., but bears the value, 15 cent., in the lower margin], printed in dull blue, sky-blue, yellow ochre, and reddish brown, on white glazed card. The government not accepting the proposition of Messrs. De La Rue to issue a new type, that firm, in conformity with the wishes of the administration, submitted a new proof of the 15 c., in which the damage was hidden by little white points, placed above and below the little florets at the sides. This specimen, printed in black on glazed white paper, is, we think, the rarest of Italian essays. It bears date April 30th, 1864.

A great portion of the article is taken up with an account of the essays submitted by two rival engravers, Mons. H. and Mons. R. Their rivalry was not productive of much benefit to art, and the competition ceased on the disappearance of Mons. R., who carried with him a sum of 39,000 francs belonging to the post-office.

COUNTRY LETTER-CARRIERS.

BY CUTHBERT BEDE.

THE country letter-carrier and village post-man is always a noteworthy person in a rural community. Expected alike by gentle and simple, known to every one in the neighbourhood, from the squire to his humblest tenant, from the farmer to the day-labourer, from the parson and doctor to the sexton and shopman, the country letter-carrier is welcomed in his coming, and bidden God-speed in his going. Other men might come, and other men might go, and their going and coming might not attract the special attention of a neighbourhood; but a week's absence of the letter-carrier from his accustomed round would be little short of a calamity to the whole district. Nowadays, when half-a-dozen deliveries *per diem* are deemed barely sufficient for the transaction of the domestic and mercantile needs and necessities of the mighty million "of the great Babel," it requires some mental exertion to endeavour to realise that former state of things in the United Kingdom, when the sending of a letter was as grave a business as the sending of an embassy; and when, till comparatively modern days, the country letter-carrier, with his tin horn, was a being as unknown as the unicorn, and equally as useless to society. But, while that heraldic quadruped still remains in the realms of myth and fiction, and only emerges from them to dance attendance on the royal arms, the country letter-carrier has become an established fact, and a necessity of our social existence. What should we do without him, we country folk and rural people, "remote, unfriendly, solitary, slow," in the nooks and corners of the land, in villages like our *Minima Parva*? As it is, we are frequently accused of stagnation by our friends from town, but that stagnation would assume a deeper degree of quiescent immobility, if we were cut off from all communication with our letter-carrier. He is a daily link between us and the outer world of distant friends and relatives, a medium, through whose agency we can obtain peeps through the loopholes of the press; a "messenger of grief, perhaps,

to thousands, and of joy to some," and "the herald of a noisy world," who, even now, often ushers in his budget of news "with heart-shaking music."

A personage so important is worthy of special treatment, particularly from the pen of one who, for many years, has been so dependent upon his services. Leaving, therefore, the general history of the post as it is, with its various branches, such as the introduction of the book post in 1848, the pattern post, the money orders, the savings' bank, and the various beneficial ways in which the post-office system is worked, and which have already been noticed in these pages, I would here restrict myself to a mention of those humble officials of the post-office, who so largely assist in carrying out its efficiency in the remotest nooks and corners of the land, by tramping their weary rounds, day after day, through sunshine and storm, mud and dust, heat and cold, at one time moist with July heat, at another with "spattered boots" and "frozen locks," like the Olney letter-carrier who brought Cowper's newspaper as the dusk of the winter evening was gathering round.

For, the gentle poet and the good people at Olney would appear to have been obliged to wait for their letters and papers until late in the afternoon, being in the condition of those described by Crabbe:—

"Who, far from town,
Wait till the postman brings the packet down."

And this is a condition that still obtains in many rural spots, where the letter-carrier does not deliver up his bag to the keeper of the receiving-house until nearly midday. And the worst of it is, that the later the post is in coming in, the earlier it is in going out; so that, to answer letters by return of post is a business that entirely breaks into the whole day. If we are expecting to receive an important letter, we cannot stir from home until it has been delivered; and then we are unduly hurried in replying to it. In the days of Cowper and Crabbe, correspondents did not expect to receive such speedy replies to their communications as they look for in this present day of railways, telegraphs, and penny postage; though, to

be sure, Cowper, in 1765, wrote from Huntingdon to his cousin, Lady Hesketh, "If I was to measure your obligation to write by my own desire to hear from you, I should call you an idle correspondent if a post went by without bringing me a letter." But then (as Southey said) Cowper was one of the best letter-writers of the century, and he was not "so unreasonable" as to expect his cousin to write to him when it was not convenient for her to do so. The transmission of correspondence, slow and tedious as it then was, when compared with our own day, had been greatly accelerated since Taylor, the water poet, described the postmaster of that same country-town of Huntingdon, as he found him in 1618. The name of this worthy was Riggs, and he kept the "Crown Inn," in the High Street of "the gloomy brewer's" town; for the postmasters of that day were usually inkeepers. "He was informed who I was," says Taylor, "and wherefore I undertook this my penniless progress; wherefore, he came up to our chamber and supped with us, and very bountifully called for three quarts of wine and sugar, and four jugs of beer. He did drink and begin healths like a horse-leech, and swallowed down his cups without feeling, as if he had had the dropsy or nine pound of sponge in his maw. In a word, as he is a post, he drank post, striving and calling by all means to make the reckoning great, or to make us men of great reckoning. But in his payment, he was tired like a jade, leaving the gentleman that was with me to discharge the terrible shot, or else one of my horses must have lain in pawn for his superfluous calling and unmannerly intrusion." Such is the poet's portraiture of the Huntingdon postmaster forty-two years before the General Post-office was established by an Act of Parliament, which deprived innkeepers and private persons of the privilege to "provide and prepare horses and furniture to let to hire unto all through posts and persons riding in post, by commission or without, to and from all and every the places of England, Scotland, and Ireland, where any post-roads are." From 1660 such persons were to be appointed only by the Postmaster-General and his deputies; and

they were not only to supply horses at half-an-hour's notice, but also to provide a guide with a horn to such as rode post.

This horn was the customary badge of office of the country letter-carrier; and, when Cowper removed from Huntingdon to Olney—still keeping to the banks of that river whose scenery he loved, and in whose "noble stream," as he called it, he loved, while at Huntingdon, to bathe three times a week—the approach of the letter-carrier, as he came over the long straggling bridge (the forerunner of the present structure) "that with its wearisome but needful length" spanned the waters of the Ouse, widening to a "wintry flood," was heralded to the poet and the people of Olney by the sound of his "twanging horn." Indeed, the long tin horn was not the peculiar badge of the country letter-carrier, for it was also used by the town distributor of correspondence and news: and it will probably be within the personal recollection of many of my readers, that the delivery of letters in London and other large cities, was accompanied by a hideous fanfaconade of tin horns, each postman performing a wild solo, with a power equal to the "blast of that dread horn" borne on those Fontarabian echoes that came to the ears of King Charles. The arrival of the mail-coach was announced by a similar tin-horn solo, except in those cases where the red-coated guard was a sufficient musician to play upon the key-bugle. Such a musician was the "Charley James" of my younger days, the celebrated guard of that most celebrated coach, the "Hirondelle" (the word was always pronounced as spelt), which, with the "Hibernia," conveyed the mails from Worcester to Shrewsbury. On May-day they raced, to see which coach could accomplish the journey in the briefest time; the coaches were gay with May-boughs, the horses with ribbons and resplendent harness; and the guards with new redcoats, and Charley James "qui scarletum coatum habebat," as the comic Latin grammar says, played spirit-stirring melodies on the silver key-bugle, which had been presented to him by admirers of his musical talent. But that was an exceptional case, and the common tin-horn was the normal instrument and

badge of office of the mail-guards and letter-carriers.

It was with such tin-horns that the "Mercuries" and "hawkers," as the newsvendors of Cowper's day were called, announced the publication of *The Spectator*, *The Flying Post*, and other papers of the period; and it was with similar twanging horns that the victories of the British arms by land and by sea, under the great captains of the age, Nelson and Wellington, were first heralded to a noisy world. "Glorious news!" "Great victory!" "A thousand prisoners!" and such like cries, were shouted by them in stentorian tones in the brief intervals when their horns were silent; and these cries took the place of those sensational advertisements of the penny press, which we are daily accustomed to see in railway stations and newsagents' windows. A roll of the *Extraordinary Gazette* in one hand, and a copy of the same tied round their hat, proclaimed their calling, even if any one had been so deaf as not to hear the noise of their horns and clamour. At length these tin-horns became a nuisance so intolerable, that, in the early part of the reign of George IV., they were forbidden by law to be used in the London streets. A fine of ten shillings was to be the penalty for a first conviction of the offender, and twenty shillings for a second conviction. Thus in towns the tin-horn was put down, together with muffin-bells, dustmen's-bells, and other similar disagreeables, although the two last-named are still permitted at London-Super-Mare, much to the annoyance of Brighton visitors, especially those who are invalids, and have been recommended to lodgings in a quiet street, where, as is always the case with "quiet streets," the fish-sellers, the nigger vocalists, the acrobats, the Punch shows, the stray musicians, and the other flotsam and jetsam of a fashionable seaside town, most do congregate, making the street as "full of noises" as Prospero's island, and giving the modern Hogarth a subject for a companion picture to his "Enraged Musician."

The urban letter-carrier has vanished, together with his tin-horn; and the town postman has changed to a smart-liveried person, whose sharp rat-tat and hurried

walk are heard several times in the course of the day. "Every day, as sure as the clock, somebody hears the postman's knock," is the not very recondite remark of a song, whose popularity is due to the liveliness of the air to which it has been wedded; which air, by the way, strongly recalls the melody of "The Witches Dance," in Locke's music to "Macbeth." But, though "somebody hears the postman's knock," it is highly satisfactory to the inhabitants of "the great Babel" that nobody hears the postman's horn. Yet, as fashions survive in the country long after they have gone out of date in town, so the postman's horn is still to be heard "twanging," as it did eighty years ago at Olney. In rural districts, the letter-carriers, as they plod their round from village to village, still, in numerous instances, continue to herald their approach with that "heart-shaking music" in which they indulged in Cowper's day. Here, for example, in *Minima Parva*, I hear the sound of such a twanging horn from such a country letter-carrier nearly every day in the year; and experienced ears will detect its peculiar twang from the like tin-horn performance of the rag and bone collector, as he also makes his rounds from cottage to cottage, and announces his coming with horn-blowing. Indeed, those lines of Cowper's—the seven first in the fourth book of "The Task"—would still aptly describe the country letter-carrier of the present day, as he may be found in many rural districts. And dear to artists is the country letter-carrier! Painters of the English *genre* class delight in him; and very rarely is there an exhibition of modern paintings without a picture of the country letter-carrier depicted under some one of the many varieties that he presents. And it may not be out of place to say that those seven lines from "The Task," descriptive of the Olney postman, appeared in the catalogue of "The Exhibition of Drawings and Sketches by Amateur Artists," in the year 1853, appended to drawing No. 394, the amateur artist of which was the present writer, who had long loved the poet of Olney and all his works, and who, in that drawing, endeavoured to realise his idea of Cowper's country letter-carrier.

A primitive country letter-carrier will be seen in this sportsman's month, by many an English deer-stalker, grouse-shooter, fisherman, or tourist, in the wild and pleasant places of Scotland and the West Highlands. When the blessings of the post had been spread far and wide, and every town in the United Kingdom could boast of its post-office, it necessarily happened that, in thinly-populated districts, the mail carts had to be supplemented by letter-carriers; and this was especially the case in the Scottish Highlands. But when the universal penny had penetrated into the remotest regions, and the number of letters and letter-writers had increased, proportionate facilities were granted for the spread and interchange of their communications; and, at the present day, there are few villages in the Scottish Highlands that cannot show to their Gaelic-speaking inhabitants some one heather-thatched cottage, marked out from its neighbours by being dignified with a board on which is painted the magic English legend "Post-office." This cottage is commonly the village shop, wherein all the necessities of life can be obtained, from candles and bacon to linen and broad-cloth. If the village is not on one of those famous turnpikeless roads that are daily traversed by dashing mail-carts, the letter-bag is taken to the nearest point at which the mail-cart will pass. Of course, too, it happens, as in many rural districts in England, that there are people who are so locally situated as to be cut off from the nearest receiving-house by some miles of hill and dale; and such persons are necessarily compelled to establish for postal purposes their own letter-carrier—the *gille-ruithe*—to give him his proper Gaelic designation. These gillies, whose daily duty it is to carry the laird's letter-bag to and from the mail-cart, are usually lads; for the word *Gillie* (or rather *gille*) is not strictly confined to the age of boyhood, any more than our English postboy is prevented by his boyish appellation from being a wizened man of sixty; and *gille* is any servant, whether he be the *gille-ruithe* or "running footman," or the *gille-cois* or "footman," or the *gille-each* or "groom." And *Gillie Callum*, who gave his name to the

tune to which the sword dance (hence called after him) is performed, was a servant named Callum. The modern *gille-ruithe*, then, the running footman, or letter-carrier gillie, is usually a lad, and more frequently accomplishes his to and fro journeys in the normal West Highland manner of children and women, that is, with bare legs and feet. But the gillie from whom I, one September, made a sketch, was somewhat of a swell, and had been endued by his laird with stout boots and a velveteen coat, around which was slung the deerskin letter-bag. As he had to traverse the ground between his master's house and the post-office four times a day, and as the distance, though only three miles by the crow's flight, was "over brake, brook, and scaur," and down into the heart of a deep glen and "squinting" (the Queen herself has adopted this expressive word in her "Journal") the shoulder of a precipitous hill, we may fairly admit that this Highland specimen of a letter-carrier did a fair amount of walking ere the Sabbath brought him that rest which its very name implies, but which is denied to so many country letter-carriers in England.

The distance daily walked by a country letter-carrier, irrespective of weather and the state of the roads, is frequently very great. The Braemar letter-carrier, who died at the close of George the Third's reign, had, during the thirty-six years that he held the office, walked 260,000 miles in the execution of his duties, which would give an average of rather more than twenty-three miles a day for the six days of the week. I was personally acquainted with a similar case in a midland county, where the distance accomplished by the letter-carrier each working day of the week was twenty-two miles from point to point, though often more than this, especially on the day when the local newspaper had to be delivered at various farmhouses. The effort that had been made to obtain him a day of rest on the Sunday was only partially successful; and on Sundays he had to walk sixteen miles, the greater portion of his route lying over a wild, hilly, and heavy country. The man was an old soldier, who had served in India; he stood six feet two, was as upright as "a

post," and gave the military salute when he passed any one, walking with a steady, long, swinging step. He had two enforced holidays every year, on the days when he drew out his small pension, but on these days he had to pay a substitute. During the five years of my acquaintance with him, I never knew him to have but one other "holiday," and that was on the day of his wife's funeral; she was a black woman, and they had a large family of various gradations of hue between black and white. When I tried to speak a word of comfort to him on his loss, he expressed his grief somewhat oddly:—"To think," said this old soldier letter-carrier, "that she should die and leave me after I had taken the trouble to bring her so many thousand miles." Great as were the pedestrian feats of this country letter-carrier, they were exceeded by those of William Brockbank, "the walking post" from Manchester to Glossop, in 1808, and previous to that, the letter-carrier from Whitehouse to Ulverstone. If we may credit the published statements of this man's walking powers, "his daily task was not less than forty-seven miles."

Mr. Edmund Capern, when he was the letter-carrier at Bideford, Devon, made good and profitable use of his long walk by his poetical compositions.—*Leisure Hour*.

POSTAGE-STAMP PORTRAITS.—VII.

KING KAMEHAMEHA III.

BEFORE commencing our sketch of this monarch, we intend devoting a few lines to the earlier history of the country he governed. Under the designation of the Sandwich Islands is composed a group of eleven islands, situated in the middle of the Pacific Ocean, just under the tropic of Cancer, in latitude between 18 degrees and 22 degrees N.; longitude, between 155 degrees and 160 degrees W. Of these, the largest is named Hawaii (formerly called Owhyhee), the extent of which is twice as great as the rest of the dominions added together. It contains one of the most remarkable volcanoes in the world, and has a very fine harbour at Byron Bay. Oahu, or Woahoo, contains the capital—Honolulu, the

seat of the government and of the English bishopric.

The most important of the remaining islands are Maui, Niihau, Kauai, Atooi, Molokai, Lanai, and Kahoolau. They were discovered by Captain Cook, during his last voyage, in 1778, and named by him in honour of his patron, John, Earl of Sandwich. Each island was at that time governed by separate chiefs, but at the beginning of the present century they were embraced under one sovereignty by Tamehameha, who assumed the title of Kamehameha the First, and by whom, in 1817, the kingdom was placed under British protectorate. He died in 1819, and was succeeded by his son, Liholiho, as Kamehameha the Second. On his accession to the throne, he abolished idolatry, and introduced Christianity into his dominions, paving the way for that branch of the Anglican church now established there. After a short but useful reign, he was taken ill, during a visit with his Queen to England, and died in London in 1824. Being without issue, his crown descended upon his brother, the subject of our present memoir.

Kamehameha the Third, previously termed Kanikeaouli, being young at the time of assuming the Hawaiian "purple," was placed under the regency of his estimable mother, Kaahumanu. His youthful days were spent something like those of Henry V., but having sown his "wild oats," on taking the reins of government he became an excellent king. As the archbishop said of Henry, so might his subjects have written of him:—

Hear him but reason in divinity,
And, all-admiring, with an inward wish
You would desire the king were made a prelate;
Hear him debate of commonwealth affairs,
You would say, it hath been all in all his duty.

Of his own free will he gave a magna charta, which obtained for him the gratitude of his people and the commendation of Europe; as a writer of the time states, "It was an optional change from the hereditary absolutism and grinding tyranny of his forefathers, to written laws, and constitutional freedom;" and Jarvis, in his *History of the Hawaiian Islands*, observes, "Kamehameha has shown himself a worthy descendent of the great Tamehameha. Embodying in his reign the

spirit of progress which characterises his nation, he has kept in advance of his people, and has boldly led their ranks in the pursuit of political wisdom, as even his father, in the forlorn hope of a doubtful strife. To the latter belongs the credit of uniting the islands under one head—a victorious monarch; but to the former is due the more genuine glory of conferring upon them the blessings of enlightened councils, which, if allowed fair scope, will ultimately produce happiness at home, and respectability abroad."

Missionaries were sent out from America in 1820; and three years afterwards the Romish church also wished to establish a mission there, but as it was represented to the King that its doctrines were antichristian, the priests were ordered to leave the islands. Their cause was taken up by France, who, in 1839, sent out a frigate, which appeared before Honolulu, and threatened to destroy the town; but the matter was compromised by payment of 20,000 piastres, and the concession to the Romish church of the right to spread their teachings among the natives.

In 1840 the King proclaimed the independence of the Archipelago, which was formally acknowledged, in 1844, by the powers of Britain, France, the United States, and Belgium. In 1843, serious disputes occurred between the King and the British residents; reparation was demanded and obtained by Lord George Paulet, the King offering to cede to us the whole of his dominions, but the government declined the proposal. For his better security, he then placed himself under British control. A constitution was drawn up, somewhat resembling our own, the legislature being composed of a senate and house of representatives. Home, judicial, and foreign ministers were appointed by the King, the first session of parliament being opened in May, 1845, by a speech from the throne.

From 1849 to 1851 many attempts were made by the French to annex the islands, but this was prevented by the United States and our own government.

The decease of Kamehameha the Third occurred on the 15th December, 1854, when he was succeeded by his cousin, Kame-

hameha the Fourth, for a sketch of whose life we must refer our readers to page 58 of our fourth volume.

It was in 1852 that the Hawaiians were first supplied with postage labels, which, with the succeeding emissions, are described at full length in an interesting article, at page 33, vol. iv. We would caution philatelists to be careful of a very fine forgery of the 2 cents of 1852, which came under our notice the other day. The only discernible difference is, that the tail of the figure is rather thicker than in the genuine; therefore we say—*caueat emptor*.

NEWLY-ISSUED OR INEDITED STAMPS.

OUR chronicle of last month was unfortunately destitute of illustrations. At the best, we should not have been rich, as we had but one stamp engraved, and we became poor indeed through a delay in the arrival of that single cut.

We now present it to our readers for what it is worth. They will recognise it as being the Indian eight annas, with differently-formed crown, which we have described at length. That it has been some time in use is evident from the fact, that it was this new



type which was used to form the provisional 24 cents of Malacca.

INDIA.—Still they come—another pair of provisional “service” stamps is to hand. Abbreviated bill-stamp No. 1 is of the value of four annas, and is about two-and-a-half-inches long. The central device consists of the Queen’s head to left in circle, with serrated outer edge; above, in the middle of a good sized rectangle, covered with a diaper pattern, is the word FOUR; below, in similar rectangle, ANNAS, and at sides a scalloped device. Surcharged in green ink are the words SERVICE POSTAGE, in two straight lines, one above and one below the circle, and both in close proximity to it. This individual is perforated at the sides, and coloured lilac. Bill-stamp No. 2 is similar in appearance, but the circle is

framed in a kind of geometric pattern, the words of value, EIGHT ANNAS, are respectively contained in solid uni-coloured square disks, and there is a mosaic (the nearest term which we can use) at the sides. In this stamp also the surcharged words are in straight lines, but these are placed near the extremities; further, there are perforations at the sides, and the colour of the impression is lilac.

SUEZ CANAL.—Still referring to our last impression, we can now supplement the description of the stamps issued by the Canal Company by the annexed engraving of the type. Judging from M. Maury’s account, we expected something worse than this. The design is simple, but not tasteless, and were it better executed, the



series would at any rate rank among the “respectables.” We may accept it as representative of the company’s belief, that the day will come when first-class steamers shall pass through its canal from sea to sea. Will that day come?—time will show. If patience and perseverance can remove mountains, they ought to be as effective in their operations against sands, particularly when sustained, as in the present instance, by the general lever, “capital.” In any case, philatelists will possess mementos, in these stamps, of one of the most gigantic undertakings of the present age. *Le Timbrophile*, in reference to these stamps, expresses the hope that the present series may prove only a provisional one, in which we also join, but without much confidence, as the Company may not unlikely think anything adhesive good enough to serve as a stamp for its workmen. Our Belgian contemporary announces the probable appearance of 10 and 80 c. stamps, making a total of six. We hope shortly we may be in possession of the Company’s postal tariff, which we anticipate will not be without interest.

SARAWAK.—From Brighton comes intelligence of the emission of a stamp for this far-off little state—a stamp of whose authenticity we are well assured. We learn from

The Philatelist that it was engraved by the firm of Maclure, Macdonald, & Co., of Glasgow, by whom the current Montevidean adhesives, and other stamps, were manufactured.



Our illustration will give an idea of the design, but is inadequate to represent the finer parts. The likeness of the founder of the state, Sir James Brooke, occupies the centre; and our contemporary cannot, we should think, be far wrong in his conjecture, that the initials at

the corners signify James Brooke, Rajah (of) Sarawak. It further states that only this three-cent stamp has been engraved, whence it would seem that a local post simply has been established, and that this stamp will be used for the prepayment of district letters—probably, in the capital only. The colour of this Sarawakian (excuse the word) is brown, on yellow paper; and, as shown by the cut, the stamp is perforated.

To Englishmen, the name of Sarawak is a tolerably familiar one. It is associated in their minds with the recollection of the enterprising spirit, the courage, and the rare administrative powers evinced by one of their countrymen; but foreigners may well claim excuse for their want of knowledge of either the place or its late ruler. M. Moens frankly avows that he knows nothing of Rajah Brooke, and thinks *The Philatelist* too confident in its assertion, that the portrait on the stamp is intended for him. Sarawak is almost equally unknown to M. Moens, all the information he could find respecting it being contained in two lines from a German dictionary. For his sake, and that of our foreign readers, we shall insert next month a short account of the state and its founder, by which we hope he will be edified.

WURTEMBERG.—We have omitted to notice earlier a stamp which has been in our possession some time, viz., an envelope issued to the electors of Wurtemberg, free of charge, in which to enclose and send by post their voting papers on the election of deputies to their parliament. This at least is what we understand from the information

before us. Whether the papers are sent to the "returning officer" of the town in which they are posted, or to certain centres, we know not. The specimen in our possession bears a circular stamp impressed in relief on the right upper corner. It contains the Wurtemberg arms on shield (but without the supporters), surmounted by a crown, and placed on a ground of horizontal lines. This device interrupts a marginal band, whereon is inscribed WURTT. WAHL-STEMPEL. The stamp, which has a very neat appearance, is about two-thirds of an inch in diameter, and is printed deep-blue, on yellowish-white paper.

HAITI.—The annexed illustration is given by way of warning, the stamp it represents being pretty evidently, in French phrase, *une carotte*. The design verges on the absurd—a palm-tree, crowned with the Phrygian bonnet, and flanked by flags and cannon. The cannon alone may be taken to symbolise the state of the republic, and the state of the republic is a convincing argument against the character of the stamps. At the moment when that portion of the island termed Haiti is in a state of revolution, it is, to say the least, hardly likely that time could be found by either party for attention to the issue of stamps. After stating that the design is printed in yellow, on white paper, and that it is set off by perforations, we may dismiss this claimant for a place in our albums.



SWITZERLAND.—Two new stamps have just appeared, an adhesive and an envelope, both of the same value and colour, 25 c. green, and each of the same type as its respective congeners. The shade of the envelope stamp is a bright emerald; the adhesive is identical in shade with the lately superseded 40 c.

ARGENTINE REPUBLIC.—It is stated by a contemporary that Dr. Magnus possesses two *obliterated* copies of the 15 c. of 1864, on thin, unwatermarked, unperforated paper. This would go far to prove that there was a genuine emission of both the 10 c. and 15 c. of that series on the paper named.

NEW GRANADA.—The Belgian journal chronicles the arrival of a one peso carmine, which now exists in four shades—bright and pale vermilion and flesh, in addition to the one now noted.

FRANCE.—The current forty-centime stamp will shortly be superseded by the new type, head laureate; there will then remain unchanged only the 1 c. and 5 c.

LUXEMBOURG.—The four centimes has just been issued perforated in coloured lines. The hue of the stamp is somewhat brighter than formerly.

STRAITS SETTLEMENTS.—The permanent series has received an addition in the shape of a bright-rose four cents, of the six cents type.

QUEENSLAND.—The fourpence of this colony, in lieu of lilac, is now slate, and is printed on unwatermarked paper.

FINLAND.—Our Parisian contemporary, *Le Timbrophile*, has received copies of the five pennia on very thick laid paper.

LA GUAIRA.—M. Moens states that the one centavo, lately rose, is now violet.

ROMAN STATES.—The 2 c. and 5 c. have appeared perforated.

VALUABLE STAMPS.

BY W. VIPOND.

SEVERAL writers have come forward from time to time in defence of stamp collecting; various reasons have been advanced to support the views of the different writers on the subject. Some advocate their being collected as works of art—others as illustrating the history, geography, heraldry, or biography of the several countries issuing postage stamps.

I have no doubt whatever that in many instances such expositions have led to diligent inquiries on the above subjects. There is, however, one exquisite pleasure connected with the collection of postage stamps, which as far as I am aware, has been almost untouched by any writer up to the present time. This I intend to take up in the present paper—"Valuable stamps." At the mention of these words the thoughts of most collectors will at once turn to such stamps as the embossed Natal, rare New Granadas,

Cape blocks, 1d. blue and 4d. red; British Guianas, 1850; Buenos Ayres, steam-ship and Gaucho series; &c., &c. The stamps I allude to do not necessarily embrace any of these, yet they are no less prized because they are of more unpretending character. What I consider valuable or precious stamps can be easily divided into three distinct classes: 1st, stamps received on letters from friends abroad; 2nd, stamps received from acquaintances who have friends or correspondents in foreign lands; and 3rd, stamps curiously cancelled purchased from dealers.

Three-and-twenty years ago, a young man emigrated to the United States; we had been friends and companions from boyhood up till that period. For several years his letters came duly postmarked, "Paid in America;" at last they began to arrive prepaid with stamps: my first acquaintance with foreign stamps began then. I often examined the plain-looking things, and wondered what varieties of colour and values they issued, and whether England and the United States were the only countries that used postage stamps. My album contains nearly the whole of the 1851 issue, and a few of the older envelopes received on letters from that friend, who also sent me the 5 and 10 cent notes—"postage currency." A single glance at any of these recalls many a happy hour of boyhood, many a youthful frolic, many a pleasant ramble through green fields and country lanes, when plans for the future were made which were never to be realized; they also recall many a petty mischief committed, for which we were afterwards punished with the pedagogue's cane. That page in my album conjures up thoughts and feelings such as no other can produce.

My next acquaintance with stamps commenced shortly after an only brother went to Victoria. He started for the Gold Fields of that colony soon after their discovery, in hopes of acquiring a fortune. After six years spent at the diggings he returned as wealthy as when he left Old England. As mementos of that voyage I have the Victorian 1d. and 3d. half-length portrait of Queen, 2d. and 6d. Queen enthroned, 6d. orange with POSTAGE STAMP at sides, and the old "barbaric" 1s. octagonal. As soon as

the news of the gold discoveries in British Columbia reached England he started again for that dreary region. After terrible suffering on the road to Cariboo, he took, as hunters say, the "back track" for Vancouver's Island. The only souvenir I possess of that disastrous campaign consists of a hand-stamped oval, POST OFFICE, PAID, VICTORIA, VANCOUVER'S ISLAND. He next made his way to California to try his fortune there; he has added to my album from thence most of the United States 1861 issue, with a few of the later envelopes; also a Wells, Fargo, & Co., OVER OUR CALIFORNIA AND COAST ROUTES; and the 5 and 10 cent notes—"fractional currency."

The foregoing constitute my first class of valuable stamps. Though it may be of little value commercially, I look upon them as the greatest rarities in my albums, and in fact I could not be induced to relinquish any of them on any account.

Of the second class, being those received from friends at home, I possess about fifty varieties. I consider the following worthy of mention, having received most of them when my knowledge of stamps was exceedingly limited. The first is the 3 kr. blue, Baden arms. This was the earliest foreign stamp I ever had excepting some of those previously mentioned from the United States. Then follow the Mecklenburg Schwërin, $\frac{1}{4}$ s. red, in fours; Denmark, 8 s. square; Cape of Good Hope, 1d. triangular; Canadian, 3d. beaver and 10d. blue; New Zealand, 2d. on blue paper, &c. I looked upon these as wonderful things at the time, and though never regarded with the same feelings as those of the first class, I would not willingly part with any of them.

The third class I look upon as mere curiosities of cancellation. I have the following, purchased from dealers during the last five or six years, which I consider worthy of notice: Thurn and Taxis, north, 3 s. gr. russet, obliterated with the name of some town, with date 1863 below. This is the only Thurn and Taxis stamp I ever met with defaced, except with the number and concentric rings. The English 4d. and 6d., without letters, cancelled with the letter C; this I have been informed is the Gibraltar

mark.* Then I have the large-lettered English, 3d., 4d., 6d., 1s., and 5s. marked "Malta"; and the present 1d. with the Brunswick star; Hanover, 1 gr. rose, Prussia, 3 s. gr. 1858, and 3 s. gr. arms, all cancelled "Hamburg"; Lubeck, 2 sch., obliterated with three concentric rings enclosing a large L; Hong Kong, 8 cents, defaced with a circular star of long and short lines alternately; and lastly, East India, 8 pies, cancelled "Times of India," printed in three lines across the face of the stamp.

It will be at once seen from what I have written, that there may be collections of stamps, of little value commercially, that may be more prized by their owners, and a source of more real pleasure, than the possession of the greatest rarities would be. I should think there can be very few collections which are unadorned with some of the varieties of valuable stamps I have mentioned; and there is no doubt, but there are collectors who can count such treasures by hundreds. I consider my own collection very poor, as far as numbers are considered, in valuable or curiously-postmarked stamps; and I should not have held it up to the public, if the subject had not been entirely overlooked by postage-stamp writers. I should like very much to see some of the princes of the philatelic world come forward and give us a sketch or tracing of their possessions in the curiously marked kinds. There is no doubt but it would give great pleasure to many collectors, who do not possess many such; and I am sure it would to the present writer, who is a devoted admirer of rare, valuable, and curiously-cancelled postage stamps.

AN "OLLA PODRIDA."

BY THETA.

Inedited proofs, &c.

I HAD lately the pleasure of inspecting, in the collection of a friend, a pair of proofs, presented to him by Mr. Robinson, who engraved them, in 1849, for the Belgian government.

One is a proof of his design for the 20 c., of the type which was ultimately adopted

* [Our contributor is mistaken, this is the mark of the Constantinople stamp.—ED.]

for both values of the 1849 issue. The other, namely, the original design for the ten centime stamp, is not, I believe, as yet known to collectors.

On the proof in question, the portrait of the king has a much younger look, and is a more decided three-quarter profile than that on the accepted design; the arrangement of the epaulettes, too, and of the breast ornaments, is quite unique. Both are printed in black ink on cartridge paper about four inches square; and they were, I am given to understand, the artist's own proofs of the designs, each bearing his initials, in his own handwriting, on the lower right-hand corner.

The same gentleman also possesses a complete set of proofs of the two last series for Shanghai, viz., the 2, 4, 8, and 16 cents, in lavender ink; and the 1, 3, 6, and 12 candareens, in black.

Both sets are printed on stout cartridge paper, each proof being impressed in the centre of a piece about six inches square, on which spaces are ruled in pencil, showing the relative positions of the dies in a frame. They were obtained, I believe, through the influence of a friend, direct from the engravers, Messrs. Nissen & Parker, and appear to have been their original proofs.

Another rarity of this class in his collection, is the first design for the present Turkish issue, sent to him some two years back, together with the complete set of the first and present emissions, unused, by a friend at Alexandria.

In colour it is carmine-red, printed on thick paper, and the design, from what I can remember of it, very similar to that on the stamps in present use; but the proof in question is at least twice the size, and unperforated.

Threepenny View of Sydney.

There are two distinct varieties of this stamp which have not hitherto been noticed separately.

The chief distinction exists in the bordering, which in one consists of short, thick ovals closely interlaced; while in the other, the ovals are long and pointed, and but very slightly interlaced, which latter arrangement invariably leaves a blank space of more or less extent between each interlacement.

There are also several other equally-striking differences, such as the size of the stamp (that with the rounded-ovals bordering is considerably the largest), size of the circle, &c.

A brother amateur, who had not noticed the difference before I apprised him of it, informs me that the stamps with the pointed oval bordering are invariably *without* clouds. This, however, cannot be the case, for the specimen in my own collection, from which I first described the variety to him, is a splendid copy, and shows them plainly. Moreover, it is obliterated with the mark usually found on the earliest Sydneys, viz., number in oval; and from this circumstance, I should feel inclined to place its emission anterior to that of the threepenny "rounded ovals," my own copy of which stamp is cancelled with that ugly conglomeration of bars, horizontal and vertical, which, as a rule, so irretrievably spoils the beauty of the later Views of Sydney and the first English-printed stamps for New South Wales.

The "Registered" Western Australia.

About four years ago, I obtained a copy of these so-called stamps *unsevered*.

Each stamp bore, evenly printed upon its face, a crown immediately over the swan, and the word REGISTERED in a half circle underneath, both in *blue* ink. I did not at the time pay any attention whatever to this deviation from the original type of the old 4d., and as the stamps were not otherwise cancelled, looked upon the impression merely as a species of obliteration. I therefore separated the stamps, placing one in my album, where it still remains.

It is printed on swan-watermarked paper, in colour a pale-blue, is imperforate, and has a large margin. The only difficulty that to my mind lies in the way of attributing to this stamp the character of a "registered" label, is the fact, that the fee for registration had never, at least so far as I am aware, up to the time of my obtaining them, been less than 6d.

Unless therefore the two stamps, *unsevered*, conjointly represented a provisional registration label of the value of 8d., I cannot very well see how it can be considered a "Registered" stamp at all.

Scarce variety of the 120 reis Portugal.

I will now proceed to notice a peculiar method of perforation adopted for this stamp previously to its being perforated in the ordinary manner, in common with the rest of the set. The perforation alluded to consists of long oval dents placed close together, instead of the usual round ones. It is stated to be a species of roulette, but this assertion I am not prepared to back, and therefore merely describe the variety as it appears to myself from the specimen in my own collection.

I should advise collectors generally to secure this variety at their earliest opportunity, as it is even now, though only recently issued, very scarce; and as there do not appear to be sufficient specimens about to supply present wants, it is likely, I think, to be, in course of time, almost unattainable.

Those values of the provisional *Madeiras* which were issued to the public imperforate, are said to occur perforated in like manner, but I have not seen any as yet, and the only Portuguese that I have come across thus perforated are of the first or intense blue hue.

Prussia, 1858, 4 pf., and 1, 2, and 3 sgr., with *burelé*.

The above issue is not as yet known, I believe, to the generality of English collectors.

I have the 1, 2, and 3 sgr., in my own album; and the 4 pf. referred to (a remarkably fine specimen, I am told), is in the collection of a brother amateur. I have not as yet heard of a 6 pf. of this set, but it is just possible that several exist, and will turn up in the course of time.

The distinction between the stamps of this issue and the ordinary ones issued in 1858 consists in a microscopical engine-turned pattern, embossed in white relief, over the whole face of the stamp.

This design was probably placed there as a preventive against forgery, but it is only observable at all in stamps that have never been brought into contact with damp, and even then, in the generality of cases, and except on very fine copies, it requires a keen vision to detect its presence.

It has been thought by some that the whole of the stamps emitted of the 1858 type originally possessed this design, but such a theory is undoubtedly incorrect, as *unused* copies of all the 1858 stamps exist in the highest state of preservation, on which not a sign of the *burelé* is perceptible.

This variety is pretty scarce now-a-days, but when its existence as a separate issue is ultimately established in our catalogues, they will doubtless, like the "Paris" Greeks, turn up in quantities.

Cape of Good Hope, 4d. *black*.

The existence of this stamp has not, I believe, ever been satisfactorily settled.

I remember seeing one myself in 1862, in the possession of a young amateur in Walworth, whom I have since quite lost sight of. It was, although obliterated, an incomparable copy, pure jet black, on stout white paper; and I can positively assert, in no wise to be confounded with the discoloured specimens of the 4d. blue, which so frequently come under our notice.

I have never, however, seen since then a similar copy to the one above described, which may possibly have been an error in the printing, and, as such, doubtless very scarce. It was probably one of these specimens which led to the insertion of a 4d. black in Mount Brown's first edition, but which he afterwards altered to *blue-black* (the hue of the common discoloured copies of the blue stamp), doubtless not being quite certain as to the reality of the existence of one in pure black, which perhaps he never saw in the first instance, and had merely quoted from hearsay.

I have in my own collection a specimen of the 4d. blue on stout *blued* paper (unused), without doubt the first stamp of that value issued in the colony; and I should feel inclined to place this error (?) after it, as a variety of the second 4d., which was also printed on stout but white paper, whereas it will be observed that the later 4d. stamps are invariably on thinner paper.

The fact that the 4d. black is altogether unknown now, does not, in my mind, impeach the authenticity of its existence in the least.

POSTAL CHIT-CHAT.

THERE are said to be some forty post-mistresses in South Carolina. They can overhaul the *males* if anybody can.

FARTHING LOCAL POSTAGE.—This question has occupied the attention of the Liverpool Tradesmen's Guild for some time past, while the Chamber of Commerce have also had it before them. We for our part think there is no great likelihood of it being adopted at present.

STAMPED PAPER.—Under this heading, in Beckmann's *History of Inventions*, we find that stamped law, receipt, and other documents were first used in Holland on the 13th of August, 1624. They were introduced into Spain shortly after; into Saxony, March 22nd, 1682, and at Brandenburg July 15th of the same year. The time of their first probable use in Hanover was the 20th of Feb., 1709. The date assigned to England is 1693.

THE BRITISH-AMERICAN BANK-NOTE COMPANY.—In reply to an inquiry from Mr. J. M. Chute, the secretary of this company gives the following particulars respecting its establishment: "This company was established in 1866, with offices in this city (Quebec) and in Montreal. The engraving and printing of bonds, provincial notes, and stamps, for the Canadian government, is done in this city under the supervision of a government superintendent. The company is incorporated, and the officers at present are—W. C. Smillie, president; Alfred Jones, vice-president and secretary; and G. B. Binland, manager."

WITH HER MAJESTY'S MAIL TO KINGUSSIE.—We must not forget that our coach carried her Majesty's mails; and the way in which tattered boys sprang out of mud hovels and flung post-bags at us, which we dexterously caught without stopping, was most novel and amusing, making us think that St. Martin's-le-Grand had some branches in very queer places indeed. Sometimes we viciously threw a bag at the door of a little farmhouse, or left it hanging on a wooden post by the side of the road. Our coach seemed also to partake somewhat of the character of an ambulatory store; for we brought bread and meat and drink, and whenever or wherever we stopped, we were pounced upon, and something eagerly expected was grabbed from us, and generally fresh orders were all we got in exchange.—*Daily Telegraph*.

HIGH VALUES OF NEW GRANADA.—There has always been an explanation wanted for the fact of New Granada having stamps of such high values as 5 and 10 pesos for postal purposes (the peso of New Granada is worth about 4/2). I mentioned their existence to a friend at Bogota, from whom I received the following reply:—"The 5 and 10 dollar stamps you speak of, I have never heard of, but think they must be used in Eucomienda offices to send down specie." There is nothing definite here, but I give it for what it is worth. That they are not for *interior postage* is certain, or I should have received them; and had they been for *foreign postage*, it is equally certain that some would have appeared, postmarked, in England or France ere now. My friend informs me, that the correspondence of the interior is next to nothing, and mostly done by private messengers. This is no doubt due to the unsettled state of the country.—Mr. Pemberton, in *The Philatelist*.

QUEENSLAND RAILWAY STAMPS.—The use of railway parcel stamps has now extended to Queensland. In the current number of *Le Timbre-Poste* an engraving is given of a rather handsome label emitted by the Southern and Western Railway of that colony. The Queen's profile appears on an unshaded oval disc in centre, above and below which are arched labels inscribed respectively **PARCEL STAMP—ONE SHILLING**. This device occupies

a rectangle with a reticulated ground, having at each corner a small Maltese cross, and this again is enclosed in an outer frame, bearing on three sides of the margin the name of the railway, and below the weight which the stamp franks, thus, "1 to 3 lbs. weight." The centre stamp measures about 1½ inches by 1 inch, is perforated, and is printed in blue on white. There is one other value, 2, of the same type, rose.

CORRESPONDENCE.

ARMS OF THE PROVINCES OF THE DOMINION OF CANADA.

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

DEAR SIR,—Thinking it may interest such of your readers as add to their stamp albums the arms of the different countries, I send you descriptions of the several armorial bearings, supplied by the Herald's College, and sanctioned by Her Majesty, for the provinces of Ontario, Quebec, Nova Scotia, and New Brunswick; these four quarterly form the arms of the Dominion of Canada, viz.:—

For Ontario.—*Vert*, a sprig of three leaves of maple, slipped, *or*; on a chief *argent* the cross of St. George.

For Quebec.—*Or*, on a fess *gules*, between two fleurs-de-lis, in chief *azure*, and a sprig of three leaves of maple slipped, *vert*; in base, a lion *passant gardant*.

For Nova Scotia.—*Or*, on a fess wavy *azure*, between three thistles *proper*, a salmon naant, *argent*.

For New Brunswick.—*Or*, on waves a lymphad with oars in action *proper*; on a chief *gules*, a lion *passant gardant*, *or*.

Yours truly,
RERE-MOUSE.

THE SPURIOUS CONFEDERATE STAMP, &c.

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

DEAR SIR,—Mr. Ludwig (formerly Hoyer & Ludwig, of Richmond, Va.), with whom I am personally acquainted, informs me that the 10 cent Confederate (head of General I. J. Jackson, rose) was never engraved by them for the Confederate government; it is, in fact, a trick of certain New York dealers, and large supplies of them can be had.

The Canada envelopes, on buff paper, mentioned in *The Stamp-Collector's Magazine*, vol. iv., p. 170, as being in your possession, are genuine; and your conclusion is right, they are proofs from the original die. I have proofs that came direct to me from Mr. Nesbitt. Here is what he says about them:—

DEAR SIR.—You ask for proofs of U. S. or Canadian, in non-official colours. I have none, and cannot make any. I did make some once, and it caused such a row, that I am not willing to do it again.

Very truly,

JAMES M. CHUTE, Esq.

GEORGE F. NESBITT.

But the bulk of those on buff are undoubtedly closely counterfeited. A certain party in New York has a large supply, and I understand he offered a firm in Plymouth, England, fifty sets at their facial value.

I remain, dear Sir, respectfully yours,
JAMES M. CHUTE.

Boston, Mass., U. S.

PERFORATIONS AND POSTMARKS.

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

DEAR SIR,—In 1866 there appeared in your magazine a series of papers on "Postage-stamp Paper and Water-

marks." In looking over my own collection a few days ago, it struck me that a similar series of short but exhaustive papers on Perforations and Postmarks would be very interesting. Supposing the countries were taken alphabetically, each emission should be named as unperforated, rouletted, serrated, or perforated, with date of issue when known. Engravings should be given, showing every method of cancellation made use of by each country, with date when first issued, if known, how long it was used separately or in conjunction with others. In my own collection, I always make it a point to secure cancelled specimens, in preference to unused ones, when I can get them in good condition and not smudged till they are undecipherable. These stamps have done the duty for which they were made, and are postage stamps in every sense of the word. Any country that uses more than one mode of defacement I collect the stamps to show all the varieties I can get hold of. Be it understood that I do not collect the same stamp of one value and colour twice for this purpose, but the various stamps of a series. By this means I get a good deal of variation in the stamps of some countries with the postmarks, as well as in value, colour, and perforation. In my opinion perforations and postmarks should be noticed, as well as paper and watermarks, and I have no doubt that a few papers on the subject would please a number of collectors. Of course this would not include those who prefer unused stamps in their albums, instead of pages filled with postmarked specimens.

Yours respectfully,
DEFACED.

Alston, Cumberland.

"PENDRAGON" VERSUS "AMATEUR," &c.

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

SIR,—Your contributor, "Amateur," has condescended to make, in the September number of your valuable magazine, several very important, but, as I shall venture to show hereafter, *ineexact* assertions respecting certain opinions expressed by me in my paper on "Varieties," published in August.

It is a remarkable fact, and one worthy of notice, that whenever writers of the French school proceed to criticise an article emanating from an amateur of the opposite or "English" faction, instead of attacking the theories which the latter propounds, they invariably vent their spleen by pouncing upon any little seeming errors that the text of their adversary appears to include, or which it may be constrained by them to comprise.

There can be no doubt, I think, as to such a course being altogether a French or foreign mode of procedure, and very far removed from the good old English custom of "taking the bull by the horns." To my mind, it undoubtedly shows where the true weakness of the defenders of the French style of collecting lies, and proves incontestably their utter inability to produce such arguments as will successfully meet our persistent theoretic attacks upon the utility of the perforation, paper, and watermark inconsistencies.

With respect to the assertion which "Amateur" has made, calling in question my accuracy as to the fact of there having been but one Mauritius "native die," with the inscription *POST OFFICE*, instead of *POST PAID* (*i. e.*, 2d. blue), I beg to inform him, with reference to this subject, that I have merely quoted the exact words of Mr. Pearson Hill when writing on these very stamps in an old number of this magazine. If Mr. Pearson Hill, who, I believe, was postmaster in the colony soon after these "native dies" were emitted, and while they were yet in circulation, is not a better authority to go upon than

"Amateur," or any one else he can bring forward, of course I am in the wrong.

I should like, however, to know, before I finish on this head, whether the 1d., or indeed either of "Amateur's" copies bearing the error, are *postmarked*.

With reference to the Sydney views, I state again definitely that there *is* a normal type for each value, and, moreover, I venture to give the three normal types below, viz. :—

1d.—View of Sydney, with *SIC FORTIS*, &c., underneath in circle, inscribed *SIGILLUM NOV.*, &c., star in each corner, value in *white* letters, *double-lined* border.

2d.—Same device, but with *engine-turned* bordering.

3d.—Ditto, but value in *coloured* letters, and border of *interlaced ovals*.

Now who can, with any justice whatever to the study of philately, venture to assert, as "Amateur" has done, that no normal type exists for each value at all?

Has he ever seen the 1d., 2d., or 3d. *without* the view, or *without* the four stars, or all or either of them with a different bordering to that mentioned, or, indeed, one another's?—I dare to say, no. Or the 1d. and 2d. stamps with the value in *colour*, or the 3d. with the value in *white*?—Again I venture to assert, *no*.

As to there being rather a normal *colour* for each value, as he says, let us take the 1d. and 2d. stamps *par example*: How can a rosy lake possibly be construed into the normal colour for a dull hard red, both of which tints exist for the 1d. Views; or a deep pure blue for a pale lilac hue; these being the two greatest extremes of colour which occur on the 2d. stamp? Take the extremes *vice versa*, and, as I estimate it, their acceptance as instances of *normal* colours would be equally as bewildering. "Amateur's" inaccuracy on this point speaks for itself; as also does his remark that the 3d. views are the *rarest* of the series. This last assumption I refer to the consideration of those among our readers who may, at some time or other, have had occasion to invest in the individuals comprising the series in question. I take it, that in *exchange* you could get about half-a-dozen 3d. Sydneys for one 1d. one—at least, I have always found such to be the case; however, I will leave this matter in the hands of my brother amateurs of the English school.

The fact of the engraving of the 3d. views being, *as a rule*, invariably and infinitely better than that of the two other values, will be readily observed, on careful comparison, by any unprejudiced person.

Mr. Pearson Hill and "Amateur" combine to force my two-anna *green* India, present issue, out of its place among *errors* of colour. I admit now, on the face of Mr. Pearson Hill's official statement, that it undoubtedly has no business there whatever; but then it must be allowed that I erred through very excusable ignorance. Who, I should like to know, has ever before seen a public notification to the effect that this stamp really was an authentically separate government emission?

It is evident from this very occurrence that if these sharp discussions between the adherents of the "two schools" do nothing better, they at least bring about the public registration of official facts, which otherwise perhaps we might never have heard of.

As to the 6d. Ceylon, on blue, or more correctly speaking, *greenish-blue* paper, if this stamp does not partake of the same character as the old 5 and 10 c. Chili, and the first issue of Tuscany, it is undoubtedly a remarkable thing, that many of its congeners of the same issue (*i. e.*, same shade of carmine or claret-brown, and 1d., 2d., 5d., and 1s.),—which display, in like manner, upon their *backs* the peculiar greenish hue, arising from a chemical change, consequent upon the combined action of the ink and

gum,—do not bear upon their *faces* the same characteristics of a *bluish-tinted paper*, which so signally distinguishes the stamp in question from all of them. I, therefore, state again distinctly, that the 6d. Ceylon referred to is upon paper tinted with a blue colour, *not* arising from the action of the gum, as much so, indeed, as the 5 c. and 10 c. Chili, and the oldest Tuscanys cited above, which are printed on a similarly coloured texture.

Furthermore, I do not wish it to be inferred that the few instances I have chosen at random to illustrate the several classes into which I considered myself justified in arranging the "varieties" of postage stamps, represent *all* that can be brought forward for such a purpose, since this is far from the case, as must be obvious to any one who has gone at all deeply into the subject.

"Amateur" may not have seen the 2 annas India of present issue on blue paper, certainly, but "Pendragon" has *possessed* it, which is a little more to the point than having merely seen it.

The $\frac{1}{2}$ anna of the same issue, on blue paper, has also been reserved for the keen detective eyes of "Pendragon," but he did not record that variety, never having had it in possession himself, and presuming that, doubtless from its extreme rarity, there would be many found ready to question the veracity of his ocular powers in this particular instance. He is undoubtedly happy in not having done so; had he, "Amateur" would evidently have taken on terribly about it.

I certainly do not see the gist of "Amateur's" remark, that the very evident want of a *complete sheet of each value* of the old Tuscanys with the crown watermark in every French collector's album, is met by the extraordinary circumstance, that *considerable portions* of such sheets exist in some of the *finest* collections in Europe. The attainment of a single complete sheet of the set, even by our first collectors, it appears, is quite impossible; how hopeless, then, must be the case of a mediocre individual, whose collection, no matter whatever outlay he may be prepared to make, will never be complete, or indeed anything like it, because such a set of entire watermarks is beyond every power of attainment.

In reply to "Observant," I may say, there is a certain portion of his letter which I think deserves an answer, considering that he has taken such an entirely wrong view of the remarks which he professes to criticise. I certainly never said that there were *sixteen thousand varieties catalogued*; what I did say was, and what I say again is, that there are sixteen thousand varieties in existence (including, of course, as I said at the time, varieties of perforation, paper, and watermark, locals, essays, proofs, &c., &c.), and when "Observant" can, by an elaborate calculation, prove to me that there are not, I shall be happy to have more to say to him on the subject, by way of apology.

This much on the principle "better late than never;" the rest of his arguments, however, I must confess that I considered of a much too feeble character to require any dilution upon them at the hands of the doughty champion of the English school.

I have not ventured to reply to Mr. Pemberton's sagacious remarks upon my poor paper, for very obvious reasons; but when he deigns to fully satisfy me as to the cause of his particularly extraordinary statement respecting me and my affairs in the pages of a contemporary, I shall be most happy to settle any little public differences between us in an honourable way—until he has accounted to me, however, in this matter, I shall not feel justified in taking any further notice of his critique.

Yours respectfully,

PENDRAGON.

ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS.

B. H. C., Shrewsbury.—Your Lubeck are all genuine, except the 1 schilling light yellow, obliterated with four narrow bars.

A CONSTANT READER.—If the publishers of the album you refer to send a copy for review, we shall have no objection to notice it, but cannot do so otherwise.

D. G. A. D., Brighton.—We must refer you to the article on the Indian "Service" stamps, at page 108 of the present volume, for the information you require.—The German stamp you sent was an old Prussian revenue label.

E. B. E., Malta.—If you turn to the "Answers" column of the number for May last, you will find the information you require respecting telegraph stamps.—We believe the 5 c. bis. re. of Switzerland, though well known, has not been noticed.

J. H. D., Liverpool.—The post-office continues to issue the high-priced envelopes, but only to private individuals bringing their own paper—hence the date you saw. Stamps thus issued pass the post, but only the penny envelope is sold at the offices.

C. L., Kirton-in-Lindley.—The three shades of the 5 gr. Sicilian do exist.—All the small figure Brazil exist perforated.—The present value of the $\frac{1}{2}$ tornese cross would probably be about 25/ to 31/6.—We cannot value a specimen sheet of Italian stamps.

INQUIRER, Dublin.—The raised diaper pattern on the back of the U. S. stamps was impressed in the expectation that it would cause the centre of the stamps to adhere so firmly to the envelopes on which they might be placed, as to prevent their removal intact.

C. J. S., Saint Louis.—We do not ourselves attach great value to the U. S. stamps with diaper pattern, but in this matter, *chacun à son goût*.—Our publishers would reprint Nos. 1, 2, 5, of *The Stamp-Collector's Magazine*, upon 500 copies of each being subscribed for.—They do not require the stamps you name.—The 3 c. U. S. envelope stamp, impressed on a sheet of blue paper, is well known to philatelists, and is hardly so rare as you imagine.—The Denmark 4 s. envelope, with and without the *s* after the figure, are distinct varieties.—The 240 reis Portugal is still unissued.—The "centesimo" error has not been corrected on the adhesives of Montevideo.—Our opinion of the St. Louis stamps was given last month.

C. W. D., St. Louis, U.S.—The 2 c. bear, was prepared for circulation, but never issued—it is a genuine "embryo."—The 1 r., 1854, with bars across, are from sheets which remained in hand, and were obliterated with these bars, to prevent their being used.—Your 20 para Turkey, unperforated, must be an essay. The other Turkish stamps you name, with few or no rays round the star, are varieties of no especial value; differences in the number of rays might be found in any half dozen stamps. We do not know anything of a large 2 para rose. Had you not better send it for examination?—We refer you to the February No. of present year for full information about the Cashmere.—The 13 c. Sandwich Islands has been expunged from our publishers' catalogue, probably because they doubted its genuineness, which indeed has been entirely unsustained.—Your 50 c. New Granada, 1855, with small figure, is a genuine and rare variety.—The four Mexican stamps you refer to were prepared by the American Bank Note Company for the Juarist government, in 1864. The position of the government prevented their having more than a brief and casual currency, and the series has not since been recalled into active service. The only stamp we have *seen* obliterated was a perforated 2 reales.—Your St. Domingo stamps are genuine.

OUR CONTEMPORARIES.

OCTOBER 22ND.

Le Timbre-Poste, this month, appears with a twelve-page illustrated supplement, in which the caricatures of the Mulready, and the emblematic envelopes issued by peace and temperance societies, are represented. These designs are both amusing and interesting, and we admire M. Moens' spirit in going to the expense of publishing them. The bulk of the letter-press consists of a description of these designs by Dr. Magnus, given as a continuation of his article on stamped envelopes. The only other article in the number is the usual chronicle of new stamps.

Le Timbrophile contains a criticism of our remarks on the St. Louis stamps, from the pen of the correspondent by whom the doubts respecting their authenticity were first raised. We admit that some of his arguments tell with force against them, but we still hold to our belief that these stamps are genuine.

The Philatelist gives prominence, and deservedly so, to the article, by Mr. Pemberton, on the Cashmere stamps, to which we need not refer more fully here, having borrowed from it and inserted our borrowings in the present number.

The American journals do not present any features of interest this month.

THE CASHMERE STAMPS.

MR. PEMBERTON has published in *The Philatelist* an able paper on these stamps, which we may be permitted to comment on, and in some slight measure to supplement. Having been favoured with the loan of the engravings with which Mr. Pemberton's article was illustrated, we are able to borrow with more effect from the pages of our contemporary, and believe the author of the article in question will not grudge us the power to lay before our readers the information he has so carefully collated.

First then, respecting the circular stamps. Mr. Pemberton takes up the list given by *The Philatelist*, in which three round stamps are mentioned:

- $\frac{1}{2}$ anna black for Jummoo,
- 1 " blue " "
- 4 " " Jummoo and Sirinagar.

and accepts the fact that these values are, or have been employed, as stated. He then goes on to give the result of his examination of these stamps, which we cannot do better than repeat in his own words:—

With the black stamp there is no difficulty, as there is but one type, and we have examined dozens within the last twelve months. It has been in determining between the blue 1 and 4 annas that we have had the great difficulty, and even now we are not quite satisfied that we have it right, though we have every reason to think our solution the correct one. We have three distinct circular stamps; in all three the centres are different—two of them have the circular discs alike, whilst the third presents different characters in one part of the disc, so we think we may presume the three differing centres prove three different values. According to *The Philatelist's* account, there are two stamps for the town of Jummoo, values $\frac{1}{2}$ and 1 a.; and a third, value 4 a., for Jummoo and Sirinagar. It is therefore probable (and in such case we can only argue from probabilities) that the two stamps with the same circular discs are the two values for Jummoo, for which the same lettering would do; our two are respectively black and bright blue. The other value being for Sirinagar as well, would doubtless require different or additional characters, which we find on the third stamp; but our third stamp exists in bright blue, and also in very dark blue-black, a most distinct shade from the black stamp, and of very great rarity; judging from the paper and obliteration, it was no doubt issued after the bright blue, as two values of one colour must have tended to confuse. We therefore give the three circular stamps as—

- $\frac{1}{2}$ anna black.
- 1 " bright blue.
- 4 " bright blue and blue-black.

As previously stated, the inscriptions are partly Sanscrit, and the central star-like design is no doubt intended to represent the sacred lotus leaf, which figures so conspicuously on the numerous Bhuddic antiquities with which Cashmere abounds; the Sancri characters we have never seen explained. The stamps are printed in a very fugitive ink, and will not bear moisture. The red postmark is the same, and we well remember wetting one of ours at the back to remove the paper; the gum being very thick, it took some time to accomplish, and the water penetrated to the face of the stamp, so after unbacking, we naturally pressed the stamp between dry blotting paper, and, as a natural result, obtained a most accurate reversed copy of the stamp and postmark on the blotting paper. We need scarcely say the original was spoilt.

The black stamps are printed in various distinct black inks, intensely shiny black, dull soft black, and in black resembling Indian ink, very pale and very dark. The earliest impressions are upon a stiff hard paper, brownish in tinge, not thick, evidently hand-made, but never rough, substance unequal, presenting, in consequence, an occasional greasy appearance when held to the light; *vergures*, or laid lines, more or less indistinct, but may generally be detected. The blue stamp is always in bright ultramarine on the same paper, but the later black and the blue-black are upon a softer paper, less browned, smoother surface, and showing the laid lines a little more clearly than in last, but still indistinctly.

With regard to the central device, Mr. Pemberton is probably right in conjecturing it to be the lotus leaf, but it would require

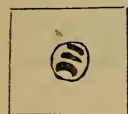
a very acute botanist to trace any resemblance to the leaf in the device itself, and we think in describing the centre as we did, as consisting of "a round blot, with a couple of patches in it," we were at any rate justified by appearances.

Mr. Pemberton doubts, as well he may, the existence of a red circular stamp first mentioned by M. Maury, and catalogued by us on his authority, but he will be surprised to learn that M. Maury not only continues to include this myth in his catalogue, but also puts a price against it—two francs! Such a low quotation shows that the original creator of the stamp must possess a considerable number of specimens.

Mr. Pemberton's account of the round stamps closes with a list of the varieties, which, with his permission, we will quote :

CIRCULAR STAMPS, ISSUED IN THE AUTUMN OF 1866.

A. $\frac{1}{2}$ anna ; centre three white strokes, two thin and one thick, and usually touching from bad printing.



- (1). On hard brownish tinted paper, handmade and unequal, showing very indistinct laid lines. Deep glossy black, pale dull black.
- (2). On softer and less brownish paper, glossy surface, but laid lines still indistinct. Deep black, pale black of

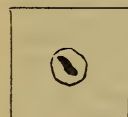
soft tone, and often having the appearance of Indian ink.

B. 1 anna ; centre a white mis-shapen crescent, with a thick clumsy white stroke inside, at right angles to the crescent.



- (1). Paper as 1 above, but rougher ; *vergures* like ribs in the paper. Bright blue.

C. 4 annas ; centre has one large white stroke or mark.



- (1). Paper as above. Bright blue
- (2). Paper as 2 above. Bright blue-black.

N.B.—No doubt C exists upon both qualities of paper, though we have, as yet, only identified one, but the specimens are too rare to be easily obtained.

Following this list come three engravings of the round stamps : first, the original engraving which appeared in our magazine, and which we admit was one capable of a great deal of improvement ; secondly, an engraving which appeared in a recent number of *Le Timbre-Poste* ; and thirdly, the annexed cut, which professes to be a "correct facsimile of the $\frac{1}{2}$ anna black ;" that it is a pretty



close representation, we can testify, and are glad to be able to supersede the first one by it.

The time of emission of these stamps was fixed by *The Philatelist* as "the autumn of 1866," but we find it should in fact be placed rather earlier. A lady correspondent informs us the one anna and half anna black were received in England on September 1, 1866, from an officer in her Majesty's army, then in Cashmere, who stated that they had been emitted in the *June* and *July* of that year. This lady also says she has since received a blue one anna, and sends tracings of her two black stamps.

Turning now to the rectangular stamps, we find that Mr. Pemberton attempts to prove the existence of the one anna black, mentioned by *The Philatelist*, from the fact that the engraving given by us in November, 1866, does not agree in detail with the design of the 3 pies black. "It is a copy," he says, "of a stamp in black, resembling the current blue 6 pies in centre, though differing from that value, or any other current one, in border and spandrels." But, without denying the possible existence of a one anna black, we hardly think his argument strong enough to prove it. Our engraving gives a very fair idea of the general design of the current Cashmere ; that the central characters are not clear is due to the fact that no special care was taken by the engraver to represent them, their accidental and partial resemblance to another value is not therefore worth much. The difference in the spandrels is also inconclusive, as in bad specimens of the current issue, the beaded frame is hardly visible. and the traces of such a frame may easily have been overlooked by the engraver. But even admitting the resemblance of the characters to those of the *six pies*, such a likeness is quite the reverse of proof that the stamp in question was a *one anna* stamp. The only point which occurs to us in favour of Mr. Pemberton's suggestion is, that one anna being the charge on European letters, a stamp of that value is more likely to have come over by chance (and that, too, post-

marked), than one of three pies, which could only be employed for local letters.

Mr. Pemberton says of the oval inscription, that the upper half consists of *Gujrati* characters, and the lower half, which is in Persian, signifies "Serinagar, Jumoonoo, and Cashmere." A correspondent of ours, writing from Bombay, gives another version of the inscription, which he states is in Persian, and reads thus: KALM ROO-I-CIRCAR JUMMOO WAH KASHMIR, "Circle of the Government of Jummoo and Kashmir." Our friend does not speak of the central disc, but Mr. Pemberton gives the interesting information that it is "filled with the value and date in Persian; this on the current black stamp reads '1/4 anna, equal to 3 pie,' with the date '1283 Hegira.' We here have records of Buddhism and Mohammedanism, in the Sanscrit and lotus leaf on one hand, and the Persian and the Hegira on the other."

Of the characters in the central discs Mr. Pemberton gives an elaborate analysis, illustrated with an engraving of each value. We have the heart but not the space to purloin this portion of the article, as the description given will enable collectors to detect the forgeries which (so our author says) have already made their appearance. The values of five of the six stamps are given by our Bombay correspondent as follows:

Paow anna,	1/4	anna.
Neen	1/2	"
Yaik	1	"
Doh	2	"
Char	4	"

The sixth value he does not appear to have met with.

Mr. Pemberton's paper closes with the following list of the current rectangular Cashmere:—

- (1). Paper thick, laid lines scarcely discernible.
3 pies, deep glossy black, pale ditto; 6 pies, bright blue.
- (2). Paper thickish, soft and glossy, laid very closely.
3 pies, dull soft black.
6 ,, bright blue.
1 anna, deep yellow orange, dull orange, pale pure red
- (3). Paper thinner and harder than 2, quite as glossy both sides, but laid lines not so fine.
3 pies, dull soft black, deep glossy black, pale ditto.
6 ,, bright blue, two shades.

1 anna,	pure red, darker dull red.
2	,, gamboge.
4	,, deep greyish green.
8	,, blood-red.

Few collectors, perhaps, will care to possess, or will even have the power to obtain, all these shades, but this list will be of great use for reference. Those who happen to possess one or other of the values in shades differing more or less from the ordinary one, may be re-assured on turning to this list, by finding that their specimen is genuine, as well as uncommon.

There is one omission in Mr. Pemberton's paper, at which we were somewhat surprised. No mention is made of the two rectangular blue stamps, value respectively half and one anna, lately emitted. These stamps are of the same shade as the blue six pies. The one anna, which was noticed some time since by M. Mahé, is stated by him to be employed solely "in the town of Kashmir," but as there is no town of that name, the information can hardly be correct as given. Probably Serinagar is really the locality intended to be referred to. M. Mahé's conjecture, however, that this stamp supersedes the circular blue of the same value, is, in our opinion, a very tenable one, as, for aught we know to the contrary, the round stamps may have been used until very recently; and his supposition, *mutatis mutandis*, applies equally to the half anna, of whose existence we do not think philatelists generally have hitherto been aware. We can ourselves vouch for the authenticity of both values, as we have specimens of each, obtained from the most unquestionable source.

ON NORMAL TYPES AND THE VIEWS OF SYDNEY.

BY EDWARD L. PEMBERTON.

A WRITER in these pages, who has achieved much cheap notoriety of late, considers himself competent to give normal types to each value of the views of Sydney. Opinions on the views of Sydney cannot be given from a few specimens, nor can generalities be considered as definitions of types.

I apprehend that no one requires telling, that a normal type is that first issued, and presenting differences from those which suc-

ceed it. We may fix on the normal types of the present penny English, or of the 2d., 3d., 4d., 6d., or 1s., because these stamps exist in only two or three varieties of design, and we are able to determine which of those is the normal one, and which succeeding, from experience. The possibility of fixing on a normal type when we have several given, rests with the types themselves. If the original was engraved on steel, &c., and an indefinite number of casts taken from the die, and used to form a sheet, then any one of these stamps will show the type as well as another, because they are all alike; but, when the stamps are separately engraved on the plate, each one by itself, distinct and different, we cannot fix on a normal type, *i.e.*, a type which is reproduced indefinitely as regards number; but though we may fix on some points of resemblance (yet not of identity), such points do not constitute definitions of types, they are simply definitions of the normal device or design.

If we have a hundred Sydneys before us to examine, and have these generalities called "definitions of normal types" alone to guide us, we may take one specimen of each value. As I said before, these supposed definitions of the normal types are nothing more than general definitions of the normal design, and this writer might give the normal types of our 1d. and 2d. stamps in the following terms, with as near an approach to truth: Queen's head to the left on an elaborate engine-turned ground, value in white letters.

Of course no one *would* give this as a definition of the normal type of our 1d. or 2d., for every one knows that the addition of the letters, or of the lines, constitutes different types; so too, every one who has studied the views of Sydney, knows that the differences pointed out in my paper in June last year, point as distinctly to different plates for each, as the absence or presence of letters, or of lines, points to different types for the English low values.

As every Sydney on each plate differs, running up to hundreds of varieties, how can a normal type be generalised as this writer attempts? The colours of each run to a great many shades, but in number, the varieties far exceed the shades, yet this

writer will give a normal type for these varieties, whilst denying a normal colour, *i.e.*, types differ more than colours, yet *he* will fix a normal type, but an adversary must not hint at the possibility of a normal colour.

I do not think that this writer has studied the subject of the views of Sydney sufficiently, to be competent to give any opinion on them; he certainly shows very little knowledge, or he would not set up such opinions against Amateur and myself (who have made these stamps an especial study), for which he has no grounds, and which a little study of the actual stamps will disprove.

This writer is singularly blind if he makes no distinction between rough and fine 1d. and 2d., which are printed from perfectly distinct plates, as I have before stated, and which each bear an individuality of their own. That there was more than one plate of 1d. and 2d., the stamps will prove for themselves, besides which, I have the testimony of a gentleman who was a member of the legislative council of New South Wales, and belonged to the select committee which sat on the Postal Bill in August, 1849, at Sydney; the reports of the committee he has kindly lent me. He says that in 1850, all the 1d. and 2d. were of the fine type, and were succeeded by rougher types from new plates. The 3d. value, he tells me, was issued without clouds at first (matching the fine 1d.), and afterwards with them. From this gentleman I got specimens of each on dated letters, showing the order of their use. It was satisfactory to me to have corroboration of the arrangement I had made from the stamps themselves, and I am rather tenacious of attempts to set aside that arrangement, even though made by a person so inexperienced as the writer I am noticing. When stamps vary in the manner of the Sydneys, we cannot fix upon any one as a normal type; all we can do is to define, in general terms, the characteristics of each plate, or of each value, in support of which I append a list of the Sydneys as I myself arrange them. With respect to the "varieties" I chronicle, I would observe, that since all the Sydneys vary, no one variety is more entitled than another to be acknow-

ledged as a variety, but some, like the errors in the laureated series, WALE, WAEES, and WALLS, are more striking than others, and therefore illustrate better than others the great variations which occur in the respective plates to which they belong.

The following list comprises every prominent variety and shade known up to the present time, collated from the finest collections, and I will challenge Pendragon to disprove any single point or stamp. I should use what he terms his definitions of normal types, to illustrate the difference in the primary design of each value, but they are too inaccurately worded to be available.

VIEWS OF SYDNEY.

Issued Jan. 1, 1850.

ONE PENNY.—Value in white letters; border of double bands; spandrels dotted.

FIRST PLATE.—*General characteristics.*

Finely engraved, no clouds.

- (1.) Paper soft, unglazed, and yellowish, unwatermarked; pale creamy rose lake, dark ditto, deep red, pale red.
- (2.) Paper hard and bluish, unwatermarked; pale lake.

SECOND PLATE.—*General characteristics.*

Roughly engraved, with clouds, hill shaded and with two trees.

- (1.) Paper stout and yellowish, hand-made, often deeply ribbed; red.
- (2.) Paper thickness of cardboard, yellowish, deeply laid horizontally; crimson-red.
- (3.) Paper stout, dull white, unwatermarked; red, crimson-red, lake.
- (4.) Paper lighter in texture, bluish white, unwatermarked; deep red, lake-red.
- (5.) Paper as last, pure blue, unwatermarked; lake-red, purple-lake.
- (6.) Paper white, laid horizontally; pale red, red.
- (7.) Paper bluish white, laid horizontally; pale lake.

Prominent varieties.

- A. No clouds.
- B. Hill unshaded.
- C. Hill shaded, but no trees.

N.B.—The 1d. laureated was issued Dec., 1851, in place of the above.

TWOPENCE.—Value in white letters; border of interlaced spirals; spandrels of waved lines, varying.

FIRST PLATE, JAN., 1850.—*General characteristics.*

Finely-engraved; spandrels of vertical lines, crossed by waved oblique; bale inscribed n^o. c. 1788; hill with four trees; fan ornament has shading on each side in the circle.

- (1.) Paper soft, unglazed, white or yellowish, unwatermarked; pure pale blue, intense blue, dull blue, green-blue, dark greenish grey.
- (2.) Paper crisper, dull white, unwatermarked; dull pale blue.

Prominent varieties.

- A. No trees.
- B. Fan with eight segments.
- C. Spandrels of waved oblique, crossed by waved oblique lines.

SECOND PLATE.—*General characteristics.*

Fan ornament shaded inside; hill with trees; bale inscribed; dot in each corner star.

- (1.) Paper soft, unglazed, white or yellowish, unwatermarked; dull pure blue, light and dark, bright blue.
- (2.) Paper hard, hand-made, blue, unwatermarked; impression always more or less worn; blue, deep blue, very dark blue.

Prominent varieties.

- A. CREVIT wanting.
- B. Fan of the third plate, with shading on each side in the circle, as in the first plate.
- C. Fan of the third plate.
- D. Pick and shovel wanting in the design.

NOTE.—The varieties B and C occur side by side on the plate; an unsevered pair exists.

THIRD PLATE.—*General characteristics.*

Fan not shaded; no trees on hills; bale not inscribed; ground sometimes shaded across, sometimes not; no dot in corner stars.

- (1.) Paper hard, dull white, unwatermarked; pale and deep dull blue, intense deep dark blue, discolourations from blue-black to olive.
- (2.) Paper hard, bluish and blue, unwatermarked; intense violet-blue, prussian blue, deep blue, pale dull blue, sky blue.
- (3.) Paper thick, dull bluish white, laid vertically; very deep blue.

- (3A.) Paper thinner, bluish; dull greenish-blue, very deep blue.
 (4.) Paper thick and yellowish, laid vertically; dull greenish blue, deep dull blue.
 (5.) Paper cream laid, thinner, laid vertically; deep dull blue.

Prominent varieties.

- A. Fan with six segments.
 B. No clouds.
 C. Hill unshaded.

FOURTH PLATE.—*General characteristics.*

Fan with pearl; no trees on hill; bale not inscribed; ground shaded across; no dot in corner stars.

- (1.) Paper hard, dull white, unwatermarked; dull blue, blue, bright blue.
 (2.) Paper hard, blue, unwatermarked; pure blue, dark blue, dull blue.
 (3.) Paper blue and dull bluish, laid; dull blue, blue.
 (4.) Paper thin, blue, unwatermarked; ultramarine.
 (5.) Paper thick, yellowish, laid vertically; dull blue, light and dark.

Prominent varieties.

- A. Fan with six segments.
 B. Hill and ground unshaded.
 C. Ground only unshaded.
 D. Pick and shovel wanting.

(To be continued.)
 See cont. in *Philatelic Journal* 1869.

SOMETHING MORE ABOUT THE
 NEW CALEDONIAN STAMPS.

OUR Parisian contemporary, *Le Timbrophile*, published last month an article on the above stamps, giving further details respecting their preparation. *En passant* we may observe that the writer, whilst he refers to the letter signed "Wild Hunter," which we extracted from the *Queen*, and gives us credit for "Wild Hunter's" statements and opinions, takes no notice of M. Berger-Levrault's paper in reply, wherein the same are confuted. We published "Wild Hunter's" letter, because we deemed his narrative worth investigation, and not because we in any degree coincided with his views. But to return: When postage stamps became a want in New Caledonia, the governor addressed himself to a sergeant in the little garrison, named Triquéra. After a rather long search,

Sergeant Triquéra found, at eight or nine kilometres from Noumea, near Pont-des-Français, a grey limestone, bluish, soft, slightly clayish, and of a fine grain, which, in default of a better, might be used as a lithographic stone. The discovery of this stone was made in 1857. In 1858 appeared the first numbers of the journal of the island, which we ought to add, are nearly illegible. The stamps also left much to desire as works of art, having been engraved with the point of a pin on a little stone which contained one hundred, and from this cause were all different. Moreover it should be remarked, that Sergeant Triquéra had not the wherewithal to transfer the design to other stones, and so if one stone did not succeed, there were months of delay, and of work to perform over again in obtaining another from the district, and in recovering the design which had been adopted for this stamp—a design which was an uncouth copy of the 10 c. stamp in use in France.

After making all deductions, however, the stamps were, it must be admitted, much better than the island journal which appeared about the same time, and they served from 1858 to the commencement of 1860, since which the French colonial stamp with eagle has replaced them.

Sergeant Triquéra, when he had finished his term of service, took his discharge in the colony, and remained there as lithographer, until bad health caused him to leave for France, but he could not support the voyage, and died *en route*. After his death, which took place in 1866, an inventory was made, such as is always taken of the goods of passengers dying on board government vessels, and among his effects were found a large number of plates [stones] of the old 10 c. stamps, which he probably expected to sell on his arrival in France; for he had heard of the famous sale in Paris, at the price of 1000 francs (£40), of one entire stone—a sale which had rendered celebrated the postage-stamp merchant of the Rue des Canettes.

The heirs in France of the late lithographer, Triquéra, had had the stones reprinted from by him before his departure from the colony. These are the reprints which for

some time past have made their appearance in the market, and are offered by a person at Marseilles to all the dealers in Europe and America, and it is this which has given occasion for the statement of "Wild Hunter," who sees in the matter nothing but the dishonest speculation of the captain of a Marseilles vessel.

In conclusion, we trust M. Mahé will pardon our infringement of his rights, as the article, which we have in part translated, was in fact a reply to one which had appeared in this magazine; and having given currency to an erroneous version, we deem it our duty to correct it by the true history.

NOTES ON PENDRAGON'S LETTER.

BY AMATEUR.

IN the September number of *The Stamp-Collector's Magazine*, the writer exposed the untruth of certain matters alleged by Pendragon as facts, in a paper which appeared in August. Last month's magazine contains a reply by Pendragon, in which he states the writer has made "several *inexact* assertions respecting certain *opinions* expressed by me."

It is a favourite, if not novel line of defence with a certain class, to attempt to justify on the ground that their accuser is guilty of the same offence as themselves, the resort to which is commonly supposed to afford a sure indication of the truth of the accusation. Independently of the light thus thrown on the merits of the case, it is ill advised to adopt this style, when the foundation of the charge being in writing, the party making it can be convicted beyond the possibility of evasion.

The writer stated, that admitting the *post-office* Mauritius to be a variety, there existed *two* dies. Pendragon had asserted, "on one die" the words were used in error.

Charged with the blunder, Pendragon does not venture to deny in terms—though he would, to a reader who did not scan his words closely, appear to deny—the truth of the writer's assertion. In the witness-box, a person who thus answered would be called a shuffler; and Pendragon's letter is certainly not direct or clear. He says, "I

merely quoted the exact words of Mr. Pearson Hill, when writing in an old number of this magazine." This is neither more nor less than the reverse of the truth. Pendragon did *not* quote from Mr. Pearson Hill his exact words, as he asserts he did; probably, making the assertion from a mere random recollection. The only letter or paper by Mr. Pearson Hill, on this subject, appeared in *The Stamp-Collector's Magazine* for June, 1865, p. 94, vol. iii. In it Mr. Hill speaks of there being a difference in the position of the words in the plate, and in the background, referring to the well-known distinctions pointed out in Mount Brown's catalogue, the *then* authority; and Mr. Hill deprecated collecting more than one specimen of the series.

It is entirely untrue to say Mr. Hill ever wrote, "on one die," &c. (or words equivalent thereto), as Pendragon asserts he did. It is not to be supposed that Pendragon intentionally wrote what was untrue; but what is to be thought of the accuracy of any one who writes thus? How can he speak of "inexactness" in others?

It is scarcely worth while to follow this writer further, *ex uno disce omnes*; but a person who pretends to instruct others—the chosen "champion of a school,"—who is so carelessly inaccurate, deserves to have his gross blundering ignorance publicly demonstrated. Let us see what sources of information were open to him.

The first attempt to bring the stamps of Mauritius to a proper classification was by the writer's esteemed friend, M. George Herpin, of Paris, in a paper published in *Le Collectionneur de Timbres-Postes*, in March, 1865. There M. Herpin says, "*Il existe des exemplaires où on lit POST-OFFICE*," &c.; he does not describe them, or say more.

In consequence of certain views held by M. Herpin on the value of the Britannia stamps, a long correspondence ensued between him and the present writer, and between the latter and Mr. Pearson Hill, whose letters are now in the writer's possession. Following this question up, M. Moens, to whom the writer conveyed the statements made by Mr. Hill, published a paper in *Le Timbre-Poste*, May, 1865, No. 29, in which

all the stamps of Mauritius are elaborately dealt with; and M. Moens, referring to the alleged variety, *post-office*, states that, while not denying their existence, he never has seen them, and rests in doubt.

Thus the authorities stood, till November, 1865, when M. Moens' doubts were resolved; the pair in question was found, and in *Le Timbre-Poste*, No. 35, Nov., 1865, in an article expressly devoted to them, most accurately and minutely described.

Prior to this, in April, 1865, *The Stamp-Collector's Magazine*, vol. iii., p. 56, had spoken of the native stamps of the isle; and giving an engraving of one, had by error engraved the legend, POST-OFFICE, in lieu of POST PAID. This discrepancy did not escape Mr. Pemberton's notice, for in the same volume, p. 95 (being the page after that which Pendragon says "he quoted" from), he points it out, and explains that the varieties in the plate were caused by Barnard's engraving.

To *The Stamp-Collector's Magazine*, vol. iv., the writer contributed a paper "On the English-printed stamps of Mauritius," in which he maintained the theory of value that Mr. Pearson Hill had enunciated, and M. Moens had adopted, but purposely did not deal with the native-printed stamps.

No paper, in any of the British or foreign stamp magazines, has appeared touching on these "post-office" stamps, which does not in terms mention the pair.

From this it follows, that this self-styled "champion of a school,"

1st. Has made his original assertion without consulting any of the authorities.

2nd. Without any knowledge of the fact, and

3rd. When the inaccuracy is exposed, has fathered on the writer's friend, Mr. Pearson Hill, that which he never wrote.

The writer will only add, that immediately he saw Pendragon's letter, he wrote and offered to produce the pair of stamps to him, and to this letter received a reply, that he did not desire to see the stamps, but merely to know if both were obliterated.

Comment on the above is superfluous. Assertion is never argument, nor can its iteration convince anyone but a mere child;

but when assertion takes the shape above disclosed, it is time, for the sake of all the community, to point out the offender.

As to the other inaccuracies and the blunders charged on him, which he ignores, it is not worth pointing them out after the above, or the writer might well enough inquire, whether calling the red $\frac{1}{2}$ anna India, the Peru cornucopia on white ground, and the Liberia 24 c. lilac, varieties of colour, are, in addition to the mistakes Pendragon admits, "little seeming errors"?

NEWLY-ISSUED OR INEDITED STAMPS.

As the year draws to a close, we shall, no doubt, receive information of various changes, and forthcoming emissions. We are already informed, by a Wurtemberg correspondent, than an alteration is being made in the series for

BAVARIA.—A new value will shortly appear—7 kreuzer—which will appropriate to itself the colour which now distinguishes the 6 kr. This latter, deprived of blue, will fall back to brown, but we are not informed what change will be made in the hue of the 9 kr. The new stamp was to have been ready by the 1st October, but not having yet seen it, we presume its appearance has been delayed.

BADEN has forestalled Bavaria in this instance, its 7 kr. being already in circulation, and with it a new 1 kr. The general design is the same, but it has been re-engraved, and there are some visible differences in the detail. The word BADEN and the value are in much thicker letters than before; the arms also look smaller. Moreover, the word KREUZER, instead of being written in full, is now represented by the abbreviation KR. The colour of the 1 kr. is a clear light green; of the 7 kr., a rather thick deep blue. For further particulars respecting the design, we have pleasure in referring our readers to the specimen which accompanies the present number. The emission of these stamps, we should however add, is, no doubt, caused by the necessity or the wish to place the Baden and Bavarian series in accord with the *kreuzer* series of the North German Confederation.

BERGEN.—Annexed is an engraving of the

new stamp for this town, which was issued on the 1st July of the present year. The design is very meagre.



BRUNSWICK.—We learn, with some surprise, that the 4-4ths sgr. of this state has lately been emitted printed in stone on white, as the entire issue having

been withdrawn from circulation and suppressed, it is hard to see what purpose the "reprint" can be put to. Is it issued for the benefit of collectors only? or had a stock of this value, in its new dress, been worked off just before the closing of the office? We await an answer.



INDIA.—These stamps, which, like the foregoing, we described last month, will, we think, win our readers' admiration. Though only "transmogrified" bill stamps, they have a very fine appearance, owing to the delicacy of their execution, and their tints. M. Moens, together with these, makes mention of an 8 pies lilac, showing the word POSTAGE in *small* black letters; and a half anna blue, with the same word in *large* black letters. We presume this word is imprinted over the face of these two stamps, but as they both belong to the ordinary postal series, we do not see the utility of this addition.

ROUMANIA.—It is stated that on and after next New-Year's day the foreign postal service in these principalities will be abolished, the government taking the entire manage-

ment of the post into its own hands. In consequence, no doubt, of this change, and the necessity of emitting higher values, we learn that stamps of the value of 25 and 50 bani will be issued; and at same time, one of 10 bani. We have no information of the colour or type, but presume the latter will remain the same as at present.

WURTEMBERG.—Annexed we give an illustration of the election stamp we described last month. In the opinion of M. Moens, it is not worthy to be called a postage stamp; granted, but it is certainly a curiosity of more value than many which find a place in our albums.



MEXICO.—From the Belgian magazine we learn that the old half real black on chamois has been recalled into currency; it has the marginal inscription in gothic letters. In addition, he chronicles the emission of an entirely new series, comprising the following values:—

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

Having received notice of this set immediately before going to press, he had no space for description of the design, which therefore stands over till next month.

Since this was written, and at the moment of going ourselves to press, we have received a specimen of a new Mexican stamp—we presume one of the series referred to by M. Moens,—and hasten to interpolate a description.

But for the notice in *Le Timbre-Poste*, so poor is the execution of this stamp, we should have been ready to pronounce it spurious. It is not always possible to decide off-hand on the mode of engraving of a stamp, as extremes meet, and impressions from a fine wood-block and a coarse steel-plate approach very nearly in appearance; but we hardly think we can be wrong in judging the stamp before us to be no other than a wood-cut. The design itself is by no means bad; in the centre of a lined circle, about the size of that on the French stamps, is the full-face

ESTADOS UNIDOS DE COLOMBIA.

SERVICIO DE CORREOS NACIONALES.

CERTIFICADO OFICIAL.

SALE DE EN DE DE 186

*Remite**El Administrador,*

portrait of some worthy unknown to us,—possibly, however, Juarez himself. The face is that of a middle-aged man, and has a pleasing, intelligent expression, which is enhanced by a high and well-formed forehead. The circle containing this figure overlaps the side border, extending, in fact, to the outer edge; in each corner are appropriate ornaments; and in the upper and lower margins, the inscriptions, which are in dark letters on a shaded ground. The upper margin contains the word MEXICO; the lower, the value—in the stamp before us, 50 CENT. The impression of this value is in black on yellow; and the perforations which surround the stamp are probably the finest specimens of the perfect kind—that in which distinct circular holes are punched out. On again examining our stamp, we find the name of the state, as in the preceding series, at the side in gothic letters, but very faintly impressed.

NEW GRANADA.—The above is a representation of a lately-discovered stamp for this republic. Its employment is the same as that of the well-known vignettes, which it resembles in size, viz., to cover and so

seal the backs of letters; but this new type is only placed on official epistles. It is printed in black on a lined blue paper, and the inscriptions are surrounded by a border composed of typographic designs, the size of which is indicated by the above double-line frame.

PERU.—A correspondent of ours informs us he recently saw a specimen of the embossed 1 dinero of Peru printed entirely in green, imperforate, and postmarked, LIMA, 13, AGO '868. Both *Le Timbrophile* and *Le Timbre-Poste* allude to this stamp, but neither are able to give any explanation of its re-appearance under an altered guise. The latter suggests that it has been provisionally re-issued, and this is probably the case. The fact of its being printed in green leads us to think that the stock of the 5 centavos being exhausted, this stamp has been re-issued to represent that value, until the completion of a new supply. It may, however, be, as a correspondent in Valparaiso suggests, that the return of this stamp into circulation is the work of a new government, unwilling to allow the creation of its predecessor to remain current. This

correspondent also states that he has heard a report of a medio-peso, rose on carmine, also of the old type, being in use.

SPAIN.—The following amusing paragraph appears in the Paris correspondence of the *Times* of 21st ult. "It appears that many of the postage stamps that have recently arrived in Paris, on letters from Spain, had the Queen's head *punched out of them*, so that Her Most Catholic Majesty will soon be out of print as well as out of place." The people must indeed be enraged against their Queen, when, forgetting what is due even to her sex, they proceed to "punch her head;" and as they hold her in such deep aversion, we may anticipate that the present design, even in a mutilated state, will not long remain current.

UNITED STATES.—Through the courtesy of an esteemed correspondent, we are enabled to give our readers the following intelligence. The contract for furnishing the government with postage stamps for the next four years has again been awarded to the National Bank-Note Company of New York. New designs have been adopted for all the stamps, as follows:—

The 2-cent stamp represents a post-boy riding at full speed, in illustration of the fact, that this stamp is mostly used for dispatch letters.

On the 3-cent stamp is a finely-engraved locomotive, surrounded by lines of lightning, indicating the speed with which letters are carried.

The 5-cent stamp bears a faithful portrait of Washington.

The 10-cent stamp has an excellent microscopical copy of the painting of the signing of the Declaration of Independence, bringing in the rotunda at Washington.

The 12-cent stamp, mostly used for foreign postage, has a picture of a steamship.

The 30-cent stamp, a copy of a painting of the surrender of Burgoyne, which hangs in the rotunda of the national capitol.

A PERFECT STRANGER.

WE have received from Dr. Gray a description and rough sketch of a stamp, which to us is indeed a "perfect stranger." It is

rather beyond the usual size, and reminds us in some respects of the British sixpence octagonal. In the centre of the oval is the Queen's profile to left; the surrounding oval band is inscribed—above, AUSTRALIA, and below, ONE SHILLING AND SIXPENCE; above and below the oval itself is the word POSTAGE in straight lines. The whole is contained in a rectangular frame, with the corners truncated, or, to use a more familiar word, notched. The colour Dr. Gray has omitted to mention. The specimen from which he describes is, he states, "obliterated with ink, the date being 28, 5, '60," from which we understand that the obliteration consists simply of the date.

Our own impression is, that this stranger is a worthless impostor. The mere fact, that it bears the name of the entire continent, "Australia," instead of that of one of the colonies, stamps it as false. No stamp, so far as we know, has yet been emitted for use by all the colonies in common; and had this value been issued by any one in particular, it would have borne its distinctive name.

The only use an eightpenny stamp could have been put to would have been the payment of the double postage by Marseilles at the old ninepenny rate; but had such a stamp been issued, its existence must have become known long ere this.

The date upon the stamp aids us in fixing that of its fabrication. It was prepared at a time when the general knowledge respecting stamps was very limited, and when even the blunder of placing the word Australia without any prefix would easily pass unnoticed. The obliteration also by date was then in vogue, at least in some of our colonies, and would be deemed to establish the genuineness of the label on which it was found.

THE LATE RAJAH SIR JAMES BROOKE.

THE death of Sir James Brooke, K.C.B., Rajah of Sarawak, which took place some time since, at his house of Burrator, in South Devon, has been recorded. This enterprising English gentleman, who became the ruler of a semi-independent principality of Malays

and Dyaks in Borneo, was the son of Thomas Brooke, Esq., of Widcombe, near Bath, where he was born, in April, 1803. He was educated at the Norwich Grammar School, and entered the army of the East India Company in 1817. He served as a cadet in the first Burmese war, and was there severely wounded. Having retired from the military service, after the death of his father, he spent three years in cruising about in his private yacht, the *Royalist*, a schooner of 142 tons burden, with a crew of twenty men. His geographical and ethnological studies, as well as his meditations on the political and commercial prospects of Eastern Asia and the Indian Archipelago, led him to conceive the project of forming a British settlement on the north coast of Borneo, where the territory of Malludu Bay already belonged to the British dominions. In a well-written paper, communicated by him to the Royal Geographical Society, in 1838, he explained his views and purposes; and at the end of that year he sailed in the *Royalist* from Devonport, landing on the coast of Borneo, after some delays, in July, 1839. But instead of settling in Malludu Bay, he visited the Malay Rajah of Sarawak, Muda Hassim, uncle to the Sultan of Borneo, and entered into a contract with that potentate, not very unlike the terms upon which a roving Norman baron or knight of the Middle Ages might agree to fight the battles of a feeble Prince in Sicily or Gaul. At the same time, he took great pains to warn the Malay rulers of the country against the intriguing and aggressive policy of the Dutch. The result was that, having assisted Muda Hassim to defeat the rebel forces led by the Pangeran Usop, another uncle of the helpless Sultan, Mr. Brooke was appointed to succeed Muda Hassim in the government of Sarawak, when Muda Hassim obtained the office of Prime Minister in the government of Borneo. Mr. Brooke was to pay tribute, amounting to £500 a year, as a feudal acknowledgement of his subjection to the Sultan. On the other hand, he obtained the exclusive right of dealing in the antimony ore and other valuable produce of the country, from which he reckoned on considerable profits. This was in 1841, when

the new English Rajah began to reign, with the good will of all his native subjects, whose welfare he carefully studied to promote. He suppressed crimes and disorders; made an easier adjustment of taxation, and protected the poor Dyaks against the cruelty and rapacity of the Malays. The population of Sarawak was 10,000. In 1844, Mr. Brooke was appointed agent for the British government in Borneo. In several expeditions for the purpose of suppressing piracy and slavery he was assisted by the Hon. Captain Keppel, R.N., and by Sir Thomas Cochrane, who then held command of the British fleet in Eastern waters. The result of these expeditions was the shedding of a great deal of blood; but it was shown that those who perished were freebooters and pirates, and the outcry raised in consequence against the Rajah gradually died away. On returning to England, in 1847, Rajah Brooke found himself famous. The Knighthood of the Bath was conferred on him by Her Majesty; the University of Oxford bestowed on him the honorary degree of D.C.L.; and he was entertained by every public body, from the Queen, at Windsor Castle, to several of the City companies. He also reaped more solid and substantial rewards. He was created by the Queen "Commissioner and Consul to the Native States of Borneo, and Governor of Labuan," the latter being a small island near Sarawak, purchased from the Sultan, and erected into a British colony. As Governor, he enjoyed a salary of £2000 a year. He occupied this post eight or nine years. In 1858 he returned to England, but had been in this country only a few months when his health received a serious shock from a paralytic attack. From this he rallied, though for some months he was incapable of active mental or bodily exertion. To add to his troubles, in the following year he heard that his books and private papers had been destroyed in an insurrection in Borneo, which he was not on the spot to quell. A public meeting was held in London, and a large sum was collected among his friends and admirers, to enable him to replace them, and to purchase the estate in Devonshire where his latter days were chiefly spent. Towards the close of 1861 he paid Borneo a

visit, accompanied by Mr. Spenser St. John; but he had the mortification of finding the north-west part of the island in rebellion. As soon as this outbreak was suppressed, he returned to England, but was again recalled to the East, by fresh complications in the internal administration of Borneo. These difficulties he had the satisfaction of seeing arranged on his farewell visit to the island, about five years since. From that date, the fortunes of Borneo and of Sarawak have been on the whole peaceful and quiet. Sir James Brooke, though himself placed on a sort of honorary retired list, saw the independence of his favourite settlement recognised by the British Government. His published journal and letters, with the narratives of Captain Keppel, Mr. Gordon, and Mr. Charles Brooke, nephew to the Rajah, give the fullest information respecting the history of Sarawak.—*Illustrated London News.*

THE DRESDEN STAMPS.

IN the September number of *Le Timbre-Poste* appears a letter from a correspondent at Dresden, giving some particulars respecting the Express Company established there, by whom the well-known locals have been emitted. From this we learn that the company employs itself in the carriage of goods of all kinds, the despatch of *unsealed* letters, circulars, &c., &c. Its operations were at first confined to the capital, but it now has branches in most of the towns in Saxony, and by reason of its low rates enjoys a very general patronage.

The stamps and envelopes serve to prepay the letters and parcels, the charge on which varies according to the value, size, or the distance. Both adhesives and envelopes have preserved the inscription, DRESDEN EXPRESS COMPANY, because the company wishes to utilise the type it possesses; the one exception is the lately-issued $\frac{1}{3}$ sgr. green envelope stamp which is inscribed S. [SAXON] EXPRESS COMPANY.

In a note at the foot, M. Moens remarks, that as the company only carries unsealed letters, it might as well gain something by issuing its envelopes ungummed.

We feel obliged to M. Moens' correspon-

dent ourselves, but still require further illumination. What unsealed letters do the company receive besides circulars? Surely the Saxons are not so thrifty and so confiding as to send their private correspondence open for the sake of a little saving in postage; then again, we must ask, what are these unsealed *letters*? The fact, in our belief, is, that the company accepts only circulars (whether in envelopes or not is immaterial), and that the stamps, with the exception perhaps of the lowest value, are only used for parcels. Even for parcels we expect their employment is only optional. We have never yet seen an obliterated specimen of any of the stamps, adhesive or envelope, and doubt whether any one else has, and the non-appearance of such specimens throws more doubt on the value of the stamps than any other fact in connection with them. We should like to have ample and accurate details about these stamps, and we should think such might be easily furnished by some of our German readers.

POSTAL CHIT-CHAT.

THE HEAT last summer was so great in Paris, that the *Moniteur* announced that the wax having melted on many sealed letters, the public was requested to use wafers or gum—at least, during the dog-days.

IN THE NINETEENTH CENTURY.—The *Times* states that the Persian monthly mail of July 23rd was robbed, and the bags taken, on the Turkish frontier, and that correspondents are requested to repeat their letters!

THE "RAZOR'S" EXCHANGE COLUMN.—STAMPS.—My wife has a collection of stamps which I should be glad to sell. First stamp, persuasive (customs), when she wants to get a new bonnet from Madame Elise. Second stamp, passionate (*Tartar, eh?*), when she finds I won't get it. Third stamp (*Rouen*), when she buys it, and I have to pay the bill.

PADDY OUT-DONE.—One day last month a man called at a Sussex post-office, and asked, "Have you got a letter from Brighton for a woman?" "What woman?" said the post-office official. "A woman hop-picking up here somewhere." "What name?" "I don't know her name." "Should you know it if you heard it?" "No, I don't think I should." "Then I cannot tell you." "Thank you; good day." This is really a fact.

THE SAINT HELENA SIXPENNY.—From *The Philatelist* we call the following explanation of the continued employment of the unperforated sixpence of St. Helena:

"The fact is, that owing to the rate of European postage being raised from sixpence to one shilling, the former value is so little used, that the original stock of imperforate blues is far from being yet exhausted; and the perforated sheets will remain untouched until that takes place." Should a new series take the place of the "permanent provisionals" in a year or two, these perforated blues may never see the light.

MEXICAN POSTS IN THE SIXTEENTH CENTURY.—Post-houses were established on the great roads, about two leagues distant from each other. The courier, bearing his despatches in painted hieroglyphics (for the Mexicans had no written characters), ran at the top of his speed to the first station, where they were taken by another, and carried forward to the next, and so on, till they reached their destination. Thus the whole journey was performed as quickly as if one man had continued it at the fastest rate; and being trained from childhood, the Mexicans travelled with extraordinary swiftness. These couriers appear to have been instituted by the King Montezuma II., who began to reign in 1502.

CORRESPONDENCE.

THE PENNY POST.

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

SIR,—I have in my collection the front of an envelope or cover (I cannot tell which), directed to a gentleman in London, bearing the following inscription, printed in red letters:—TEMPORARY. TO BE POSTED AT THE HOUSE OF LORDS ONLY. POST PAID, ONE PENNY. WEIGHT NOT TO EXCEED $\frac{1}{2}$ oz. Unfortunately, the obliterating postal date mark is illegible. Perhaps some of your readers can give me the history and date of issue of these covers.

Clifton.

Yours truly,
FENTONIA.

THE DIETZ & NELSON STAMPS.

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

DEAR SIR,—The local "Dietz & Nelson" figured in your July number is nothing else but a label, pasted on all packages forwarded by them, to show that the package is forwarded by them. They are of no value whatever, and represent no value. Wells, Fargo, & Co. make use of similar ones.

The old Sandwich (figure) stamps, with fancy borders, and the 13 cents figure blue, are pronounced by the Postmaster-General at Honolulu as *spurious*. This settles them.

Yours respectfully,
San Francisco. C. W. LOMLER.

[The stamp of the new company consists of a scroll 2½ inches long; the upper half lined; the lower, solid; and inscribed, PAID, PACIFIC UNION EXPRESS CO. It is printed in red on buff U. S. envelope.—Ed.]

THE NEW HAITIAN POSTAGE STAMP.

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

DEAR SIR,—I see from your notice of the new stamp purporting to emanate from the republic of Haiti, and the emission of which was announced in your last month's impression, that you look upon the design of the stamp as one of the reasons why it should be accepted with caution. From time to time I have seen in your columns very great inaccuracy in describing the stamps of St. Domingo. The stamps already issued have been almost invariably ascribed to a wrong locality, all but this new comer (assuming that the latter is genuine) having been issued by the Dominican Republic, a negro commonwealth, which occupies the Eastern or Spanish portion of the island of St. Domingo. The stamps of the Dominican Republic all bear the value in Spanish currency, for the state in all things is essentially Spanish, having once

been a Spanish colony. On the other hand, the Republic of Haiti, from whence the new stamp is said to come, is also a negro commonwealth, and occupying the western or French portion of the island of St. Domingo, but is essentially French in all respects, having once been a French colony. The value on any stamp or stamps which might be issued by the Republic of Haiti would then certainly be in French currency; and as to the design, suffice it to say that an intimate knowledge of Haiti and Haitian history, in its every detail, enables me to state that what you speak of as "verging on the absurd" is nothing more nor less than an exact representation of the arms of the republic.

In conclusion, I may add that I have coins of the republic in my possession, having on the reverse side the arms precisely similar to the representation on the stamp in question. By a recent mail, the intelligence arrived that General Salnave, the President of the Haitian Republic, had assumed the imperial dignity; and the new-made Emperor, whether amidst all the din of war and carnage by which he is now surrounded, or in the comparative quiet of his court, would certainly not issue stamps bearing republican insignia, so at best the new comer is but an essay.

Yours truly,
Bow. WILLIAM THOMAS KITT.

A WORD FROM ANTI-PENDRAGONITE.

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

DEAR SIR,—The letter from "Pendragon," in your last impression, is characteristic of his class, and very clearly puts forward that adhering to "the good old standards of collecting as in Birchin Lane" has not done much to enlighten him in philatelic matters.

Few can be so foolish as to say that it is not advisable for collectors, no matter of what school, to learn, as much as possible, all such timbropostal details as may enable them to distinguish between stamps genuine and forged, original and reprinted. Follow the French school tenets carefully, and all these details are necessarily brought under your notice; follow "Pendragon," and see the result of his imperfect and superficial observation in his statement that the threepenny Sydney is "invariably and infinitely" better engraved than either of the other values. From this it will be evident, to any collector worthy the name, who has given the Sydneys but half the study they merit, that "Pendragon" has never seen a twopenny of the finely-engraved type, or, mayhap, has seen it without remarking it particularly. His ignorance is further shown when he asserts that "a deep pure blue and a pale lilac hue" are "the two greatest extremes of colour which occur on the twopenny stamp;" whereas, pure ultramarine, indigo, and dark grey verging on black, are all found in the twopenny. Many other remarks of his upon other stamps are equally shallow; but as I do not wish to correct his errors, which are too numerous, but merely to show his ignorance, I think it sufficient to touch upon these.

As regards his violently-delivered assertion, that "there is a normal type for each value" of the Sydneys, I will just quote what he says in his paper in the August *Stamp-Collector's Magazine*, viz.:—"Of varieties of design there are several series of stamps, which, from the fact of each die in a sheet for a certain value having been executed separately by hand, cannot be said to possess an individual normal state at all, any one of the dies (unless strangely differing by reason of error) having as much right to that position as another. The most striking

instances of this are afforded by the native Mauritius die-prints, Sydney views, and the earlier stamps for Luzon." I do not think any comment upon this is needed, it being in direct contradiction to what he has written in the October number.

Before concluding this, I should wish to say a word about "Pendragon" as "champion of the English school." If there is an animosity between the English school and the French, and if the former must needs have a champion to fight their battles for them, will they have one who, while he upholds their tenets publicly, follows a directly opposite course in private; who denounces and maligns the French school while belonging to it himself, and in public protests against and abuses his own private belief?—in a word, will they accept "Pendragon" as their chosen leader? Let them clearly understand beforehand (it is well known in London, and has been mentioned to me by several) that he is not one of themselves at all, but something worse than an apostate.

How this individual, whose inexperience is so patent, and whose knowledge of stamps is so positively threadbare, can venture to set himself at the head of even an imaginary school of philately, and deliver his opinions as though they were matters of weighty import to collectors, is a source of wonderment to me; but should the English school rest satisfied with him as their representative before the philatelic world, I suppose we may expect to be treated every now and again with dainty bits, such as his last letter in defence (?) of his "good old" tenets.

Yours truly,

London.

ANTI-PENDRAGONITE.

COUNTERFEITS AND PENDRAGON.

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

DEAR SIR,—I can add my testimony to that of Mr. Chute, in your last number, respecting the counterfeits of the 10 c. Canada, on buff, and I have had sent me the 10 c. from the counterfeit die (the most striking peculiarity of which is the manner the colour of the background shows up, through the knot of hair at back), on white paper. The penalties of forging the current stamps were so heavy, that probably it is only since the union that these counterfeits have been struck on white paper.

I never saw the 10 c. (genuine) on white in any other shade than cold dark (or blackish) brown; this forgery is, like the counterfeit 10 c. on buff, in warm brown or chocolate, the white paper shows the colour more clearly than buff.

I have had a very fine imitation of the large New York P. O. 5c. black, on *thick* paper, sent me as a rarity; it is very well done, and would puzzle many people of experience. The original is undoubtedly from a steel die; the forgery, I fancy, is a lithograph, very fine and clear, but lacking sharpness in the outlines of some of the letters. The expression of the face is languid, the eyes have a sleepy look, and the lips are thick, and lack expression; the left side of the face (in looking at the stamp) has a rounder outline, and the hair on that side comes down without the strong bulge we see in the genuine. The knot of the cravat is the most striking difference in the forgery: it is broader than long, and extends in width to, and nearly covers the extent of, the c of CENTS. In the genuine, the knot is high, and only covers one half of the c at most. Of course, there are numerous minor differences (noticeably, in the corner leaves, &c.) which I cannot describe; but the thicker paper should at once make any one suspicious. It may, perhaps, exist upon thin paper as well; so I mention the differences I have noticed as most prominent.

As Pendragon has not "ventured" to reply to my "sagacious remarks," being restrained by a high sense of what is due to his own position (which I have assailed); and as he wishes satisfaction for my statement, that however opposed he may choose to appear in public to the French school, he is in private a collector of that school; I beg to tender to him the satisfaction he wants. I now repeat that Pendragon in private life is a French collector, and has been in correspondence with me in that capacity. I shall not waste more of my own time, and of your space, but refer all who feel interested, to my letter in the November number of *The Philatelist*, and to my proofs, which I have placed in the hands of the publishers. Of course he will again deny the facts, and then people will say, "Surely he ought to know best what his own views are," but they must not forget, that many persons will venture anything for the sake of notoriety. If a person chooses to appear one thing in public, and another in private, he should keep his own counsel, or he is sure to come to grief. So this person, in private a Mr. J. H. Greenstreet; in public, *Pendragon*. My proofs are so positive, and I have besides the testimony of so many London collectors, that nothing he chooses to assert can alter *the fact*, that J. H. Greenstreet and Pendragon are one: the first, a French amateur; the second, an aspirant to the position of leader of the English school; had he succeeded, the English school would have had my deepest sympathy. Pendragon may *now* feel justified in replying to my "sagacious remarks" on his very "poor paper;" but perhaps I have overstepped the high tone of "honourable mannerism" he affects in public, and he may not deign to reply to the said "remarks." This will be "my misfortune, not my fault." For a long time past, and in my remarks on stamp subjects, I have always carried out the Yankee expression, "be sure you're right, and then go ahead." I have not forgotten this in the present case, and so Pendragon will find, if he wishes further discussion.

Yours faithfully,

EDWARD L. PEMBERTON.

Birmingham.

PENDRAGON IN DIFFICULTIES.

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

SIR,—As a French collector, I wish to make a few remarks on Pendragon's reply to Amateur, in the last number of *The Stamp-Collector's Magazine*, if you will accord me the space.

I have well studied his last letter, in which there appears to me to be a great deal of what people term "clap-trap," and the letter, divested of these expressions, is singularly poor in argument or sense. It does not seem many months since he emerged from obscurity; his name is not known in connexion with any essays on stamps, like those with which we can identify the names of Mr. Pemberton and of Amateur, for so many years past. As far as I can see, he has not done anything to aid the advancement of philately, that should entitle him to be heard; and I think that in assailing the opinions of either Mr. Pemberton or Amateur, he should do so with a little more respect to their great experience; or, at all events, when he does attempt to refute their opinions, let him use some sound arguments, and not imagine that his opinions are *proofs*.

How can he say that he has Mr. Pearson Hill's authority, that only "one Mauritius native die with the inscription POST OFFICE, instead of POST PAID (*i.e.* 2d. blue)" was made? On referring to the letter of Mr. Pearson Hill (June, 1865), I have failed to discern any

mention whatever of these varieties. I suppose he will require Mr. Pearson Hill's official statement that he is wrong, before he will admit it. I do not think any of your readers can justify such a perversion of facts as this. The use he makes of Mr. Pearson Hill's name gives to his side of the argument an appearance of study, and makes him appear to be right. He has relied upon the probability that no one would wade through an indefinite quantity of old numbers of the magazine to test his assertion, but knowing his slippery manner of conducting his arguments, I did look for this letter, and found it, and, as I before stated, there is not the slightest allusion in it to these POST-OFFICE "natives."

That he was not aware of the existence of this error in both values, is due to himself: the two varieties have been chronicled years ago in the French papers, and have been the subject of much discussion. Had he studied his subject, he need not have perverted Mr. Hill's letter to suit himself, nor would he have required Amateur's very just correction, nor the references (which I append) to the French magazines.*

It is very easy for anyone to state "definitely again," that normal types exist for the views of Sydney—excessively easy, but descriptions of the different values cannot constitute definitions of normal types, when every stamp on the plate varied. He displays little enough of his boasted acuteness when he gives a normal type to each value, whilst denying a normal shade. Mr. Pemberton's papers on the Sydneys have so thoroughly exhausted the subject, that I cannot think he has read them, or he would not imagine that his mere opinion on the subject would have any weight against Mr. Pemberton's well-sustained proofs of their being more than one plate for each value. I think anyone will admit that the varieties of the Sydneys are far more difficult to define than the colours, simply because there are so many more varieties than colours. Amateur says, that it is more accurate to speak of a normal shade for the 1d. value, than of a normal type; and, since there are so many more varieties than shades, I cannot see how Amateur's "inaccuracy," or what Pendragon terms such, is "to speak for itself."

I quite agree with Amateur that 3d. Sydneys are rarest. I do not say but that when one depends solely upon exchanging to make up a collection, a 3d. Sydney may not be commoner than any other amongst lads and small collectors who depend on this alone, but if you buy from a dealer, you can get a hundred 2d. for every dozen of 3d.; the reason is, that the 3d. came over to England regularly on letters, but 1d. and 2d., being inland postal rates, only came to dealers who imported them in large quantities. This is a thing which experience shows, but experience is a thing which "the doughty champion of the English school" lacks, and wanting such experience, I do not see that he can expect to cope successfully with either Mr. Pemberton or Amateur.

I have only touched on two points in his letter, but the other points are equally flimsy in argument. I think no right-minded person can fail to condemn his unscrupulous use of Mr. Pearson Hill's name, to cover his own blunder, or can fail to see the folly of his remarks on the views of Sydney.

I am not myself known to your philatelic readers, but as Pendragon has not been known for long, I do not see much impropriety in my criticising him (in terms which are not new), as I advance nothing but what is acknowledged. I am a collector of many years standing, and have read nearly everything that has been published on my favourite pursuit; but this is my first appearance

in print, and I am very glad that it should be on the side of such respected names as those of Mr. Pemberton and Amateur.

Yours obediently,

WILLIAM T. WILSON.

Smethwick.

ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS.

R. K., Coleraine.—We have handed your letter to the Editor of Dr. Gray's catalogue, who will, no doubt, give due weight to your suggestions.

G. K., Prehen.—The stamp you send us is a specimen of the forgery lately issued, and is not a genuine copy of the shilling envelope stamp of Mauritius.

E. C., Teignmouth.—Many thanks for your information respecting the Cashmere stamps, of which you will see we have made use in the present number.

A. B. C.—We shall issue our usual chronicle of stamps noticed during the year in the January number.—We believe Dr. Gray's Catalogue will be ready shortly.

D. G. A. D., Brighton.—The V. R. English, though in look very suspicious, is, in our opinion, genuine. It is so rubbed in parts as to make it a very unsatisfactory specimen.

JOSEPH BATT, Dublin.—The franking of parcels over railways by means of stamps is not a new idea, though perhaps new in Ireland. The collection of such stamps is optional. Personally, we do not set much value on them.

E. H., Belfast.—The "Irish" stamps catalogued by a Liverpool dealer are not used for postal purposes, but, as their inscription implies, are in some way connected with the petty sessions of that country. They should have no place in a collection of postage stamps.

J. H. R.—We notice your Peruvian 1 dinero in our chronicle for the present month.—We do not ourselves see any reason to suppose that Western Australian stamps have been issued stamped with the word "Registered," surmounted by a crown. It is simply a hand-stamp, which we have frequently seen on registered letters.

THEA, London.—The variety in the lettering of the British Guiana 1 c. is hardly worth special notice. The copies of the 12 c. of this colony, surcharged with a figure of 5, were noticed at p. 176 of the last volume, and no further information has since been received as to their employment.—Your Victorian stamps must, we think, have been accidentally impressed with "the circle of dots in strong relief" of which you speak, and that probably after leaving the post-office. Your 4 c. Spanish stamp (1857) is, we believe, a forgery. We refer you respecting it to an article at p. 43, vol. iv., and to the remarks respecting the stamps in question at pp. 79 and 100 of the same volume.

Mrs. E., Liverpool, having noticed our doubts respecting the existence of $\frac{1}{4}$ and $\frac{1}{2}$ sgr. Prussian envelope, informs us she has received two postmarked specimens from Germany. This is satisfactory proof of the currency of these stamps.—We thank our correspondent for the specimens of different American obliterations which she has been good enough to send, but have not space to notice them.—We have no doubt the Peruvian stamps with figure are nothing but revenue labels, and have never had good proof of their having been even casually used to frank letters.—The stamp inscribed *EXERCITO EN OPERACIONES CONTRA O PARAGUAY* we know little of, but are inclined to believe it to be genuine.—The real value of a "small roman" 10 r. Brazil, black, would be from 6d. to 9d.

* *Le Timbrophile*, May, 1865, and March, 1866; *Le Timbre-Poste*, July, 1865, &c.

THE PENDRAGON CONTROVERSY.

BY THE EDITOR.

WE have received from Mr. J. H. Greenstreet a long letter, admitting his identity with "Pendragon," and replying to the various attacks made on that personage in our last number. We are unable to insert this communication in full, nor do we think it would be right to allow the magazine to be made a medium for the conveyance of the gratuitous insults it contains.

In order, however, to place the principal question at issue—the literary honesty of a contributor—clearly before our readers, we shall give Mr. Greenstreet's statements respecting it, and shall deem it our duty to add some comments of our own thereon.

In reply to the charge that he had written, under the *nom de plume* of "Pendragon," against the collection of stamps upon the principles of the so-termed French school, whilst actually engaged in making a collection himself upon those very principles, Mr. Greenstreet writes thus:—

SIR,—I read last month the attacks upon Pendragon from all quarters with feelings of mingled satisfaction and surprise; satisfaction to find that a puerile attempt at hoaxing the first philatelist in the field, made by your humble servant, had succeeded beyond his most exalted anticipations; surprise, inasmuch as that Mr. Pemberton should so comfortably settle down to his own discomfiture, when he some time back, in a letter to me, almost admitted that he knew I had been humbugging all along as to my being a collector of the French school.

This was really the case, not only with respect to himself, but with reference also to several of the philatelic fraternity, and my cause for so doing was, as nearly as possible, as under:

At first I in no wise *privately* disguised the fact of my being the author of the papers bearing the *nom-de-plume* of Pendragon, but at the same time I had no desire to have my name *publicly* coupled with it, otherwise I should of course have written in my own name from the beginning.

When, however, I found my name publicly bandied about, not only as the original of the Pendragon of this magazine, but also as a collector of the French school, which I decidedly never have been, and it is most probable never shall be, I was seized with a most profound desire (I allow that as it has turned out, and considering the trouble and annoyance it has given me, perhaps it was an insane one) to lead the instigators of such reports into as dense a quagmire of misunderstanding and ignorance respecting the real state of the case, as I possibly could.

This reply speaks for itself. Driven to admit his identity with "Pendragon," Mr. Greenstreet attempts to justify himself by asserting he had played off "a puerile

hoax." A poorer excuse, if true, could hardly have been made, but we cannot believe that even Mr. Greenstreet would go to such an extreme of puerility as is here confessed. We are justified in stating we do not believe it to be true. To us it is clear that Mr. Greenstreet being forced to admit either deception or folly on his part, chose what appeared to be the least degrading alternative. We have proofs in our possession that Mr. Greenstreet is a *bona-fide* collector of the French school. We withhold them simply because they reached us in our editorial capacity, but we should be accessory to our contributor's attempt to mislead our readers were we to remain silent on this point. If, however, Mr. Greenstreet requires and authorises us to prove our statement, we shall have no difficulty in doing so.

There is yet another observation we feel reluctantly compelled to make. Mr. Greenstreet in the above extract avows that "he had been humbugging all along as to his being a collector of the French school," and adds further on, "that on finding his name publicly bandied about," &c., he "was seized with a profound desire to lead the instigators of such reports into as dense a quagmire of misunderstanding and ignorance respecting the real state of the case as he possibly could." Now as Mr. Pemberton states in his letter to *The Philatelist* last month, that Mr. Greenstreet had written to him privately "a letter of the most insulting nature, *denying* that he was 'Pendragon' of *The Stamp-Collector's Magazine*, and *defying* him [Mr. Pemberton] to prove it," it would appear that for the sake of carrying out this (according to his own confession) "puerile hoax," he did not hesitate to assert a *deliberate untruth*. We think when he comes to reflect calmly over the matter, he will admit that this, even for puerility's sake, was going rather too far.

Of the other and *comparatively* minor matters involved in the controversy, space will not admit of our treating at length.

With respect to the Mauritius "post-office" stamps, Mr. Greenstreet now says, that "*if*, as he fears, he has misinterpreted in any way Mr. Pearson Hill's words, or fathered

upon him any opinion of his own, it was altogether done under a misapprehension, and in error," adding in further explanation, that he "does not read any of the French magazines, nor indeed place much confidence in their statements when quoted."

The $\frac{1}{2}$ anna India red, *error of colour*. Mr. Greenstreet does not confound this with what is called the *essay*. He saw what he believes to have been a *genuine* copy exposed for sale in the city about four years ago, and he is not aware that it would be found to differ in type from the ordinary $\frac{1}{2}$ anna blue.

It is simply necessary to say in reply to this, that it has long been established that red half annas, apparently identical with the blue in design, are forgeries, and against this Mr. Greenstreet can only place his belief respecting a stamp he *saw* four years ago.

The 24 c. lilac Liberia, Mr. Greenstreet states, was seen *obliterated* in Birchin lane by a brother amateur in 1861. Mr. Greenstreet cannot, however, vouch for its existence, or even nonexistence, *now*.

Peru, cornucopia on white ground. Mr. Greenstreet is at the pains to point out that he chronicled this variety as an error of *design*, not colour, adding, that he "did so simply because *all* the perpendicular lines (at least, comparatively speaking) of this portion of the design were *omitted from the die* by a mistake on the part of the engraver, and that the error thus occasioned was not observed and rectified until the stamp had been for some months in use." These facts, he says, have been often given *in print*.

The remainder of Mr. Greenstreet's letter is occupied with remarks of a most personal nature, in reference to another of our correspondents, which, with other observations of a similar class, scattered broadcast throughout his letter, and equally uncalled for, we think it unnecessary to insert.

With these strictures, the Pendragon controversy must close. Both Mr. Greenstreet and his opponents have expressed themselves freely, and if the former has been somewhat severely handled, he has only his style of careless and unprincipled assertion to thank for it. For the future we should recommend him more caution in advancing his opinions, and more modesty in supporting them.

"BIRDS OF PREY" AT THE POST-OFFICE.

Not the least interesting of the gratuitous "sights of London" is St. Martin's-le-Grand, immediately before the latest hour for posting letters. The rush and scramble of clerks and messengers who are just in time, and no more—the bustle, eagerness, and excitement of the scene—are not readily forgotten when they have once been witnessed. The sight helps to make one somewhat tolerant of errors which may be committed when business is done at such high-pressure speed. The mere external poetry of the post-office departed long ago. The old superscription, "Haste, haste, post haste!" no longer calls up the image of a horseman hotly urging his beast with whip and spur along the lonely roads. Nay, the glory and picturesqueness of that later day, commemorated in one of his finest essays by De Quincy—when the "English mail coaches" were still the swiftest vehicles in the land, and when they started from London, north, east, west, and south, carrying down to the peaceful country towns the news of Lord Wellington's latest victory ashore, or Nelson's last victory afloat—all that has also passed away. And yet, to a reflective mind, St. Martin's-le-Grand has in these days even more to show. Those who have been privileged to inspect it after it has been closed to the general public, will confess that they have seen few more interesting manifestations of bright and intelligent activity. As a rule, a visit behind the scenes is tolerably certain to end in disappointment; at the post-office, on the contrary, it gives one, perhaps for the first time, a conception of the difficulties against which the department has to contend—difficulties occasioned, to no inconsiderable extent, by the thoughtlessness or neglect of the public itself—and of the success with which these are met and overcome. Addresses so hastily or so clumsily scrawled that they are illegible except to trained and practised eyes, are, as every man's personal experience will suffice to convince him, distressingly abundant; yet, at the post-office, they scarcely seem to give the reader a moment's pause, or to impede the swift, silent labour. From the

immense bulk of letters—the “bushels-full, sacks-full; barns-full,” to quote the old harvest rhyme—that London showers into the central office, each separate item has to be taken and classified. The more minute sorting, of course, is now effected in the railway vans and at the local post-office; but a broad general classification has to be made before a single mail-bag can leave St. Martin's-le-Grand. We are so accustomed, now-a-days, to find the postal machinery working smoothly, that we are almost tempted to believe it must “manage itself.” An hour or two at the chief office, however, would convince anybody that the difficulties of the task are really enormous, and that its almost invariably successful performance, day after day, night after night, is—although it *does* take place within the walls of a government office—one of the most creditable feats of business that are done in Great Britain.

In the perpetual combat between the predatory classes and society, each is constantly driven to find out fresh means of attack and of defence. There is not a single new facility offered to commerce which some clever knave may not adapt to his own purposes—not a single useful contrivance which may not be perverted to fraudulent ends. In this interminable contest between the rogues and the honest men, the post-office is often the field of battle. It renders important help in the capture of many a detected swindler; and yet only through its own facilities could the swindle ever have been perpetrated. The thief and the detective alike avail themselves of the fair field that it inevitably offers. Hence, no new means devised by the department to further the public convenience can be brought into action without involving, at the same time, a certain amount of additional risk. Were it not that the talents and originality of the criminal classes are habitually overrated, it would seem strange that they have never yet managed one great successful *coup* against a post-office. Their warfare has been of the merest skirmishing kind; guerrillas of rascality, they have only harassed and plundered, never directly assailed. One of their latest methods of carrying on this shabby but annoying species of warfare has just been illustrated at the police-courts.

The experiment of street pillar-boxes was felt, when it was first ventured upon, to be beset with dangers; but the system seemed, on the whole, to offer a balance of advantages, and experience has proved the good sense of those who made the trial. Still, there was always the risk that the contents might be damaged by fire or water, out of that mad malice which makes people put stones upon the railway lines; and it was, of course, to be expected that the thief would tax his ingenuity in the attempt to get at the letters. There might be no fear that the box would be forced; but there are gentler methods of persuasion, and these have been tried, in some cases not without success. The thief, however, as we have always maintained, is essentially a dull dog. Give him a pilfered letter, and in nine cases out of ten he does not know what to do with it. The highest point yet reached by the predatory intellect consisted, until lately, in the mere theft of postage stamps. The method of extraction, no doubt, was ingeniously simple. In these matters of detail the thief has a certain amount of ability. According to the statement of the prosecution, one Jones, a discharged letter-carrier, has been lurking about city boxes at a time when the city is practically almost empty, and taking out letters that have been caught by a species of bird-lime with which he has carefully overlaid the interior of the apertures. Others have used a sort of miniature fishing-rod, likewise tipped with adhesive matter; and there can be very little doubt that hundreds of letters have, from first to last, been stolen in this way. But when he has got them, your poor thief can, as a rule, do nothing better than merely cut off the non-obliterated postage stamps; so that, unless he makes a particularly good haul, in the shape of a letter containing not merely a money-order, but also the particulars essential to obtain its payment, his gains are measured by a few pence.

Jones, however, having been himself a man of letters, seems to have soared a little higher. We are not, of course, assuming his guilt, but merely telling the story as it has been told by the prosecution. Jones, then, succeeds in obtaining a letter from a Mrs.

Slater to a Mrs. Balderson. Reading it, the thought strikes Jones that the ladies appear to be on very intimate and friendly terms; furthermore, that as one of them happens to live at Stepney, while the other abides at St. Albans, they are not likely to be in the habit of seeing each other every day. On these bases Jones builds up his little scheme, seeing something more than a mere penny postage stamp looming in the happy future. He again deposits the letter in the pillar-box, but he has taken the liberty of putting it in a new envelope, and of adding a friendly postscript. Mrs. Slater is made to say—"My dear Aunt, I should be extremely thankful if you could forward me a money-order for a small amount, and address the letter to the post-office, Whitechapel, to be called for. I shall return the money as soon as possibly convenient." The delicious comedy that ensues would not be unworthy of the great artist who created Mrs. Bardell, Mrs. Cluppins, Mrs. Sanders, Mrs. Gamp, and Mrs. Harris: for Mrs. Balderson writes to Mrs. Slater expressing her opinion that Mrs. S. should not want to borrow money; Mrs. Slater replies to Mrs. Balderson to the effect that she would scorn the action, and that she only wonders how Mrs. B. can ever have suspected such a wicked, wicked thing; finally, up comes Mrs. B., with the letter in her pocket; and both ladies are aghast at the infamy of man! It is tolerably clear, from the proceedings of Mr. Jones, that the present pillar-boxes are not quite so safe as they might be made. The question is one for an ingenious mechanic, and therefore need not remain long without a solution; at all events, the incidents narrated do not affect our original proposition, that, taking the magnitude of its operations into account, there is no government department in the world by which the nation's business is done more promptly or with greater intelligence and accuracy, than in our general post-office.—*The Daily Telegraph.*

NEW POSTAL TREATY BETWEEN GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTH GERMANY.—It is stated that the negotiations respecting the bases of a new postal treaty between England and North Germany, have led to the drawing up of a protocol, which has been signed, and which stipulates that the rate of postage between the two countries shall be 2½ silbergroschens (3d.). It has also been agreed to introduce the system of post-office orders.

JOTTINGS FROM MY STAMP ALBUM.

BY THETA.

BELGIUM.—The stamps of the 1850 issue are from two distinct sets of dies. This distinction consists chiefly in the length of the impression, but the cast of countenance of the portrait on the earliest stamps printed materially differs from that on the later design. The first batch are on thick paper, and also on a somewhat thinner texture, both watermarked with the monogram. Of them, the 20 c. is the only one which shows the difference in length at all visibly: it is about one-sixteenth of an inch shorter than the 20 c., issued about 1861. The second lot are printed on ordinary paper, both imperforate and perforate, but unwatermarked. The date which I have given above, as the most probable era when this emission first saw light, I have been induced to quote from the fact, that the 1 c. green was issued in that year, and it has never been found of any other design than that of the second type. It is very evident, I think, that when the emission of a new value was determined upon, a resolve was made to re-engage the designs for the old values, and hence the slight characteristic differences that exist between the stamps of the two sets, which are, moreover, corroborated by the corresponding changes in both watermark and paper.

CEYLON.—It has not, perhaps, been noticed that the stamps for this colony partake of similar characteristics, as to length, with those above mentioned. For instance, the stamps which occur on thin paper, unwatermarked, are invariably, like the 20 c. Belgium of 1850, *shorter* than the types for the corresponding values of the watermarked set.

NORTH GERMAN CONFEDERATION.—The method of denticulation adopted for these stamps, as has probably been observed before this, is very perplexing, no two separate specimens appearing to be perforated in the same manner, that is to say, with dents of equal length. We may account for this by the fact, that when the sheets are perforated, two or three thicknesses are placed in the machine at once; hence, of course, the

bottom sheet has slits of much less extent than its companion at the top, and each sheet, according to its gradation, is similarly affected.

NEWFOUNDLAND.—There is a striking difference to be observed with reference to the texture of the paper employed for the stamps of this colony, some being printed on very thick paper, whilst other impressions are found on paper closely resembling the so-called "pelure" quality, adopted for some of the New Zealand emissions. I have the threepenny on stout white paper, and on the pelure referred to above; also the fivepenny red-brown (*i. e.*, the earliest colour), on the latter, which seems to point to the fact, that the stamps first issued were on thin paper.

SWEDEN.—A similar instance of two separate treatments of a series is noticeable in the first issue for this country. The stamps primarily emitted were on very thin paper (of these, I have the 4, 6, 8, and 24 sk. bco.), but the later ones occur on stout paper, of a texture closely allied to that adopted for the present issue.

PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND.—The isolated set of stamps for this colony divides itself, by the different methods of perforation which have been applied to the individuals comprising it from time to time, into three distinct issues. The first and oldest stamps are perforated nine dents to two centimetres; the holes are very coarse, and wide apart; this variety is now rare. The second issue is perforated 11, with smaller holes, somewhat close together; these are all common. The third issue, which has only recently come into vogue (since about 1866, I believe), is perforated 12, and has the dents very close together.

WESTERN AUSTRALIA.—In continuation of my remarks upon the so-called "Registered stamps," I will now proceed to give a few additional reasons of my own for not considering either the sixpenny green, or fourpenny blue (this latter either singly or doubly), which occur obliterated with the word "Registered," to have any right whatever to be styled registered labels in the general acceptance of the term. I said, in my former paper, that I had always looked

upon the similar inscriptions on both of my unsevered fourpenny stamps as a species of obliteration merely; and I think we shall find this to be the true state of the case after all, and that such an inference applies equally to the character of the sixpenny green "Registered" of the French writers.

I am informed that the postage to Western Australia was originally 9d., and has only recently been reduced to 6d.; in like manner, the registration used to be 6d., whereas now it is reduced to 4d.; and that, moreover, a *double* registration fee to the colonies has never existed at all. Now, the two unsevered 4d. stamps could not possibly represent a label for the payment of the registration fee, hence it is most probable (since I have no means of proving that they were the *only* stamps on the letter or packet) that they formed only a portion of the payment of the postage of a *registered* letter, and that when the postmaster obliterated the stamps, he did so with the ordinary hand-stamp which is used for all registered letters, considering that obliteration sufficient for all purposes. If, then, the 4d. blue in question is not a registered stamp at all, I see no reason why the 6d. green, similarly treated, should be catalogued as one, since the same inferences which we draw from the treatment of the 4d. must justly be allowed to have equal probability in that case also.

SHANGHAI.—In the list of the Shanghai issues, given in a recent number of *The Philatelist*, no mention whatever is made of the first set of the second series, emitted in 1865, which were issued to the public imperforate. I say *set*, because I believe that all the values were so issued. I can only, however, myself, vouch for three of them, viz., 2 c.; 8 c., and 16 c., never having seen the 4 c. value thus treated. Surely, the fact of their absence from the "list" in question deserves a little explanation on the part of the author, as they are now among the rarest, and consequently most interesting of the Shanghai varieties.*

NEW CALEDONIA.—A friend of mine recently purchased a quantity of old Australian

* [Has our contributor any proof that the stamps he refers to were ever used,—in fact, that they are anything more than proofs?—Ed.]

stamps (about 2000), many single specimens of which I repurchased for my collection. They comprised many of the oldest and rarest issues of our colonial stamps, and amongst them a (to my mind) genuine obliterated copy of the much-disputed 10 c. New Caledonia. My chief reason for considering it authentic, apart from the fact of the thoroughly-genuine appearance of the obliteration, was the circumstance of its occurrence with about a couple of dozen of the one shilling fawn New South Wales perforated. Having perused M. Berger-Levrault's admirable defence of the authenticity of the New Caledonian issue, and noticed therein his statement, that each of his specimens came side by side with one of these very stamps, I could not help seeing the force of the natural suggestion that occurred to my mind, to wit, that this specimen of the 10 c. New Caledonia, too, had either arrived with some of the New South Wales stamps referred to, or that it had at least been in circulation at the same time. The obliteration, however, I cannot at all understand. It is very similar to that found on the one shilling fawn New South Wales, and other stamps of the same issue, consisting of three ovals, one within the other; the whole, however, enclosing, in opposition to the initials, N. S. W., the letters, E. F. May not this be the abbreviation for "Empire Français," as, in a like manner, N. S. W. stands for "New South Wales," and used by the French postmasters at Port-au-France, in contradistinction to the latter obliterating mark? I think it not unlikely. However, seeing it distinctly stated that the *Ph.* collection and the editor of this magazine, both possessed genuine copies obliterated with the letters P. F. (in a single-line oblong), instead of E. F., as on mine, I at once communicated with the owner of the first-named collection on the subject, thinking there might be some mistake, and that it was really nothing more or less than an imperfect E. His copy, he informs me, has likewise the same obliteration as mine, besides the P. F. in oblong, but, unfortunately, only a portion (*i. e.*, of the three ovals) of the former exists on one side of the stamp. Hence, of course, I have no decided proof that it is not a

remnant of the usual New South Wales obliteration. Perhaps some of your readers can kindly enlighten me further on this, to my way of thinking, very important subject.

By-the-bye, P. F. I should certainly consider to be an abbreviation for *Poste Français*, and not of *Port (au) France*,—undoubtedly a very far-fetched interpretation; but time will probably prove who is right.

OTTOMAN EMPIRE.—Since penning my former notice of the essay submitted for approval before the present Turkish issue was emitted, I have had an opportunity of again inspecting this stamp, and can now give an accurate account of the design. The centre of the engraving is occupied by two large merged ovals, inclosing an inscription in Turkish characters; above this, we have the crescent and glory, exactly as represented on the present issue; and on either side of the crescent a circle, containing the value, which is also repeated for the third time in a circle below the centre-piece, with another circle on either side, each containing more Turkish characters, and making in all three circles at bottom of the design. The body of the stamp is printed, as I observed before, in rich carmine, the interlaced work being in white, and all the characters (which are very neatly delineated) in black.

As to the imperforate state of the stamp, I must add, in extenuation of what I have previously said, that it certainly is imperforate *now*; but I must allow, after due consideration, that there is hardly enough margin to justify an opinion.

NEVIS.—It will be observed on close observation that, like the new Bolivian 5 c., old Corrientes, and other stamps, no two dies in a sheet of the sixpenny stamp for this colony are *exactly* alike. This may be the case also with the other values, but as I have only single specimens of them, I am not able to ascertain whether it is so or not. Of the sixpenny, however, I have some half dozen specimens of each issue, which vouch for the accuracy of what I say with respect to the design.

BAHAMAS.—The colour of the penny varies considerably. I append what I believe to be

an accurate list of the varieties of this stamp.

On stout, toned paper, unwatermarked.

- 1.—Imperforate. *Carmine-lake.*
 " *Very dark lake* (this shade may with great probability be attributed to the effect of age).
- 2.—*Imperfectly perforated* (*i. e.*, by the so-called "*pricked*" method), with *large margin.* *Carmine-lake.*
 " " *Very dark lake* (above remark applies to this shade also).
- 3.—*Imperfectly perforated* (15 dents), *small margin.* *Red.*

On ordinary white paper, watermarked crown and C. C.

1863. Perforated 12½. *Dark lake.*

" *Lake.*

" *Pale rosy-lake.*

The imperforate variety, as Mr. Pemberton has already pointed out, requires a very excessive margin to prove the fact, as those imperfectly perforated, which occur in precisely the same colour, are denticulated so as to allow of the existence of much space between the perforation and the outermost line of the design.

The red stamp, however, although it is subjected to the same imperfect method, is perforated quite as close to the design as the stamps of the later issues. The shade of colour accruing to this stamp is exactly the same as that of the old sixpenny Grenada. I do not think it is at all common, and the only one I ever possessed I obtained in the latter part of 1862, from a clerk in a merchant's office at the West End. It appears to have been in circulation at the same time as the sixpenny grey, which is similarly perforated.

With respect to the watermarked series, the dark lake, which was very common in 1863, when I bought it, appears to be altogether uncommon now, and many collectors who have seen mine esteem it a rarity. The latest tint used for this value (*i. e.*, pale rosy-lake) causes it to assimilate very closely in hue to the fourpenny stamp. This is evidently a mistake in the printing, and as it is likely to cause great confusion, there is no doubt that it will very soon be rectified.

FORGERY OF THE V.R. STAMP.

We have recently received several copies of a falsification of the V.R., executed with the greatest skill and art, and so perfect in appearance, that we can truly call them the most dangerous forgery with which we are acquainted. The following, among other minute discrepancies which appear on a careful comparison of these falsities with a genuine stamp, may help our readers to detect the new impostors. We cheerfully bear our part in nailing the convicted vermin to the barn door, and trust none of our friends may be unwary enough to be duped by this last cheat.

The first and great difference which strikes one, is the strong dissimilarity in the cast of countenance. Every collector can verify this by comparison with a common black penny stamp. In the forgery, the profile is remarkably different in expression. The nose of our gracious sovereign is too pinched up and pointed. It is not easy precisely to describe in words how the expression is made so unlike that of the stamp, but the slightest comparison will prove the fact, and at the nostril especially the variation of *contour* may be seen.

The light in the centre of the cut of the neck is too strongly marked, and is carried too far up the neck.

The centre plait of the curl of hair behind the head differs also in its folds.

Chiefly, however, in the ground work, where the dots of white are too plain and large, and in the interlaced borderings, which are much too clear and distinct, the more prominent points of difference lie; also the lettering is too thin and weak, and the lower curve of the R much too widely extended.

The watermark has, however, presented the greatest difficulty. In some cases a sort of faintish affair, bearing some little likeness to the crown, but not distinct or traceable in all its outline, is impressed in the paper, how we know not; but this, though apparently enough to satisfy a cursory observation, is very easily seen through on a more careful inspection. The failure to have the clear definite crown is fatal to any specimen.

In some other cases, the mark of the small

crown is produced on the paper, probably, by some application of acid. This leaves a white outline, but no one need be deceived, for on holding the stamp to the light, there is nothing which has gone below the surface; the apparent watermark is a mere surface sham.

Besides this, the outline of the side curves of the crown is much too thick. We think we have now stated enough to put our friends on their guard.

The new comers are very carefully printed on pure white paper, and look most clean, desirable specimens.

In conclusion, we would warn all searchers after this rarity to mistrust those which come from Leipzig, whence this new crop of fraudulent representatives has its origin.

NEWLY-ISSUED OR INEDITED STAMPS.

MEXICO.—We promised last month an engraving of the new type, and have now the



pleasure to fulfil our promise. The cut in its general execution is finer than the original, but we must confess our engraver has not been happy in his rendering of the portrait: coarse as it unquestionably is on the stamp itself, the expression is altogether more elevated than in our copy.

Our Belgian contemporary assumes at once that it must be a representation of Hidalgo: we say, assumes, for he gives no authority for his assertion, which we on our part are much inclined to question. We see no reason to suppose that "once Hidalgo, always Hidalgo" is the rule with the Mexican authorities, for they have plenty of worthies, or rather unworthies, of more recent date, from whom to select a subject for representation.

Of the old type, a 4 reales black on yellow has, according to M. Moens, been issued.

BOLIVIA.—A Parisian amateur of long standing, as his contribution towards the solution of the current doubts as to what values and colours of the last issue are

genuine and what fictitious, writes as follows:—"I have various copies of the 5 c. green, 10 c. brown, 50 c. yellow, and 100 c. blue. It appears that the 100 c. was forged, but the forgeries bear UN PESO, instead of 100 CENTAVOS. The colours were then changed, and the 50 c. was altered from yellow to blue, but I have no copy of it. The only one of the altered colours I have is the 5 cent changed to lilac."

WURTEMBERG.—The new type, to which we alluded some months since as in preparation, will see the light contemporaneously with the publication of the present



number; but at that date only one representative will become current—the 1 kr. green. By the annexed engraving, it will be seen at a glance that the type is an almost servile copy of that of the new North German

kreuzer series. Between the wreath and the inscription of name and value will be observed the words, POST FREI-MARKE, with a post-horn at foot; in the corners, the Wurtemberg stag-horns; and on each side of the broad oval, a crown. The impression is in white on colour, and no doubt the stamps will be pierced in the same manner as those of which they are in other respects imitations.

The entire series will probably consist of five values—1, 2, 3, 7, and 18 kr.—though at present we are only informed of three, viz.: 1, 3, and 7 kr. The two latter are to be coloured respectively red [*qy.* rose] and blue.

This new design is a poor exchange for the old, which was one of the handsomest of the European; indeed, a design consisting chiefly of a numeral can rarely have more than a nominal value.

With regard to the Wurtemberg election envelope, M. Moens now favours us with the further and rather important information that it does not pass the post at all: it is simply handed by the elector *himself* to the returning officer. This deprives it of the value it might otherwise have had to collectors, and as our Belgian friend appears to have been in possession of this particular

when he wrote, it is rather a pity he did not mention it.

Le Timbrophile reports a newly-issued rarity for Wurttemberg—the 3 kreuzer printed in lilac. "It appears," says our contemporary, "that the printer in mixing the colour for the 3 kr. put in too strong a dose of blue (the necessity for which in compounding rose we cannot in the least perceive), and thus created an abnormality, which nevertheless was delivered to the post-office at Stuttgart, and remained current *one day*. Here, again, is another of *raretés rarissimes* of a collection, and already an absurd price is asked for it.

BADEN.—To the two new stamps noticed last month we have to add a third—3 kreuzer rose. Our illustration will exemplify the design, and also evidence our omission when describing it to observe one prominent alteration—the substitution of the word FREIMARKE on the right side for POSTVEREIN.



PARAGUAY.—We have received a letter from an amateur at Montevideo, confirming, on the authority of a relative in the post-office at Concepcion, the fact, that the 5 c. was issued by virtue of a law passed in September, 1867; and that it was engraved by an artist at Lima; adding, that it is used for fiscal as well as postal purposes. He encloses, at same time, specimens of three lately-issued provisional stamps; composed simply of the 5 c. type, surcharged in red with the new value. The colours are 10 c. deep green, 20 c. deep blue, and 50 c. red. The latter is the exact shade of the 5 c. The value is expressed simply by figures, 10, 20, 50; these are rather more than a quarter-inch in height, well formed, and in block type. They are impressed about the centre of the oval, and entirely obscure the steamship. We should add, they are all perforated; and the specimens before us are all obliterated with the usual rayed postmark. From the emission of these provisionals, it would seem that the entire type, denominations of value included, was engraved on

one die, and thus no alteration can be made in the value. Usually, provision is made for the production of a series of the same design, by cutting the words and figures of value separately, and by leaving space for their insertion in the principal die; that this mode of procedure was not followed by the engraver of the Paraguayan type, can only have been due to his inexperience in this branch of his art. Unless the original die can be altered, a new series will no doubt be required; for no government would give longer currency than is absolutely necessary to a provisional type so easy a mark as this for forgery. Collectors, too, will have to be very careful as to what they buy, or they may easily accept as a genuine 50 c. a manipulated copy of the 5 c.

RUSSIA.—There is a rumour about that new stamps are in preparation, but a correspondent at St. Petersburg writes us, "that they will not be issued as soon as expected, as the inventor keeps the thing a secret, and requires 50,000 roubles for his patent. They were to be made something like the 10 and 30 sgr. Prussian, and on the same material." Fifty thousand roubles for a patent postage stamp! Were *we* in the Czar's place, we should send the inventor to Siberia first, and then he should not have it.

NORTH GERMAN CONFEDERATION.—As the provinces which employ the kreuzer adhesives do not care (so says M. Moens) to use the 1 sgr. envelope, they have been gratified with its *kreuzer* equivalent, the 3 rose. Following the ugly Prussian fashion, a two-line inscription—DREI KREUZER POST COUVERT—crosses the stamp. Besides this, the $\frac{1}{2}$ gr. green and 1 kr. green have each been issued on bands for newspapers, about 16 inches long. The paper used is white and unwatermarked, and a narrow strip of colour runs along the edges.

BELGIUM.—Sooner or later we shall have a series of envelope stamps for this country. The decree for their preparation or emission—dated the 26th October—has gone forth, and when it shall please the authorities, the stamps will be forthcoming. M. Moens, drawing well-grounded inferences from the delays which have generally taken place in the production of new issues, forbids us to

hope that these envelopes will soon appear, and instances as specially in point, the fact, that the 6 and 8 c. adhesives, authorised by a royal ordinance of March 14th, 1867, are not yet in circulation. There is nothing for it but a Turk-like resignation: we accept *Islam* as our motto, and await the coming events, which cast their shadows such a long way before.

MOLDAVIA.—M. Moens says he has received a 27 para stamp, of the first series, perfectly obliterated. This is news decidedly, for no one has hitherto heard of such a value. We are not indisposed to accept this new-comer as genuine, for, as it will be observed, the other values are multiples of 27, there is a probability of the existence of the multiplier. However, as to this, we shall await the promised verdict of Dr. Magnus.

CEYLON.—A new envelope has just been issued for this colony—tenpence brick-red, on thin, slightly bluish-tinted paper. This value, of which we hope to give an engraving next month, completes the set. With it have been received the sixpence violet-brown on the same paper.

SAXONY—DRESDEN.—The Express Company is about to issue six envelopes of the new type.

BAVARIA.—The 7 kreuzer blue is now in circulation, and the 6 kr. has been officially issued in bistre. Some alteration will now be necessary in the shade of the 9 kr.

DRONTHEIM.—M. Moens remarks differences in the size of the lettering and in the monograms in specimens of the local stamp which he has lately received, and believes the device must have been re-engraved. With respect to

INDIA.—He admits it was by error he chronicled the 8 pies and half anna surcharged with the word POSTAGE; it should have been SERVICE.

DUTCH INDIES.—An Amsterdam correspondent informs us that new stamps are in preparation for these colonies.

HUNGARY.—A separate series has been issued for this kingdom. We have only space for this announcement. The details must stand over until next month.

ROMAN STATES.—The 40 c. has been issued perforated.

CONCERNING REPRINTS.

REPRINTS, once so few, have within the last year or two so largely increased in number and importance, as to require careful classification, for the benefit equally of their friends and enemies. Many of these reprints are of stamps the originals of which are utterly unattainable, at least to ordinary purses, and in occupying the places of such stamps, they exercise a function by no means despicable, whatever purists may say. Nevertheless, it is not desirable that reprints should be accepted by collectors as originals; so, following somewhat tardily the example of our *confirères*, we proceed to give such details respecting them as we possess. Necessarily the student who follows must tread, more or less, in the footsteps of him who leads; for with facts, not theories, to deal with, it is not possible to take a new line. Reprints are distinguished from originals by certain characteristics, and, with the power of reference to the able and accurate articles of Dr. Magnus and Mr. Pemberton on the same subject, we should not be doing our duty were we to neglect to take advantage of it. Expressing then our obligations to these gentlemen, we proceed to the business in hand.

Following the order adopted by the principal English catalogue, we shall take the stamp countries in alphabetic-geographical order, *i.e.*, by continents, and within them alphabetically.

Europe.

AUSTRIA.—Of these the series of 1851, 1858, and 1860 respectively, were reprinted in the year 1866. The first series (arms rect.) are on thinner and whiter paper than the originals, and the gum is also white, instead of yellow. Everyone knows what an almost cartridge-like stiffness characterises the old stamps, even the obliterated copies, resulting partly from the gum, partly from the paper. The reprints, on the other hand, are on paper of a spongy unsubstantial texture, and the gum is but thinly laid on. All the colours are brighter, the old 1 kr. pale yellow is in fact unrepresented, and the reprint copies of this value being in a deep tint, possessors may be led to suppose that

they have a clean original of the rarer shade. The 6 kr. also shows a reddish tinge.

The 1858 series (head in circle) are equally distinguished by thinner paper and white gum, but the latter is in this instance as heavily laid on as in the originals. All the stamps have a bright new look about them; a freshness such as even a well-preserved old stamp seldom shows. The colours are brighter, but not so rich and deep as in the originals, in evidence of which may be adduced the fact that the 2 kr. orange has not been reproduced, whilst its companion, the 2 kr. pale yellow is represented by a somewhat brighter shade. But the most effective check consists in the number of the dents, which count but twelve to the two-centimetre guage, in lieu of fifteen. On placing a reprint by the side of an original, this difference is plainly observable.

Again, in the 1861 reprints we find a whiter paper than that of the originals, combined with greater brilliancy of tint. The 2 kr. becomes orange-yellow; the 5 kr. bright vermilion; and the 15 kr. very deep blue. That the like differences from the primitive types should exist in these three series is not surprising, taking into account the fact that they were all impressed at the same time by the same hands, and no doubt with the aid of the same colours. The last of the three, equally with its predecessor, is distinguished from the originals by a difference in perforation, the dents being twelve against fourteen in the old stamps.

In the reprints of the two first series, we should add, there is observable a certain coarseness, due to the fact that the impressions were taken from worn dies.

At the same time, with these there were struck off reprints of the Mercury series, and of the 1861 envelopes. The envelopes appear to have been carefully worked, and may easily be mistaken for the originals. Still the colours form some guide to distinguish them, being as follows: 3 kr. yellowish-green, instead of deep or pale green; 5 kr. bright vermilion, in lieu of brick-red; 10 kr. red-brown, and not dark or yellow-brown; 15 kr. prussian-blue, and not sky-blue; 20 kr., paler orange. The 30 kr., however, is about the same shade of

lilac, and the 35 kr. only differs in being of a somewhat yellowish tint. On one of the flaps, says Dr. Magnus, are watermarked letters, which on reuniting several envelopes, will be found to make the word BRIEF-COUVERT. These letters serve to distinguish the re-impressions from the originals, as they are never found on the latter, and a further distinction exists in the form of the envelopes themselves, the originals having triangular side flaps, whilst the reprints have what we may term convex ones. This latter constitutes the most marked difference.

The reprint Mercuries are things collectors should be careful about accepting. There are some good forgeries in the market, and the reprints themselves are not unfrequently palmed off as originals. Comparison with a common blue will suffice to test the genuineness of any specimen offered. It should, if true, fully agree with the blue stamp in design; the same clearness in detail will not be found, as the reprints are from dies which were long in use, but there should be distinct traces of every line in the background. The colours of the resuscitations are clear and bright, and the rose, instead of being light is of a deep hue. Besides the primitive three colours, a fourth, deep red (*ponceau*), also appears. The original of this colour was issued on the 21st of March, 1856, to replace the yellow, of which the supply had been exhausted, the original rose having been withdrawn in 1852.

Still continuing our examination of the Austrian series, we come upon the reprints of the Austrian newspaper tax stamps, those of 1858 and 1861. Of the series for Austria proper (arms in square), we find the 2 kr. and 4 kr. brown. The originals have always what we may term a ripe mellow look; the reprints are clean and fresh. As the latter are careful impressions from the old dies, appearance is the only available test. But collectors may be tolerably sure, that any unused copies, either of these or the Mercuries, and especially the latter, which may be offered to them, cannot be other than reprints.

The reprints of the two 1861 stamps are distinguished only by greater freshness of colour.

AUSTRIAN ITALY.—The two first emissions

(1851 and 1858) have been reprinted, and show the same distinctive features as the like series of Austria. With the 1858 emission is included the 3 soldi green of 1862.

The 1861 series (head in oval) comprised only two stamps, the 5 and 10 soldi. These have been reprinted, and to them have been added a 2 sld. yellow, 3 sld. green, and 15 sld. blue. As is well known, the emission of these three values was authorised by the minister of finance, conjointly with that of the two which actually appeared, and that a stock of these values was prepared, but as there remained in hand a large supply of the same values of the previous series, these latter were directed to be used up before employing the new type, and as it happened, they proved sufficient for the postal requirements during the whole period of currency of the 5 and 10 soldi. The three unissued denominations then either remained in stock, or, as Dr. Magnus is inclined to believe, were destroyed. Prior to the learned doctor's analysis it had been supposed that the specimens of these values which appeared in the market were at least taken from the stock printed in 1861, and therefore entitled to the credit of being "original embryos," but he has shown that the perforations are not those of the originals. The 5 and 10 soldi showed 14 dents to the gauge, the reprints of these values only 12, and the 2, 3, and 15 soldi are likewise distinguished by the latter number. Either then, as Dr. Magnus suggests, the original stock of these embryos was destroyed, and the known specimens are reprints, or it remained in store unperforated, and was only put under the piercing machine, contemporaneously with the reprint 5 and 10 soldi. The former hypothesis seems to us the most tenable, for we fancy the "promoters" of these re-issues would have been only too glad to send out unperforated copies un gummed, or with the old gum, in the hope that they would be considered more valuable. The extreme probability that the copies of these uncirculated stamps are mere reprints, reduces their value to a minimum. They are but—as Berger-Levrault terms them—*timbres de fantaisie*.

Of the newspaper-tax stamps peculiar to

Lombardo-Venetia, 1 kr. black, 2 kr. red, and 4 kr. red, the first and last have been reprinted, and, as with the similar stamps of Austria, their freshness of appearance constitutes almost their only difference from the originals. The 1 kr. black is of extreme rarity, and even in a used state is far from common. Of this then, as of the Mercuries, amateurs may solace themselves with the assurance that they are pretty certain to have only reprints offered to them. Concluding our review of this country, it is only necessary to say, that the 1861 envelopes have been reprinted, and are marked by the same peculiarities as the like Austrian series.

BADEN.—All the figure stamps have been reprinted, and the copies are very difficult to distinguish from the originals, as the type is the same, and there has been no perceptible wear in the dies, such as would enable one to check the value of a copy, either on the one hand by indistinctness in detail, or on the other hand by a sharpness of outline due to retouching. The paper, however, of the reprints is somewhat thicker than that of the originals, and there are slight differences of shade. The latter we give in the words of Dr. Magnus:—"The 1 kr. chamois approaches more towards red than the original; the 3 kr. is a very bright yellow; the 6 kr. is water-green, with a leaning toward grey; the 9 kr. rose has a lilac shade. Of the 1853 stamps, the 1 kr. (white) shows no difference, the 3 kr. green is darker, whilst the 6 kr. yellow is of a paler tint. The latest issued 3 kr. is bright blue." Of the first series of envelopes the 3 kr., and, according to the above named author, the 12 and 18 kr., have been reprinted. The two latter we have not seen, but do not hesitate in accepting them on his authority. These equally with the 3 kr. are distinguished from the originals by the fact that the envelopes used are those of the second series, as evidenced by the flap ornament. In the first series it is a plait; in the second, and in the re-impressions, it is a floret. The colours also are brighter, the 3 kr. especially differing in this particular. The old stamp is of a deep, somewhat dull, blue, whilst the copy is a bright ultramarine.

(To be continued.)

REVIEWS OF POSTAL PUBLICATIONS.

The Permanent Postage-Stamp Album. By H. STAFFORD SMITH. London: E. Marlborough & Co.; Brighton: Stafford Smith & Co.

IN looking through this album we have experienced that pleasure which a well-executed work never fails to give. The plan upon which it is conceived is skilfully and carefully followed out, and the accessories of type, paper, and binding, are all that could be desired. We have no hesitation in saying that this album will take the first rank among home or foreign compilations, for no book combines in a higher degree the qualities indispensable to excellence, and it is decidedly the first we should recommend to any collector in want of an album.

The general plan is similar to that which distinguished the *Illustrated Album*, prepared by the same author, the success of which, by the way, was evidenced by its speedy exhaustion. The countries are arranged alphabetically by continents, and a numbered list of the stamps of each is given, corresponding numbers being placed on the ruled spaces intended for the stamps themselves. These ruled spaces are of sufficient size to display all stamps of ordinary dimensions to advantage; and we confess we have ourselves become partial to them, for, having used a No. 3 Mulready album for a kind of secondary collection which we had occasion to make, we were surprised and pleased at the good show our common used stamps made therein, simply, as we think, because each specimen is divided from its companions, not only by a line, but also by a considerable interval of clear space. The only defect we could observe was that there was hardly sufficient accommodation for stamps of unusual size. They could be got within the squares, but did not look exactly comfortable there. In the work before us this defect is, to some extent, remedied, notably in the case of the Newfoundland and Cape triangulars; still we would recommend the author, in that *second* edition which we venture to prophesy will soon be called for, to take the case of the poor oblongs into consideration, and make such provision for them, as shall

leave them no cause for jealousy of their three-cornered brethren.

And now with respect to that special feature of the new album, the possession of which entitles it to the name of *permanent*,—the arrangement whereby room is secured for future emissions. This is so simple, and yet so effective as to give rise to a feeling of wonder that it had never been thought of before. We do not find in any of the numerous letters on the "album question" which appeared, any suggestions approaching this plan, for the execution of which the author and publishers are decidedly entitled to philatelic praise and patronage. It is, in brief, simply the "provision of supplemental leaves bound up with the book," and not merely placed together at the end of each continent, but so scattered throughout the work, that, in the words of the preface, "there is little chance of any new country having to be placed out of its proper order."

But examples are better than a general statement; let us then gather a few from the volume itself.

After the pages for Austria come two without heading, containing together spaces for fifty-six stamps, and thus affording accommodation for future Austrian issues, or for the emission of some as yet unknown country, whose name shall be distinguished by a capital A. Two pages are likewise left after these for the stamps of Austrian Italy. Baden has fourteen spaces in excess, Bavaria twenty-six, Belgium eleven, an entire spare page comes after Brunswick, two more after Denmark, two-and-a-half after France, twenty extra spaces follow those for our own country, two spare pages divide Greece from Hamburg, nine squares are added to those for Heligoland, six to those for Holland, and twenty-one to Italy. The North-German Confederation, which is separated from Thurn and Taxis, has two pages and a-half more than are now required. There are two more pages unoccupied after Oldenburg, Portugal has a balance of twenty-five spaces to draw upon, and another couple of pages cut off Prussia from Romagna. Three extra pages are allotted to prolific Spain. Switzerland has twenty-four squares for the accommodation of its coming issues, and

following these come another pair of pages set apart for the stamps of the unknown. Lastly, at the close of Europe, there are four pages ruled for 112 stamps. Our readers may argue, if we may so say, from continent to continent. We have gone through the arrangements of one, as any less extended survey would not have fully exemplified the plan. It will be seen, that a couple of pages intervene between nearly every letter of the alphabet, and we should add, that in counting the available extra space, we have not included those which occur between, and so separate, the series. Such spaces do not uniformly occur, but they are found in a large majority of instances, and may serve well for the reception of varieties not included in the catalogue.

The shape of the book, to which we have not hitherto alluded, is oblong; the pages which have a list of stamps at the side are ruled to receive four rows of six stamps; those without a list, four rows of seven. This, it will be seen, is very advantageous, as the greater number of issues consist of from five to seven stamps, which can by this means be displayed in a single row.

The catalogue gives, as a rule, only the standard official colour of each value; but, as the above analysis shows, collectors of varieties will have very little difficulty in finding places for all their specimens. The only country which seems inadequately provided for this purpose is New Zealand, which has only twelve squares, and seven of those are already numbered.

It only remains now to say a word about the accessories, which are of no small importance in a stamp album. The type employed is quite new, and very neat and clear, being of that class known to printers as "old-face" or "elzevir;" so far, therefore, from disfiguring the book, the intercalated letter-press is, we might almost say, an embellishment. The paper is of a good thick texture, and, as we are informed, was made expressly for this work; and, *en passant*, another special feature we must not omit to name, is the map of the world, which forms the frontispiece. This was engraved for the new album, and will prove very serviceable, as, without attempting to render such de-

tails as must be sought for in larger maps, it gives clearly the name and position of every stamp-issuing country, all the more clearly because there is no bewildering small type among which to search. And lastly, the binding is firm and good: the pages do not fly back when the book is opened, and the clasps are strongly fastened to the covers. As to the outside, it is sufficient to say that the ornamental portion is of the most chaste and tasteful character.

We have now completed our notice of this work. If there is more than ordinary of commendation in our remarks, we can only say, there is much more deserving of commendation in the subject than in most other books of a similar nature. Praise is as much a critic's duty as blame; and we have had pleasure in performing it in this instance.

POSTAL CHIT-CHAT.

POST-OFFICE MACHINERY.—Some improvements are about to be introduced in the general post-office at Paris. Until the present time the bags have been carried up and down from floor to floor by men, whose time and trouble might have been well spared. Henceforth, by a mechanical contrivance, the work of ten men will be done in two minutes. The time thus gained will be greatly appreciated when the mails are late, which often occurs in winter.—*Daily Telegraph*.

STAMPS versus RAILWAY TICKETS.—It has always been a mild species of joke to propose sending stout individuals through the post-office at parcel rates. An idea has now been broached in *All the Year Round*, not to send the human form divine by post, but to frank our journeys by means of stamps. The writer proposes the adoption of shilling labels for first class, half that sum for second, and threepence for third class passengers, and by statistics undertakes to prove the system a paying one. The penny postage scheme met with great opposition at starting; no doubt this will be equally ridiculed, but that is no proof of its infeasibility. Time will show.

A MYSTERY SOLVED.—WHAT BECOMES OF THE OLD POSTAGE STAMPS.—Thanks to a public appeal by Pastor Maurach in Livonia, we have at last learned what becomes of the old postage stamps, and to what end the thousands of aged and youthful collectors are in the habit of plaguing our lives out. It appears, then, that the Chinese have contracted the habit or passion of covering their umbrellas, and rooms, and houses—everything, in short—with old European stamps, and they buy them by thousands and millions. The Rhenish mission, which has a station in China, collects these stamps, and sells them at three shillings the thousand. For the money so acquired, the mission educates such children as have been either exposed or sold as slaves by their unnatural Chinese parents.—*Pall Mall Gazette*.

THE ANTIQUITY OF POSTAGE STAMPS.—Hitherto we have been content to trace back the suggestions for the use of postage stamps to the beginning of the present

century, but a communication we lately received decisively proves that stamps were at any rate proposed before the Norman conquest, and that a ruler very like the present Napoleon was then on the French throne. Not to keep our readers any longer in suspense,—we have before us a green stamp about the size of the lately-current French, bearing a portrait almost identical with that of the emperor, and inscribed in the lower margin *OO. POSTES OO.* and in the upper *ESSAI 1049.* Some may say that this stamp is but a blundering imposture, and that the date intended to have been given is 1849, but such incredulous people would doubt the existence of the Guatemala stamps.

A "YANKEE" POSTMASTER.—In the days of Andrew Jackson, his Postmaster-General, Amos Kendall, wanting to know whereabouts was the source of the Tombigbee river, wrote for the required information to the postmaster of a village on its course. "Sir," wrote the higher officer to the lower, "this department desires to know how far the Tombigbee river runs up. Respectfully, &c." The reply was brief, and read thus—"Sir, the Tombigbee river doesn't run up at all; it runs down. Very respectfully, &c." The Postmaster-General continued the correspondence in this style—"Sir, your appointment as postmaster at — is revoked. You will turn over the funds, papers, &c., pertaining to your office, to your successor. Respectfully, &c." The droll understrapper closed the correspondence with this parting shot—"Sir, the revenues for this office for the quarter ending Sept. 30 have been 95 cents; its expenditure, same period, for tallow candles and twine, was 105 dollars. I trust my successor is instructed to adjust the balance due to me. Most respectfully."

POST-OFFICE NEWSPAPER DEPARTMENT AT BERLIN.—In the convenient and economical transmission of newspapers and periodical publications, Prussia is superior to England and France. By sending an order to any post-office in Germany, newspapers, &c., are obtained promptly and for the published price. There are ninety clerks and porters employed in the office at Berlin. Paper and string cost annually £1,500; a bale of paper being used every day, as the newspapers are sent out entirely covered. The work of the evening dispatch begins at four o'clock, and lasts till ten; that of the morning begins at one a. m., and closes at 7 a. m., for which there are two different sets of clerks. During the day there are all the alterations in the registers of the orders to be made. In one room of the large building, German newspapers are received; in another, German periodicals of all sizes; in a third, newspapers and periodicals from Switzerland, Holland, Belgium, Denmark, Sweden, and Prussia are received, whether destined for the interior, or sent from any one to any other of those countries; in a fourth, parliamentary despatches are wrapped up and addressed to the deputies.

REFLECTIONS ON THE POSTMAN.—He is a necessity of civilization, a man of letters. He is punctuality itself; and although his arrival is at post time, yet he is never *behind* time. Courteously attentive to the females, he in no way neglects the mails. He often takes rank as a general, and in most cases he has the charge of a division. In a charitable point of view, he is the true district visitor; and as to the means at his demand, none can accuse him of not being worth a rap. Though not equal to Mr. Gladstone, or Lord Derby, as an orator, yet in his delivery, quick, regular, and with a due attention to stops. He is busied all day in running from pillar to post; and in cold weather stamps his feet for warmth gratis. He is the real "thirsty soul," ever going to tap. In the metropolis, his idea of the world is "London and

twelve miles round;" albeit, he is a man of much intelligence and varied information. In religion, he slightly inclines to the opinions of Knox; but as to morality, considering how many carry the bag, the appearance of a Judas amongst them is a rare occurrence. He goes to church on Sunday, and listens with pleasure to the epistles, which, true to his profession, he carries away with him. In December, he will expect his regular Christmas letter-box: give it him, as a support for his old age; and when he dies, let us subscribe to place over his grave the affecting epitaph, "*Post obit.*"—*Fun.*

BEFORE THE ELECTION, AT THE POST-OFFICE.—Shortly after the commencement of the post-office "evening duty" last night (Nov. 10th) at the general post-office, in St. Martin's-le-Grand, special messengers arrived bearing the "writs," calling upon the several returning officers for towns and counties throughout the United Kingdom to proceed to the proclamation of a general election of members of parliament to sit in the new session shortly to be holden in Westminster. The duty of the reception and despatch of these important documents when received from the crown office at the treasury by the post-office officials, is one of serious import, and requires great care in its performance, as the mis-sending of any of them, or the accidental "crossing" of one of the mail-bags whilst being what is technically called "made-up," would lead to very serious difficulties as to the return. In consequence of this peculiarity it is considered necessary that the chief officer of the circulation department should be in attendance upon the reception of the writs; that he should take charge of them until the bulk of the correspondence has been "worked off;" and, when the bags are ready for tying up and sealing, that he (the controller in person) should place the document in the mail-bag, see it tied up, and with his own hand impress the official seal prior to the bags being given into the custody of the several guards of the mails to their destination, in accordance with the label attached to every bag respectively. The check thus used mostly proves to be perfectly available, though, with all the precaution, it has happened upon one or two occasions, that a crossing of bags has taken place, but not too late for the evil being remedied before the mail has travelled far from the metropolis, and in time to prevent any serious consequences.—*The Daily Telegraph.*

MR. ANTHONY TROLLOPE AND THE AMERICAN POST-OFFICE.—About four months ago Mr. Anthony Trollope left England for Washington, commissioned by our Post-office authorities to conclude a new postal convention with the United States. The negotiations in which Mr. Trollope has since been actively engaged have resulted in a formal communication to him from the Post-Master-General of the United States, a copy of which we have just received. The American Post-office cheerfully assents to the proposition that the mails be despatched from Liverpool via Queenstown to New York, and from New York via Queenstown to Liverpool, three times each week, the days of departure to be Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Saturdays from Liverpool and New York respectively, if satisfactory steamers of approved speed and rate of compensation are tendered. There is at present a semi-weekly mail communication; the United States Post-office will gladly avail itself of the earliest opportunity to increase the frequency of the trips to a tri-weekly or even to daily service, and is prepared to contract at once under the provisions of the present convention for an additional weekly service from New York to Liverpool via Queenstown, on the same conditions and at the same rate of compensation allowed to the other steamers employed in transporting the mails to the United Kingdom. The

American Postmaster-General considers it expedient, in view of the frequent means of mail communication provided by the numerous lines of first-class steamers plying between the two countries, to limit the regular mail exchanges to three weekly lines only, plying between New York and Liverpool, via Queenstown, and to treat all the correspondence forwarded by other lines of steamers as private mails. We hope to hear that cheaper rates of postage will be agreed to. An increase in the opportunities of communication will only make the present high charges more onerous — *Express*.

CORRESPONDENCE.

THE BELGIAN STAMPS.

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

SIR,—On examining the stamps on letters received from Belgium during the last fortnight, I have observed that the 10 c. is much *lighter*, and the 20 c. much *darker* than before.

On the 10 c. there is not so much shading as before on the forehead, upper lip, chin, and neck; and on the 20 c. the hair is so thickly shaded as not to be distinct.

Can you inform me, in your next number, if it is a fresh issue, or if the difference is merely accidental? I enclose samples for your inspection. Apologizing for troubling you,

I am Sir, your obedient servant,

London.

F. W. P.

[The two lately-issued stamps sent by our correspondent are in great contrast to the early impressions from the same plates; and in the 10 c. we find such differences also in the size and thickness of the lettering, as leads us to suppose that the die has been retouched. The impression is clear, but coarse, and the colour a light grey. The 20 c. is simply indistinct.—Ed.]

ANOTHER VICTORIAN VARIETY, &c.

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

DEAR SIR,—I have in my possession a specimen of the current sixpenny Victoria, watermarked with the word *SIXPENCE* in full. Here, then, is another and a clearly-inscribed variety to add to Mr. Pemberton's list. No doubt it is the paper of the old black sixpenny, its immediate predecessor, which has been accidentally employed.

Whilst on the subject of varieties, permit me to call your attention to some minor ones, of which I possess examples myself:

The French 10 c. is issued in two very distinct shades: light cinnamon approaching to buff, and brown.

Of the current Egyptian set, I find a light and dark shade of all values except the lowest.

The sixpenny Western Australia is now issued of a very deep rich shade, a decided contrast to the lighter one by which it was preceded.

Denmark: Have any of your readers met with a 2 sk. or 16 sk. small rect., with ground of wavy lines? These two stamps are named in Levrault's catalogue, but their existence seems to me very problematical.

Honduras: I am obliged by your kindly affording me your support in my request for proof of the authenticity of the two stamps said to be for this republic. I look upon them myself, in the absence of any proof of their character, as decidedly open to grave suspicion. I think I am not going too far in saying, that the existence of the stamps of every other country has been verified by post-marked specimens, and it is most strange that not a single one has been produced from Honduras. The supply from which all collections have been furnished is that stock which the Liverpool firm obtained from the parties by

whom the stamps were designed and ordered before the emission of the series; and no proof has yet been tendered that the series ever was really issued. Without such proof, the stamps should, it appears to me, be rejected. What is Mr. Pemberton's opinion on the subject, and on what grounds did M. Berger-Levrault insert the stamps in his catalogue?

Dear Sir, yours truly,

OVERY TAYLOR.

ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS.

L. W. D., St. Louis.—The stamp you were good enough to send for our inspection is a Turkish fiscal.

L. T. C.—Only two Nicaraguan stamps have been issued.

H. H.—There certainly is a five-shilling St. Helena postage stamp; several specimens have passed through our hands.

D., Portishead.—The new 1 sk. Norway was described in our July number (p. 105).—The postmark you mention signifies 10th day, 9th month, 1868.

D. G. A. D., Clifton.—Your French essay is of no value whatever, being a mere imposition. You will find further notice of it in our "chit-chat" column.

THETA.—We regret that by some oversight we omitted to instruct the printer to strike out the paragraphs named in your letter of the 15th ult.; they consequently, as you will perceive, are included in your article.

A PARISIAN COLLECTOR.—We regret we are unable to insert your letter; but having, as you will perceive, closed the controversy, we cannot accept any further communications.

C. VAN R., Amsterdam.—The fact that Rajah Brook is dead is no reason why his portrait on the new Sarawak stamp should not be his. Washington and Jefferson have both been dead a great many years, but they are still represented on the United States stamps, and in like manner, Leopold I. on the current Belgian series.

F. S. N. B., Winchester.—Your letter has been overlooked, or would have been replied to in our last.—Your yellow stamp is a fiscal issued by the Swiss canton, Berne, and has been occasionally used to prepay letters; your specimen bears the mark of a private firm.—Your other stamp is one of the new Dutch series.

HARRISON HOLMES, Chester.—We have not ourselves seen any of the punched-out Spanish stamps to which we alluded, but their existence is at least very probable.—There is no 50 c. Swiss envelope at present, nor are we aware that there is any intention on the part of the authorities to issue one.—A 40 c. laureated French is *not* worth sixpence.

W. P., Geneva.—*Le Timbre-Poste* is published on the 15th of each month, by M. Moens, 7, Galerie Bortier, Brussels; *Le Timbrophile* by M. Mahé, 9, Rue de Clichy, Paris, nominally on the 30th, but really about the 10th of each month.—The Swiss envelopes, and those of most other continental states, are not postmarked, because the stamp alone, if cut out and affixed to an ordinary envelope, would not be accepted in payment of postage, and the sender of such a stamp would be liable to punishment.—There is an Austrian post-office in Bosnia which takes charge of letters for Austria, the Turkish post-office confining itself to the forwarding of home letters, and all letters sent by the Austrian branch-office must be prepaid with stamps of the "soldi" series.—We beg to thank you for your kind wishes for the prosperity and continuance of *The Stamp-Collector's Magazine*, and to assure you we have no intention whatever of discontinuing it.