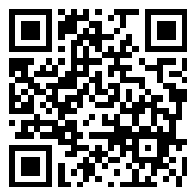

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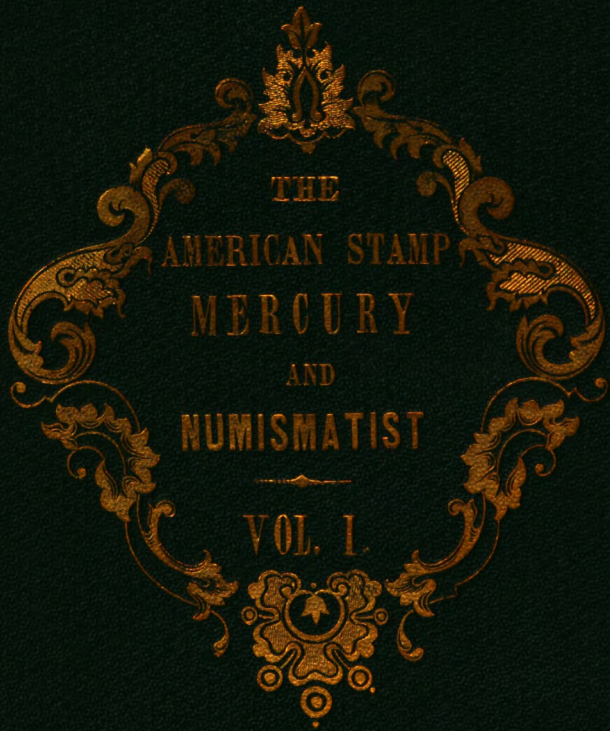
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American Stamp Mercury

VOL. I.

BOSTON, OCT. 25, 1867.

No. 1.

The American Stamp Mercury.

Published on the 25th of every month by F. TRIFET.

SUBSCRIPTION RATES, 50 CENTS PER YEAR, IN ADVANCE.

TO GETTERS UP OF CLUBS. To any person sending us three subscribers, Packet No. 34 of our list will be given; five subscribers, No. 21; eight subscribers, No. 25.

The postage (12 cents a year) must be paid at the office where the paper is received.

ADVERTISEMENTS.

10 cents per line for one insertion, or 50 cents for six months.

All letters respecting the paper should be addressed to F. TRIFET, Publisher of Stamp Mercury, Box 444, Boston, Mass.

PROSPECTUS.

We will not make any great noise about our coming into this world, as we leave all the praising part in the hands of our friends and cotemporaries of the Philatelic Press, but will merely give a prospectus of what the Mercury will be.

CONTENTS.

The Mercury will contain each month, a correct and complete list of all newly issued stamps, illustrated with at least two engravings from the best local artists,

Original Articles,

Extracts from other Papers and Magazines,

CORRESPONDENCE; in this department any letter sent to us that would interest the collecting public in general, will be reproduced. We would therefore ask of our correspondents who may know anything about Stamps, Albums, &c., not previously noticed, to contribute to this part of the publication.

ANSWER TO CORRESPONDENTS. In this column we will endeavor to answer to the best of our abilities all questions sent us.

In addition to the above, there will be other suitable materials, all strictly relating to stamp matters.

For Terms &c., see above.

SPECIAL NOTICE.

We have a large number of interesting articles which, on account of space we have to leave out; therefore if we receive two hundred subscribers before Nov. 10th. we will increase our size to eight pages, thus making it the largest STAMP Journal in America.

NEWLY ISSUED STAMPS.



AUSTRIA and AUSTRIAN ITALY. The new issue now numbers two additional values, viz:—
25kr. and soldi, violet.
50 " " Salmon.

The first is identical with the others of the same valuation, but the 50 is considerably larger, as will be seen by our illustration of the soldi one, and its general appearance is more effective than the lower value. The paper is the same as that employed for the other members of the series—woven, and the perforations very fine. Their facial value are, respectively in gold, twelve and twenty-four cents.

ARGENTINE REPUBLIC. The current issue of 1866 being exhausted, the 5 centavo is temporarily struck off on a thinnish paper, without watermark and unperforated.

BOLIVIA. The stamp of which we give an engraving, is supposed to be one coming from Bolivia, our cotemporary, *The Stamp Collector's Magazine*, describes it as being rough in execution, rather above the average in size, and the color a deep sap-green.



As there are no official information regarding this stamp, we do not vouch for its authenticity.

CEYLON. The fivepence is now printed in a dull yellow-green.

HOLLAND, is to have a new issue, comprising six values, viz:—

| | |
|-----------|-------------|
| 5c. blue, | 20c. green, |
| 10 red, | 25 violet, |
| 15 brown, | 50 gold. |

ITALY, *Le Timbrophile*, gives currency to the report that Italy is going to issue a new series of stamps, bearing the head of Victor Emanuel, encircled with the famous Iron Crown.

NORWAY. The new 4 skilling stamp has just made its sudden appearance. It is identical with the new 2 skill, that is with the value at the bottom repeated, viz:—"2 SKILL 2", and the lines in the ground work are perpendicular instead of diagonal, color, blue.

PERU. The new 10 and 20 centave, rose and brown, have made their appearance.

PORTUGAL. The 25 reis is now perforated

VIRGIN ISLAND. The shilling stamp of this Island has now a larger border, and the color is carmine, instead of rose.

ANSWERS, &C.

W. M; Chicago.—Inquire at the Newspaper Department, as our publisher's catalogues are sent by book post.

J. W. R.;—An envelope stamp gummed on to another envelope, will not pay postage; the letter will be sent to the Dead Letter Office.

L. H. S.; New York.—The stamp you described is an Austrian revenue.

CARD COLLECTOR.—We would call the attention of our readers to the advertisement of A. G. Broome. Those wanting business cards to fill their collection, that is get one of each, city, can procure them from him, as he has the largest assortment in the United States.

CONUNDRUM.—Why are some of the Government officials like some of its postage stamps? Because they are poor sticks.

ESTABLISHMENT OF THE POSTAL SYSTEM IN THE UNITED STATES.—The postal system, first projected in 1692, was not put into operation until 1710, when the states were still a British colony. Benjamin Franklin was appointed postmaster-general in 1753 with an income of £600 a year for himself and secretary, Franklin, on account of sympathizing with the aggrieved colonist, was superseded in 1774.

TO YOUNG COLLECTORS.

There are so many young collectors now, that a few words of advice to them may not be out of the way. Boys, being seldom able to purchase very expensive stamps, must as a rule be content with the cheaper varieties. But they need not regret that their limited supply of pocket money prevents them from obtaining rare varieties for it is well known that the cheapest stamps are the handsomest. The 1 cent Nova Scotia, 1 kop. Russia, $\frac{1}{2}$ sch. Heligoland and several others we know of, are not exceeded in beauty by any of their costlier companions.

It would be better for a young collector not to try to get sets: the best plan would be to get the cheap varieties of each country. By this means he would have, at a cost of not more than ten dollars, about 500 specimens of the stamps of nearly every part of the Globe, which thus gathered would give more instruction than a number of sets.

For such a collection a large book is not necessary. A small album or blank book is sufficient, as stamps look better when placed together than scattered all over a book which all the specimens of stamps issued would not fill.

We have seen many a good looking stamp spoiled by being daubed over with thick gum or, worse, dirty fingers. Therefore we should recommend neatness in arranging them.

In many cases collections are made in account books ruled with money columns; but stamps do not look well in them. We should advise intending collectors, to obtain either an album, or a book with entirely blank leaves.

If your book does not contain printed titles, write them in a neat and legible hand, taking care not to make any mistakes or blots and leaving enough space for the stamps of each country. It is well if the young collector possesses a friend competent to advise him upon the genuineness of specimens he may wish to purchase, as there are so many forgeries in existence, which are offered for sale at temptingly low prices, that too great caution can not be used.

In conclusion, do not get discouraged if you are not able to get all the stamps you want at once. Patience is necessary in collecting as well as in anything else. You must be content to gather your required stamps as opportunity offers and in the meanwhile 'learn to labour and wait'.

STAMP MERCURY.

LIST OF UNITED STATES REVENUE STAMPS.

We cannot guarantee that this list is a *perfect* one, but it is as reliable as it can possibly be made. The prices attached, are those which the publisher charges.

| <i>Device.</i> | <i>Facial Value.</i> | <i>Selling Price.</i> |
|------------------|---------------------------|-----------------------|
| Agreement, | 5 cents. | \$.01 |
| Bank Check, | 2 cents, blue and orange. | .01 |
| Bill of Lading, | 10 cents. | .01 |
| Bond, | 25 cents. | .02 |
| Certificate, | 2 cents, blue and orange. | .01 |
| | 5 " | .01 |
| | 10 " | .01 |
| Charter Party, | 25 " | .02 |
| | 1 dollar. | .08 |
| | 3 " | .06 |
| Contract, | 5 " | .25 |
| | 10 " | .01 |
| | 10 cents. | .02 |
| Conveyance, | 50 cents. | .03 |
| | 1 dollar. | .05 |
| | 2 " | .25 |
| | 5 " | 1.25 |
| | 10 " | 2.50 |
| Entry of Goods, | 25 cents. | .02 |
| | 50 cents. | .02 |
| | 1 dollar. | .03 |
| | 1 cent. | .01 |
| Express, | 2 " blue and orange. | .01 |
| | 5 " | .01 |
| | 3 cents. | .01 |
| | 5 " | .01 |
| | 10 " | .02 |
| | 15 " | .02 |
| | 20 " | .02 |
| Foreign Exchange | 30 " | .02 |
| | 50 " | .02 |
| | 70 " | .03 |
| | 1 dollar. | .03 |
| | 1 " 30 cents. | .10 |
| | 1 " 60 " | .10 |
| | 1 " 90 " | .10 |
| | 3 cents. | .01 |
| | 4 " | .01 |
| | 5 " | .01 |
| Inland Exchange, | 6 " | .01 |
| | 10 " | .01 |
| | 15 " | .02 |
| | 20 " | .01 |
| | 30 " | .02 |
| | 40 " | .02 |
| | 60 " | .03 |
| | 1 dollar, | .03 |
| | 1 " 50 cents. | .3 |
| | 2 " 50 " | .05 |
| 3 " 50 " | .04 | |
| Insurance, | 10 cents | .02 |
| | 25 " | .02 |
| Lease, | 50 cents. | .02 |
| | 1 dollar. | .03 |

| | | |
|-------------------|----------------------|------------|
| Life Insurance, | 25 cents. | .02 |
| | 60 " | |
| Lottery Ticket, | 1 dollar. | .03 |
| | 50 cents. | |
| Manifest, | 1 dollar. | .10 |
| | 3 " | .06 |
| | 5 " | .02 |
| | 50 cents. | .03 |
| Mortgage, | 1 dollar. | .05 |
| | 2 " | .06 |
| | 5 " | .25 |
| | 10 " | 1.25 |
| | 15 " | 1.50 |
| Original Process, | 25 " | .03 |
| | 50 cents. | .02 |
| Passage Ticket, | 1 dollar. | .03 |
| | 50 cents. | .01 |
| | 1 cent. | .01 |
| Playing Cards, | 2 " blue and orange. | .01 |
| | 3 " | .01 |
| | 4 " | .01 |
| | 5 " | .01 |
| Power of Attor'y, | 10 " | .03 |
| | 10 cents. | .01 |
| | 25 " | .02 |
| | 1 dollar. | .03 |
| Probate of Will, | 50 cents. | .04 |
| | 1 dollar. | .05 |
| | 2 " | .06 |
| | 5 " | .25 |
| Protest, | 10 " | 1.25 |
| | 20 " | .02 |
| | 25 cents. | .01 |
| Proprietary, | 1 cent. | .01 |
| | 2 " blue and orange. | .01 |
| | 3 " | .01 |
| Surety Bond, | 4 " | .01 |
| | 5 " | .01 |
| | 10 " | .01 |
| Telegraph, | 50 cents. | .02 |
| | 1 cent. | .01 |
| U. S. Int. Rev., | 3 " | .01 |
| | 2 cents. | .01 |
| Warehouse Rec't, | 25 cents. | .02 |
| | 200 dollar | uncertain. |

Will any of our readers finding a mistake in the above, point it out to us so as to have it corrected, and make the list perfect.

—•••••

CONUNDRUM.—Why are school boys like postage stamps? Because one is licked with a stick, and the other sticks with a lick.

—•••••

THE STAMP COLLECTOR'S HANDBOOK.— Gives a full description of all the stamps issued from 1840 to 1867. Compiled by the late C. M. SELTZ. Sent post free on receipt of 27 cents.

F. TRIFET,
57 Court St. Boston, Mass.

THE AMERICAN STAMP MERCURY.

F. TRIFET

Wholesale and Retail Dealer

IN AMERICAN AND FOREIGN

Postage Stamps,

— ALSO —

**Local Stamps,
Revenue Stamps,
Proof Stamps,
Essay Stamps,
Stamp Albums.
&c., &c., &c.**

All Stamps Warranted Genuine.

20 pp. DESCRIPTIVE PRICE-LIST.

Containing the shape, color, price, etc., of about 2,500 stamps, sent to any address on receipt of 15 cts.

WANTED.

Stamps of all kinds, especially the old issues of Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, &c., also U. S. Envelopes, for which the best prices will be paid, either in cash, or stamps.

All communications to contain stamp for reply.

F. TRIFET,
57 Court St., Boston, Mass.

WANTED, back numbers of 'THE STAMP COLLECTOR'S RECORD' for which a good price, either in stamps or cash, will be given.

F. TRIFET,
57 Court St. Boston, Mass

"TIME POSTAL LABEL!" This is a new, original, and very useful little stamp just now becoming popular, and having a large sale.

It is the size of a Postage Stamp. In its centre is a miniature clock dial, without hands, and underneath are the words Day—Month—

Its object is to show the recipient of a letter just the hour and day the letter was mailed, that in case of its non-receipt at the proper time, the blame can be placed on the right party. It very frequently becomes not only an object of great interest but importance to know just when a letter was mailed. The party sending a letter marks a pointer at the hour it leaves his hands, and also fills out the blank below with the month and day. Post free, 20 cents per hundred.

F. TRIFET,
57 Churt St, Boston, Mass.

SWISS ENVELOPES.—The new ten centime Swiss envelope, unused, 10 cents each.

F. TRIFET,
57 Court St. Boston, Mass.

TIN TYPES! TIN TYPES!! TIN TYPES!!!

A large lot of TIN TYPE ALBUMS for sale cheap.

| | |
|--|---------|
| Albums containing places for 24 tin types, | 30 cts. |
| " " " " 48 " " | 40 " |
| " " " " 96 " " | 50 " |
| " " " " 150 " " | 90 " |

All bound in morocco, gilt edge, clasp, &c. &c. Sent. post paid, on receipt of price.

C. J. Colesworthy,
57 Court St. Boston, Mass.

UNITED STATES, 1851.—Sett of 8, unused'

N. Y. Post Office, sett of 5, unused, . \$1.50

Wells, Fargo & Co. sett of 11 . 2.00

F. TRIFET,

57 Court St. Boston, Mass.

THE NONPAREIL STAMP ALBUM.—Ru- led to contain over 1100 stamps, with description of current issues in English, French and German. The cheapest album published. Embossed cloth covers; 75 cents; by mail, 80 cents.

F. TRIFET,
57 Court St. Boston, Mass.

CARD COLLECTORS! ATTENTION!! The undersigned will send to any address, post paid on receipt of 25 cts. a packet of 20 RARE CARDS including those from Boston; New York; Brooklyn Phila.; Portland; Balto.; Chicago; Cincinnati; London, Eng.; Richmond, Va.; Malden, Mass.; Washington, D. C.; and 8 other cities and towns.

Always on hand, and for sale at moderate prices, cards from all the principal cities and towns of the United States and Canada. Send 10 cents for list. Address,

A. G. Broome;
Station A. Boston, Mass.

CONFEDERATE FAC-SIMILES.—35 varieties, 1 cent each.

F. TRIFET,
57 Court St. Boston, Mass.

CONTINENTALS.—Well mixed Continentals 30, 50 and 75 cents per 100; or \$2.50, \$5.00 and \$7.00 per 1000.

F. TRIFET,
57 Court St. Boston, Mass.

FLAGS OF ALL NATIONS beautifully coloured; suitable for Hill's Album. . . . 25 cents. Arms of all nations, 25 cents.

F. TRIFET,
57 Court St. Boston, Mass.

PRICE CATALOGUE of all the stamps issued from 1840 to 1867, giving date of issue, color, shape, value, &c. of about 2500 varieties; being the ONLY one published in America. Sent to any address, post paid, on receipt of 15 cents,

F. TRIFET,
57 Court St. Boston, Mas,

The American Stamp Mercury

VOL. I.

BOSTON, NOV. 25, 1867.

No. 2.

The American Stamp Mercury.

Published on the 25th of every month by F. TRIFET.

SUBSCRIPTION RATES, 50 CENTS PER YEAR, IN ADVANCE. SINGLE COPIES 5 CENTS.

To GETTERS UP OF CLUBS. To any person sending us three subscribers, Packet No. 34 of our list will be given; five subscribers, No. 21; eight subscribers, No. 25.

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THANKS.

We beg leave to offer our sincere thanks to our friends and the stamp collecting and dealing public in general, for the liberal patronage and encouragement they have given us in the way of subscriptions, advertisements, notices, &c. By their kindness, we are able to come forth this month double in size, and hope that the day is not far when we may still enlarge our publication. It is now the largest sheet, devoted strictly to stamps, published in America, and we hope that with the further assistance of our friends to make it a periodical of which the Philatelic public will be proud of.

We solicit their assistance in the way of Editorials, Correspondance, advices, (for we are not proud to disdain the latter) subscriptions and advertisements, in return of which we promise to give them a perfectly reliable journal, which, we hope, will find its way into the hands of every person interested in stamps.

We would call the attention to the greatly improved appearance of the MERCURY; when we first published it our ambition did not go beyond issuing a monthly circular, giving such information as might prove of service to our numerous correspondents, but we are happy to say, that our enterprise has been such a success that we have determined to make it more than a mere monthly catalogue of new stamps &c. in fine, we have come to the conclusion to make it, THE stamp paper of America or perish in the attempt.

In conclusion we would once more thank our friends, and hope that they will not abandon us, but in the contrary give us all their support. Again we repeat, thanks; thanks to all who have contributed to the success of our undertaking.

NEWLY-ISSUED STAMPS.

UNITED STATES.—The three cent stamp, and we suppose the others also, are now embossed in little squares over the face. The object of it is to prevent its being pulled off the envelope without tearing or make it impossible to clean them. More of this anon.

ARGENTINE REPUBLIC. We subjoin the following from the *Stamp Collectors Magazine*.

We have already placed our readers in possession of some details respecting the anticipated emission.—They are acquainted with the fact that each stamp is to bear a different portrait, that the values are to be the same as those of the 1864 series, and the colours similar. We are now in receipt of a complete set of the *debutants*, obtained by favor from the Buenos Ayres post-office, as the higher values are kept back until the exhaustion of the present stock, and may not be issued for some months to come.

The 5 centavos bears the portrait of Rivadavia in a circle, containing the words, REPUBLICA ARGENTINA, and the figure 5. This circle is placed upon a shaded scutcheon, occupying seven-eighths of the stamp, and bearing a large figure 5 in the upper angles. Below the shield is a scroll inscribed with the value, CINCO CENTAVOS, and some ornamental foliage. The portrait is not very like that on the preceding series; it shows greater determination of character in the projecting compressed lips, and, generally, more animation. In colour the stamp is a fine vermilion. Altogether this novel design, induced by the

high standard we are accustomed to apply to the company's productions, hardly comes up to our expectations.

The 10 centavos is by far the handsomest of the series. No eccentricity of design is allowed to mar the beauty of the portrait, which stands out, the most prominent feature (if we may use the expression) of the stamp. It is the portrait of General Belgrano, but no one would guess from the fine, dreamy, thoughtful countenance that its possessor was a military man. It bears a certain resemblance to the first Napoleon, but the stern expression of the French emperor is not reproduced in the face of the Argentine celebrity. We are not acquainted with the history of the republic, and cannot at the moment, lay our hands on any biography of Belgrano, but, without any such special knowledge, we should judge, from his stamp portrait, to have been the philosophic spirit of the Independencia. Rivadavia may have contributed diplomatic skill; San Martin, military genius; but we should fancy that the work of laying the legislative foundation of the young Republic was performed by Belgrano. Thus much for the face. Its frame-work consists of an oval; having on each side a small shield, bearing the national arms as they appear on the stamps of the Confederation, and the inscription in white letters, REPUBLICA ARGENTINA, DIEZ CENTAVOS. The rectangle is completed by the addition of ornamental corner pieces bearing the figure 10. The stamp is printed a fine deep green.

The remaining stamp of the series also bears a characteristic portrait—that of General San Martin, or San Martino. Though not in uniform, he looks every inch a soldier, with head erect, keen eyes, and resolute expression. His effigy was worthy of a more tasteful frame: the secondary portions of the design have been allowed, as in the 5 c., to encroach too much upon the space required for the proper display of the portrait. A lozenge-shape border constitutes the enclosure, and is inscribed REPUBLICA ARGENTINA, QUINCE CENTAVOS; the angles are occupied with a large circle, containing the figure 15 and some minor ornaments. In colour this stamp is a deep-blue, exactly like that of the 24c. Newfoundland. All the stamps are printed on white, unwatermarked paper, perforated.



HOLLAND.—Annexed is an engraving of one of the new stamps described in our last. The 20c. green, 25c. dark violet and 50c. gold are the only ones out.



ROMAN STATES.—This country has just issued an entirely new set having the denomination in centimes instead of bajiocos as formerly. They are

- 10 cent vermilion (size of the 8 baj)
- 2 " green " " " 2 "
- 5 " blue " " " 3 "
- 20 " lake " " " 4 "
- 40 " yellow " " " 6 "
- 80 " rose " " " 1 "

They are printed in black on coloured glazed paper and look very much like our own locals.

MEXICO.—We have in our possession a stamp supposed to be the provisional Guadalajara stamp and not postmark. It is a reprint from the old Cuatro Real of the Hidalgo series and is printed in a very faint mauve on blue paper. It has a very mean appearance and will no doubt be soon withdrawn from service.

CANADA.—We have information as to an essay having been made by the American Bank Note Co. for this country. It is described as being very much like the 5 cents Nova Scotia, having the Queen's head in a circle, "CANADA" above, "FIVE CENTS" below, and struck in black on India paper. The person saw the stamp and can tell the Company's work.

TURKEY.—From this far distant shore comes a stamp or rather a set of stamps, there being three, which are supposed to be locals for the city of Constantinople.

The following is the description: "LOCAL-POST" above, "20 paras" below centre figure, a miscellaneous bunch of mountains, moon, sun, railroad, ships, boats, &c. having the general appearance of the so-called Guatemala. We are very much inclined to think it is a *bogus* got up to sell; however should anything turn up, we will let our readers know it.

BRAZIL. Another envelope, similar to the 200 reis, has been issued for this country. The value is 300 reis, colour vermilion, and—CORREIO BRASILEIRO for a water mark.

WURTEMBERG.—A new returned letter stamp has been issued similar to the previous one, and perforated,

STRAITS SETTLEMENT.—This newly formed colony has a provisional series consisting of the current British India, with the Imperial printed above the Queen's head and the value in cents below; they are as follows:

| | | | | | | | |
|-------------|-------|----|--------|----|---|------|---------|
| THREE | CENTS | in | blue | on | 1 | anna | brown. |
| SIX | " | " | purple | " | 2 | " | orange. |
| EIGHT | " | " | green | " | 2 | " | " |
| TWENTY-FOUR | " | " | blue | " | 8 | " | rose. |

THE EDITORS of the various stamp journals would confer a favor on the Editor of the MERCURY by sending him their back numbers; he is also anxious to procure files of a number of Timbrophilic Magazines now defunct. Can any of our readers oblige us? we would be happy to reciprocate in any way in our power.

ANSWERS.

G. H. W. Pennington, N. J.—By "mixed Continentals" is meant the common stamps of Europe.—2. I do not deal in coins.

F. A. D. Montrose, Pa.—Your first stamp, 1gr. pink, is Bremen. The black and rose one we can not make out from your description. The other with the SPHINX not an IDOL, is one of the new Egyptian.

W. H. R. Syracuse, N. Y.—The object in card collecting is to get a business card from each city.

INQUIRER.—F. H. King, better known as C. M. Seltz, died last September.

G. W. W. W. Portsmouth N. H.—Your Brazil stamp is worth 12 cents. There is no 1c. Swiss.

ANY PAPER copying our advertisement and sending us a makred copy, will have the favor reciprocated.

WILL the members of the Philatelic press please exchange.

WINTER MAIL SERVICE

ACROSS THE

Straits of Northumberland,

FROM PRINCE EDWARD'S ISLAND TO THE MAINLAND OF NEW BRUNSWICK.

We are favored by an English gentleman with some sketches, and a narrative of his journey by a mail route, which, though comparatively near at hand, is unheard of by the general public, as though it were in the Antipodes, and yet it may be pronounced to be, probably, the most remarkable piece of *regular mail service* in the world.

Many of our readers are probably very indistinct in their ideas as to the exact locality of Prince Edward Island. If they will take a map of British North America, and look in the Gulf of St. Lawrence, where it forms a great bay in the coasts of New Brunswick and Nova Scotia, they will see this island, distant about fifteen miles from either shore, with the Northumberland Straits running between. For fully four months in the year these straits are blocked up with ice, borne down from the St. Lawrence river and the Talvador coast. Across this ice is the only means of communication between the island and the rest of the world. With this preface the writer proceeds with his narrative.

Having, when taken a tour in Nova Scotia, heard much of the beauty and fertility of Prince Edward Island, as well as of the agreeable and hospitable

character of its inhabitants, I determined to pay a visit to the place, and most heartily do I congratulate myself that I did so. I was equally surprised and pleased to find very excellent society in Charlotte Town and the neighborhood, to which I quickly gained an *entree* through discovering, in the head of one of the leading families, an old public-schoolfellow. None but those who have been educated in one of the great public-schools of England can form an idea of the *amicitie* existing through life between "Old West-ministers," "Old Etonians," &c. Great was our mutual delight; warm was my welcome.

A more charming place of residence, in the summer, can hardly be imagined than Prince Edward Island. The scenery, without being striking, is sufficiently varied with hill and dale, wood and field.

Charlotte Town is a well built, spacious and thriving provincial city, and the community generally is a perfect Utopia of morality. Not a billiard-table is allowed on the island. Cards, dice, even checkers, are forbidden in public houses, and hardly a living creature is to be seen in the streets after dark.

Unfortunately for the credit of this little British province, hitherto maintained in such sort as to render it a model to its neighbors, the farmers have lately taken a most extraordinary aversion to paying their rents, and to further their unlawful ends have formed a tenant league, the aim and object of which is to enable the tenant farmers to become land-owners at *their own price*.

The wild ideas of these deluded individuals have led to much trouble in this once peaceful community. A magistrate, with troops under his command, has had to assist the sheriff in the execution of his duty in serving writs, and, of course, much ill will has been bred, and many arrests taken place. It is to be hoped, however, that matters will soon be arranged to the satisfaction of all parties and peace restored.

The postal service, as may be imagined, is of rather a primitive character. There are no letter-carriers, no distribution of letters at the houses. Ever and anon the clerks are summoned to the little trap at the wooden edifice, which comprehends under its roof the police-office, station-house and post-office, to respond to the demand, "Anything for me to-day?" and, on the arrival of the fortnightly English mail, the crowd of eager expectants is considerable, and certainly their patience is generally put to a severe test, especially if their vigil be passed in a pouring rain or a driving snow.

Few, however, even of the residents, are fully aware of the difficulties attending the despatch of letters during the winter. All know of course, that they are brought "over the ice," but the general impression seems to be that the straits are *one unbroken sheet of ice*, to cross which, with a boat or sleigh, would be no great hardship or difficulty. But such is very far from being the case.

Hearing the subject mentioned, I soon came to the resolution (with the characteristic love of active adventure of our nation) that I would make this journey myself and see what it really was like, and I wish to make known to the world what is going on in a little corner of it.

It ought to be known, for in these luxurious

days, when millions of letters are daily transmitted from one country to another, an outcry is raised if a single one fails to reach its destination, while yet little thought is given to the extremely intricate nature of the arrangements of a postal service; and here, especially, is an instance in which every letter is conveyed to its destination at the risk of brave men's lives and limbs.

Having made all necessary arrangements for satisfying my curiosity, and earning the right to give an opinion on Arctic experiences, I set off, in mid-winter, from Charlotte Town to Halifax, Nova Scotia.

The weather had been extremely severe, the thermometer down to thirty degrees below zero; I therefore waited for a little more moderate temperature, which greeted me at last, and on February 1st I took leave of Charlotte Town with much regret and started for Cape Tormentive at four P.M. on a lovely afternoon.

My sleigh-driver being an amusing character, and tolerably well-informed, made a pleasant companion, which was a comfort; for nothing is more intolerable than a long, dreary ride with an ignorant, taciturn companion, unable or unwilling to exchange an opinion or an idea with you.

The first part of our journey lay on the ice of one of the fine rivers which flow into the harbor of Charlotte Town, and which become the high roads of traffic whilst the land is buried many feet in snow.

Our sleigh was well laden with all my luggage, concerning which I had many misgivings as to the chance of being able to get it over the straits with me. The ice being pretty free of snow, we progressed well, but after a mile or two we had to take the land and make our course for Cape Tormentive in the best way we could.

The road was utterly choked with the snow, in many places twelve feet deep, but my driver was an old stager at the work and knew well how to find a track, even when there was no trace of a sleigh having passed over the ground before us. We had a splendid horse, who worked as if he was aware that the journey had to be done, and that the better he stuck to it the sooner his night's rest would come. The whole distance is about thirty-four miles by the road, but the devious route we had to follow made the distance nearly half as far again.

About seven o'clock we stopped for supper at a very decent house, which I will call, by courtesy, an inn. Here was good and substantial refreshments for man and beast.

I was pleased to see that my driver showed himself deserving of the excellent horse he had, by the great care he bestowed upon him ere he thought of even entering the house.

After an hour's rest and having laid in a good supply of caloric, we started again. The cold was now intense. Notwithstanding that I was buried in buffalo robes, I felt as if dressed in muslin.

The beauty of the scene, however, was unsurpassable. A brilliant, unclouded full moon, shining on the vast rolling hills of snow, made the surface to shine like a sea of silver, the monotony of which was relieved by the dense masses of dark pine-woods, through the narrow avenues of which

we occasionally wound our way. One only companion of the road did we meet: this was the mail-sleigh coming down from the cape, having crossed the straits that day. Of course a halt was called, and a short conversation ensued, consisting chiefly of interchange of remarks and directions as to the track.

I have said that the aspect of nature in this wild and desolate scene was very beautiful; but I was destined to see even yet more beauty than this. About nine o'clock when I was beginning to experience the terrible effects of the almost irresistible inclinations to fatal sleep, which I was hardly kept from yielding to by constant vigorous pokes with the butt end of the whip, I was suddenly roused by the magnificent lighting up of the heavens by the aurora-borealis. Words must fail to convey any adequate impression of the sublime grandeur of this night. I shall never forget it to the last day of my life.

A little before midnight we arrived at the end of our journey, which was the house of the mail-contractor and captain of the boats, about half a mile from the shore. All were buried in sleep; but this is no place for ceremony. As soon as the horse was provided for we made ourselves comfortable. The house is like a substantial farmer's dwelling. The driver who knew well the habits of the place, soon made up a good fire in the kitchen and routed out some supper, to which we both did ample justice; and then he led me off to a comfortable bedroom, which was kept ready for any such emergency. He told me the boat would start at daybreak, so I had better make good use of the intervening hours, an injunction in which I did not fail to follow. In the morning I found, to my intense disgust, that there was such a heavy mail to be taken across for the English steamer at Halifax, that I could not go.

Remonstrance was useless; in fact, the boat was gone; so there was nothing for it but to kill the day the best way I could. As soon as it was dark I found a general turn-out taking place of the inhabitants of the few houses around, all making for some high ground near the sea-shore. I followed and inquired what was going on. The reply was, "We are looking for the signal."

It appears that the submarine telegraph line, which crosses the straits at this point, being broken, they had no means of learning whether the boat reached the other side in safety. So a huge bonfire was piled up and set fire to at dark, as a signal that all was right, which, if the night was clear, could be seen across the straits. The anxiety with which it was looked for every loving wife or mother will readily understand. We had not long to watch before our eyes were gladdened with the sight of the beacon, which elicited a heartfelt "Thank God, poor fellows!" and all hearts went light to bed.

I was much afraid that I might yet be detained, as snow was beginning to fall, and the boat never attempts to start in a snowstorm, or with the prospects of one in several hours. Anything like a gale of wind, a fog, or very severe cold, likewise put a stop to the expedition: the two former for manifest reasons; the latter, because, as all hands inevitably get more or less wet, there is great risk of loss of limbs

by frostbite—an event by no means of rare occurrence. Snow continued to fall through the night, but happily by morning it cleared up, and at day-break I was awoke and the eventful day began.

My costume, in accordance with directions, was rather strange. A shooting-coat of homespun, a flannel shirt, an old pair of trowsers, with a broad belt round the waist instead of braces, a pair of old thin shoes, with holes in the toes to let the water run out, and a scotch cap with a veil, which a lady kindly gave me to save my eyes from the wind and glare of the snow.

I had to leave nearly all my luggage behind, only twenty pounds being allowed. A sleigh was at the door to convey the mailbags, &c., to the boat, and after a hearty breakfast, at eight A. M., we started, a crew of five men and myself. On the high ground near the shore a careful survey was made, with telescopes, of the straits, to get some idea of the best route to pursue. There lay the straits at our feet, the opposite shore of New Brunswick clearly visible, distant about fifteen miles, except the projection of Cape Traverse, which is only about eleven miles; to this point our course was to be directed.

Our survey ended, we descended on to what is called the shore ice—that is, a band of fixed ice extending about a mile out, of vast thickness. Arrived at the edge of this, our work began. Here we found the boat nearly buried in snow. Having had much experience in boating, I had been reflecting on the style of boat which would be most appropriate to such work, and naturally enough, I came to the conclusion that it must be a large, very strongly built boat, fitted with every contrivance which the difficult, and in no small degree, perilous nature of the service to be performed by it would seem to require.

Judge of my surprise, then, to see a small craft fifteen feet long, shallow and lightly, but, at the same time, strongly built, and sheathed with iron. The bow was square inboard, to allow of making a speedy landing or embarkation, a point of the utmost importance in an emergency, when the lives of all may be sacrificed by a minute's delay. The general build of the boat was of the class known as a Norwegian yawl.

To each side were fastened three short ropes, with a broad band to put over the shoulders and drag the boat when not in the water. Four oars, six boat hooks, with a broad flat hook, instead of a pointed one, as usual, for readily laying hold of small floating pieces of ice. These, with a small keg of water, were all the appointments of our little craft, in which we had to make our voyage of most uncertain duration. Only the week before the boat was out for thirty-six hours. A fog having come on, they lost their course and were carried away among the drifting masses of ice. They were given up for lost. Fires were lighted up all along the coast, and when at last they reached land, it was a great distance from the cape, and the crew were in a state of extreme exhaustion from fatigue and want of food; for strange to say, *no provisions were taken in the boat.*

Our work now fairly commenced. The boat was launched, the mail-bags stowed, great-coats and wrappers taken off and put into a large water-

proof bag, adieux paid to the small party who had accompanied us thus far, and then the captain gave the word, "All aboard."

Here I met my first misfortune. In getting into the boat I stepped on a loose piece of ice, which gave way under me, and in I went, up to my waist.

Now had the weather been severe, here my expedition must have ended, for to have proceeded in this wet state would most probably have entailed the freezing of my limbs. As, however, the day was comparatively mild, the active exertion of rowing and dragging the boat obviated any evil consequences.

The first part of the voyage was perhaps the most laborious of the whole day's work. The water was covered with what they term "lolly," of "slob"—i. e., very small pieces of ice and snow mixed together, making the surface of the consistency of pea-soup.

The captain steered the boat. I was put to row the stroke oar. Never had I such a desperate pull. It was almost impossible to force the boat through this horrible lolly, which was elastic almost as india-rubber, and for every two feet of way we made we were squeezed back one.

At length, after about two hours of this work, we reached the edge of a "field," or vast mass of floating ice more than a mile wide. On to this we thankfully landed, and dragged up the boat. This field was perfectly level like a table, and the ice was about four feet thick. We then donned our harness and set forward, dragging the boat through about two feet of snow.

Now I saw and felt the sense of having a light boat; every ounce was a consideration. We were unfortunate in having so much snow on the ice, the result of last night's storm. When the ice is smooth, or "glib," as they call it, the "fielding" is famous; all goes merry as a marriage bell. This was toilsome work, but acceptable as a change of the strain from the arms to the legs. I could not help thinking we all looked remarkably like a gang of convicts at work.

As this field was drifting fast to the eastward, we were obliged to traverse it diagonally to allow for lee-way. On reaching the extremity of this, we found a tolerably clear channel. In went the boat.

"All aboard. Ship your oars and give way, my hearties;" and give way we did with a will, till we again became entangled in floating ice, which required more caution. We now began to get among masses of piled up ice, many of them as high as a small house, and of most fantastic shapes. Also the color of some of the blocks on which the sun shone was very beautiful—brilliant green, blue and red.

We now made for another enormous field which lay right in our course. Before reaching it, we had a very ugly bit of work. A distance of perhaps a furlong had only lately been frozen. It was too thick to break and force the boat through, yet not quite strong enough to bear the weight of the whole party. So that as we marched over it, dragging the boat, the ice frequently gave way, keeping us jumping like so many chamois. Here I came to grief a second time.

TO BE CONTINUED.

RARE BUENOS AYRES STAMPS.

A friend of ours residing in Newburyport and having some 2000 stamps, has treated us to a look at and to touch a set of the *extremely rare* "Gaucho" stamps of this country. We may be excused in italicising the word *extremely* when we mention that they are priced in Europe, if our memory is good, at five sovereigns or \$35 (?) each.

They were issued in August or September 1859 and were used only for a few days:

They are four in number, as follows:

4 rls. yellow, 8 rls. purple, 6 rls. green, 10 rls. blue.

Our cotemporary the S. C. Magazine, says that only the first three of these are at all attainable; these came direct from Buenos Ayres and are without doubt, if our worthy friend, the *Magazine*, be right in his description of the native counterfeits, the whole *four* of them *genuine*.

The happy possessor may well feel proud of them for we don't believe that their match can be found in America.

THE

STAMP COLLECTOR'S

HAND BOOK:

Giving a description of all the stamps issued from 1840 to August 1867, compiled by the late C. M. SELTZ.

The above is the only reliable catalogue of stamps now in the market, as it is one year later than the English and two years later than any American publication.

Will be sent to any address postpaid on receipt of 25 cents.

F. TRIFET,
57 Court St.,
Boston, Mass.

POSTAL ITEMS.

☞ Leonidas Moses, a mail carrier in Arkansas, was assassinated recently by some unknown person, while riding along a lonely road. His body was not found until eight days after the murder, and all this time his mule stood guard over the corpse. The faithful animal had to go a mile and a half for water, but invariably returned and resumed its singular vigil.

☞ UNITED STATES LOCALS.—The great majority of the United States locals were issued by private persons, who endeavoured to compete with the government by a cheaper rate of carriage or delivery; some of them were used to prepay the conveyance of letters from the districts of a city to the central post-office. Nearly all are now obsolete original specimens are rare; but reprints are obtainable without difficulty. Within the last two years there have been numerous reported discoveries of plates from which long-forgotten locals were printed; but there is little doubt that many dishonest fabrications have been offered for sale as reprint impressions from such plates. Similar productions, announced as newly issued and current stamps, are also from time to time sought to be imposed on the public.—GRAY'S CATALOGUE.

☞ Three postal treaties were arranged at the Post Office Department a few days ago for transmission to the President for his signature. These treaties embrace the recent postal conventions between the United States and the North German Union, including Prussia, the Swiss Confederation and the Empire of China.

☞ The authorities are going to apply legal penalties to those parties who make it a practice to use the envelopes stamped with signatures of Government officials for private purposes. Several instances of the violation of the statutes have been brought to the attention of these officials by the P. O. Department.

☞ An effort is to be made to induce the President to appoint an agent, through the Post Office Department, who will be empowered to receive and make up packages to be forwarded by mail under the new postal law recently concluded between this country and Prussia. The object of this agency is to take the place or obviate the necessity of sending such packages by express. — Bos on HERALD.

LIST OF UNITED STATES
REVENUE STAMPS,

FOR SALE BY F. TRIFET.

| Device. | Facial Value. | Selling Price. |
|------------------|---------------------------|----------------|
| Agreement, | 5 cents. | \$.01 |
| Bank Check, | 2 cents, blue and orange. | .01 |
| Bill of Lading, | 10 cents. | .01 |
| Bond, | 25 cents. | .02 |
| Certificate, | 2 cents, blue and orange. | |
| | 5 " | .01 |
| | 10 " | .02 |
| Charter Party, | 1 dollar. | .08 |
| | 3 " | .06 |
| | 10 " | .01 |
| Contract, | 10 cents. | .01 |
| | 50 cents. | .02 |
| Conveyance, | 1 dollar. | .05 |
| | 2 " | .06 |
| | 5 " | .25 |
| | 10 " | 1.25 |
| | 50 " | 2.50 |
| Entry of Goods, | 25 cents. | .02 |
| | 50 cents. | |
| | 1 dollar. | .01 |
| Express, | 1 cent. | .01 |
| | 2 " blue and orange. | |
| Foreign Exchange | 5 " | .01 |
| | 3 cents. | .01 |
| | 5 " | .01 |
| | 10 " | |
| | 15 " | |
| | 20 " | |
| | 30 " | |
| | 50 " | |
| | 70 " | .03 |
| | 1 dollar. | |
| 1 " 30 cents. | | |
| 1 " 60 " | | |
| 1 " 90 " | | |
| Inland Exchange, | 3 cents. | .01 |
| | 4 " | .01 |
| | 5 " | .01 |
| | 6 " | .01 |
| | 10 " | .01 |
| | 15 " | .02 |
| | 20 " | .01 |
| | 30 " | .02 |
| | 40 " | .02 |
| | 60 " | .03 |
| 1 dollar. | .03 | |
| 1 " 50 cents. | .05 | |
| 2 " 50 " | .05 | |
| 3 " 50 " | | |
| Insurance, | 10 cents | .02 |
| | 25 " | |
| Lease. | 50 cents. | |
| | 1 dollar | .03 |

| | | |
|-------------------|----------------------|-----|
| Life Insurance, | 25 cents. | |
| | 50 " | |
| | 1 dollar. | |
| Lottery Ticket, | 50 cents. | |
| | 1 dollar. | |
| Manifest, | 3 " | |
| | 5 " | |
| | 50 cents. | .02 |
| | 1 dollar. | |
| | 2 " | .05 |
| Mortgage, | 5 " | |
| | 10 " | |
| | 15 " | |
| | 25 " | |
| Original Process, | 50 cents. | .03 |
| | 1 dollar. | |
| Passage Ticket, | 1 cent. | |
| | 2 " blue and orange. | |
| | 3 " | |
| Playing Cards, | 4 " | |
| | 5 " | |
| | 10 " | |
| | 10 cents. | .01 |
| | 25 " | .02 |
| Power of Attor'y, | 1 dollar. | .03 |
| | 50 cents | |
| | 1 dollar. | |
| Probate of Will, | 2 " | .06 |
| | 5 " | |
| | 10 " | |
| | 20 " | |
| Protest, | 25 cents. | .02 |
| | 1 cent. | .01 |
| Proprietary, | 2 " blue and orange. | |
| | 3 " | .01 |
| | 4 " | |
| | 5 " | |
| Surety Bond, | 10 " | |
| | 50 cents. | .02 |
| Telegraph, | 1 cent. | |
| | 3 " | |
| U. S. Int. Rev., | 5 cents. | .01 |
| Warehouse Rec't, | 2 cents. | .02 |
| No Denomination | 200 dollar | |

WANTED.—All kinds of Revenues not PRICE in this list.

FLAGS OF ALL NATIONS; beautifully colored; suitable for HILL'S Album, 25 cents Arms of Nations, 25 cents.

F. TRIFET,

57 Court Street, Boston, Mass.

WANTED, all kinds of Stamps, especially the old issues of Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, Newfoundland, &c. Also, South American Stamps, for which the best price, either in cash or stamps, will be given.

F. TRIFET,

57 Court Street, Boston, Mass.

⚠️ A POSTAL EXCHANGE. A farmer recently observed a man trespassing on his grounds. Being much enraged thereat, he threw an old post at the fellow, at the same time demanding his business there. The man spoke not, but hurled the wood back again at the querist; so that the farmer returned home with a "post" (for return of post)

F. TRIFET,

Wholesale and Retail Dealer in

*American and Foreign***POSTAGE STAMPS,**USED AND UNUSED, PRESENT AND
OBSOLETE.

ALSO,

Local Stamps,**Revenue Stamps.****Proof Stamps,****Essay Stamps,****Stamp Albums.****&c., &c., &c.**

I defy comparison with any dealer, warranting his stamps. Prices: 20 page catalogue forwarded to any address on receipt of 15 cents.

Persons ordering over \$3 worth of STAMPS at one time from this list will be allowed a Discount of 10 per cent; above \$5 worth at one time 15 per cent.

Newly Issued Unused Stamps, Cheap.

Austria 2kr yellow, 6c; Bavaria 1kr green, 4c; Belgium 2c blue, 5c; Bermuda 1d rose, 8c; Brazil 10r red, 6c; Bremen 1gr pink or orange, 5c; Egypt 5pa green, 5c; 10 brown, 6c; Portugal 5r black, 5c; Prussia 1kr green, 5c; Servia 1p green 5c, 2 brown, 6c; Spain 2c brown, 6c; Swiss envelope rose, 10c; Turk's Island 1d red, 10c.

Austria newspaper 1kr blue, 5c; Baden 1krent. black, 5c, 3kr envelope rose, 3c; Bahamas 1d rose, 8c; Belgium 1c green or slate, 3c each; Br. Guiana 1c black, 5c; Confederate States 2c red, 6c, 5c blue, 5c, 10c blue, 5c, 20c green 10c; New Orleans 2c red or blue, 5c, 5c brown, 6c; Denmark env. 2s blue, 8c; France 1c green, 3c, 2c brown, 3c, 4c mauve, 4c; French Colonies 1c 3c; Great Britain Local stamps, 4c each; Greece 11 brown, 3c, 2l cinnamon, 5c; Hamburg Locals, 1c each; Italy 1c green, 3c, 2c brown, 5c; Luxemburg 1c buff or brown, 3c; New Brunswick 1c 3c 2c orange, 4c; Nicaragua 2c blue, 15c; Spain 2c rose, 6c; Switzerland 2c grey, 3c, 3c black, 4cts; Wurtemberg 1kr. env. green, 5c

Used Obsolete Stamps, cheap.

Austria 1st. 2d. & 3d. issues, 3c each; Baden 1st. issue, 4c. Bavaria 1, 3, 6, & 9krs. 3c each; Denmark 4 R B S and 4s, 3c each; Germany 3k blue 3c; Holland 5 & 10c, 4c; Prussian, Italian, &c. equally cheap.

Sets of Unused Stamps, cheap.

Belgium set of 4, 15cts; Cape of Good Hope square set of 4, \$1.25; Confederate States set of 4 25 cts.; Egypt 1866, set of 7, \$2.30; 1867, set of 6, \$2.00; France set of 4, 12cts; Hamburg locals set of 116, \$1.00; Spain set of 4, 20cts.; United States 1851, set of 8, \$1.50; N. Y. Post Office set of 5, \$2.00; U. S. envelopes 1853-64, about 40 varieties \$8.00; Wells, Fargo & Co. set of 11 \$2.00.

Cheap Packets.

The 25ct. packet of used stamps contains 40 varieties including, Austria, Holland, Saxony &c.

The \$1.00 packet of used and unused stamps contains 75 varieties including, Russia, Bahamas, Belgium, Denmark, Egypt, &c

The \$2.00 packet of used and unused stamps contains 125 varieties including Bavaria 1867 Servia, Tuscany, W. Australia, Hanover, Sardinia, Greece, &c.

The \$5.00 packet of RARE stamps contains 100 varieties including, Austria, Bavaria, Heligoland Spain, Servia, Turk's Island, Virgin Island, &c. all of 1867 issue, Brazil, Egypt, Portugal, Nicaragua, Parma, Spain 185-, &c. This packet is the best put up in America and is well worth \$10.00.

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DEALER IN

FOREIGN POSTAGE STAMPS;
78 Nassau Street New York city.

The American Stamp Mercury

VOL. I.

BOSTON, DEC. 25, 1867.

No. 3.

The American Stamp Mercury.

Published on the 25th of every month by F. TRIFET.

SUBSCRIPTION RATES. 50 CENTS PER YEAR, IN ADVANCE. SINGLE COPIES 5 CENTS.

TO GETTERS UP OF CLUBS. To any person sending us three subscribers, Packet No. 34 of our list will be given; five subscribers, No. 21; eight subscribers, No. 25.

The postage (12 cents a year) must be paid at the office where the paper is received.

ADVERTISEMENTS.

10 cents per line for one insertion, or 50 cents for six months.

All letters respecting the paper should be addressed to F. TRIFET, Publisher of Stamp Mercury, Box 444, Boston, Mass.

REMOVAL.

Our business having increased so much lately, and the publication of the "Mercury" demanding extra room, we have been obliged to remove our place of business from 57 COURT STREET, to

20 STATE STREET, ROOM 9,

Where we will be happy to see our patrons. We have, now, facilities for filling ANY order PER RETURN MAIL, SURE.

THANKS AGAIN.

On our third appearance before the timbrophilic public of America, we would again most warmly thank them for the patronage they have given us, and hope that it may continue as well as it began.

We would again ask our friends to do all they can to obtain subscribers. If only one name, send

it on, for "the ocean is made but of drops," and every little helps. We would call the attention of new subscribers to the fact that we have but a few copies of the first number on hand, and if they would obtain a full file of the *MERCURY*, they had better send their names at once.

Before taking our leave, we would most cordially wish a MERRY CHRISTMAS and HAPPY NEW YEAR to all our friends, at home and abroad, and wish that their undertaking during the coming year may prove as successful as the publication of the "*MERCURY*" has been.

NEWLY-ISSUED STAMPS.

We have to beg our subscribers' pardon for not having any cuts in this Number of the *Mercury*; wishing to have it out before Christmas, and the cuts not being done, we had, very reluctantly to give up the idea. We promise to make it up in our next.

SPAIN.—A new value has been added to the series with value of milésimos. It is very much like the ten brown. Large figure 5 in centre on ground of horizontal lines; inscription, *ESPAÑA CORREOS CINCA MILLS. DE ESCUDO*. Color, deep-green, perforated.

STRAITS SETTLEMENT.—Since our last four new values, identical design with the others, have been added as follows,

| | | | |
|------------|--------|---------|------------------|
| TWO | CENTS, | red | on 1 anna brown. |
| FOUR | " | black | " 1 " " |
| TWELVE | " | carmine | " 4 " green. |
| THIRTY-TWO | " | black | " 2 " orange. |

NEW SCOTLAND.—The Transvaal Republic, or New Scotland as it is sometimes called, will shortly have a set of stamps.

BOLIVIA.—There are several varieties of the recently issued five cent stamp of this country, they being struck off from different dies.

SWITZERLAND.—An envelope of the same design as the 10 centime, value 5 centimes has been issued; color, light brown.

CONFEDERATE STATES.—The *S. C. Magazine* has an article describing a newly discovered (!) stamp of this concern. At a late visit of the Editor to New York, he was shown some of them by dealers there, and was assured that they were genuine. Without meaning any offence to these parties, we must give it as our opinion, that they are a downright swindle; their large numbers and very low price (for such rare stamps,) asked for them being positive evidence against them. One of our correspondents has been victimized by one of them, and we will proceed to give a description of them to keep others from being caught. It is the same design as the five 1863 issue, but having Stonewall Jackson's (?) head instead of Davis, value, ten cents at bottom, color, carmine. There are also a very few specimens struck on India paper in scarlet and sold as "proofs," BEWARE!

While on this subject we may call the attention of the *S. C. M.* to the fact that the *MERCHANTS UNION EXPRESS Co's* Stamp they mention in their last, is only a business card struck on the company's envelopes.

LUXEMBURG.—Has a 20 cent stamp, color brown, perforated.

THE MONEY ORDER SYSTEM

A brief résumé of the postal money order system, as conducted by the United States Government, cannot be devoid of interest to our readers, although the great masses of the people are ignorant of the principles upon which it is based, if not, indeed, of the existence of such a system.

It is a system designed to benefit the public, as well as to be a source of prolific revenue to the Government; and for business men, and all others who wish to send small sums of money to a distance, no scheme has ever been devised which provided so effectually for a great public necessity. It is virtually impossible for thousands of persons residing in the country to obtain bank drafts, and the express companies charge exorbitant rates for the transmission of small sums. Many are in the habit of sending money through the mails in registered letters; but it cost twenty cents to have a letter registered, and no security whatever is guaranteed the remitter, while a money order of any amount from one dollar to twenty can be procured for ten

cents, and for any sum between twenty and fifty for twenty-five cents, and full security for its transmission guaranteed. The great advantages of this system consist in its moderate fees and the perfect security it affords against fraud or loss. This security is effected by leaving out the name of the person to whom an order is payable, so in the event of its being stolen or lost by accident in transitu, a party in illegal possession cannot get it cashed. Should an order be lost the owner can obtain a duplicate without delay or difficulty. So absolute, in fact, is the security afforded remitters of funds, that even a postmaster who might attempt to defraud the Government by altering the amount of an order, or by forgery, is morally certain to be detected. The superiority of this system over any other now in existence has been fully demonstrated.

In 1867 the number of offices was 767, except in the last quarter of the fiscal year, when sixty-eight more were added. The precise amount of business done during the year has not yet transpired, owing to the unavoidable delay in the Pacific mails; enough is known, however, to make the estimate of \$10,000,000 a safe one, and the amount will probably be in excess of that, which is nearly treble that of last year. By an act of Congress nearly four hundred more offices will be in operation in the year 1868, making a total of twelve hundred and thirty five offices; and should, the business of this department increase in the same ratio as heretofore, twenty millions of dollars will be a moderate estimate for the present fiscal year (1868).

The department check is thought in every respect, and fraud is utterly impossible. Each postmaster is obliged by law to furnish the department with a weekly statement of business done at his office, and if there be the slightest error in his account he is at once notified thereof.

During the last fiscal year the post-office of New York City has issued 11,817 orders; and paid 86,070 orders. For orders drawn on that office \$1,387,917 has been paid, and for orders issued \$312,997 received.

We advise all our subscribers who can avail themselves of the money order system to do so. It is a perfectly safe way of remitting.

WINTER MAIL SERVICE

ACROSS THE

traits of Northumberland,

FROM PRINCE EDWARD'S ISLAND TO THE MAIN-
LAND OF NEW BRUNSWICK.

[CONCLUDED.]

Having foolishly let go my hold, as the ice broke under me, I was forced to keep jumping from one piece to another, going further and faring worse all the time, until at last I had to throw myself flat on my face till the boat reached me.

We then landed on this field. The water ran out of the toes of my shoes charmingly; but one unhappy member of the party, who was arrayed in high boots up to his thighs, beyond which depth we had been in water, was obliged to give us an amusing little exhibition of himself by lying down on his face and turning his legs up in the air, by which operation he discharged several gallons of water.

This field was very different from the last, being rough, with numerous holes. In some parts the blocks of ice were piled up to a considerable height, and we had hard work to drag the boat up, but still more was it dangerous when the summit was passed and the boat went bounding down the other side.

Being fast to the boat by our harness, we were obliged to go with it, and really some of the leaps were frightful, considering the slippery nature of the ground we had to alight on. There was also a considerable risk of getting one's legs out. (On this field we called a halt, and sundry lumps of bread, &c., were produced from peckets, but most of it was spoiled by the water.)

A good friend at Charlotte Town had given me a bottle of sherry for the journey, but alas! I left it behind in his store, so that he had all the credit of having given it to me, and moreover, the satisfaction of drinking the sherry himself after all. Lucky dog! I certainly lamented my carelessness most bitterly. I had nothing but a small flask of whiskey, which I fairly divided.

We now had a good lookout for the boat, which we knew was to cross that day, in the opposite direction. We made it out at last, about three miles off, crossing a field nearly abreast of us, but away down to the eastward. They evidently had not been able to hold a direct course, and we feared that this augured badly for the last part of our journey.

We heisted a coat on a boathook, but they did not see us, and in a few minutes were shut out from our sight. I saw afterwards by telegram that they were nine hours and a half getting across. After about fifteen minutes' rest we started again. The remainder of the voyage was but a repetition of what had gone before, with the exception of one

incident, which involved a very narrow escape.

We had accomplished about three-quarters of the distance, and were beginning to look to the termination of our labors; Cape Traverse was full in sight, and even the porthouse, which was our goal, and we knew that we could now be seen by the lookout, who watched the course of the boat as soon as it came in sight, in order to send the sleigh along the coast to meet the party, if they got carried away out of their course, and had to make land where they could. We quitted a field, and made for another about half a mile distant, the water between being tolerably open.

As we approached the edge of the second field, however, we got into the lolly again which gradually got so dense that we could not move the boat through it.

We observed two vast masses of ice, piled up to a great height, borne by contending currents along the edge of the field, coming right down upon us.

"Pull for your lives—give way," cried the captain, and every nerve was strained.

Slowly we forced the boat on through the scething mass, which became every moment thicker and thicker as the advancing icebergs (as I may call them) compressed it all more and more closely.—Nearer and nearer came our two enemies, seemingly bent on our destruction. Still we pulled till the boat quivered again with the vigorous strokes of four strong men rowing for their lives, while the captain's voice continued to urge us on.

We were within a few yards of the field, and the icebergs close upon us, when suddenly the iron rowlock of one of the oars was knocked out of its rocker, fell overboard, and sank. I had noticed to the captain that the rowlocks ought to be secured to the boat in case of accident, but he replied that they never came out. As it was, our lives were all placed in jeopardy by the omission. Of course it was all up with rowing; but, in desperation, we forced the boat to the edge of the ice, and the men jumped out just as the icebergs came upon us.

I caught up a boathook and leaped on to a loose piece of ice for a raft, on which I succeeded in reaching the field, and was just on the point of jumping on to it when my spiteful enemy, who was passing by, managed to give a kick, under water, to my little raft, and pitched me once more into the water. I scrambled out in time to see the boat safely hauled up just as the two monsters met, gave one another a horrible bump, and then passed on their respective ways.

We were all truly thankful for our narrow escape. But I began to get a little anxious. The weather had changed during the last hour. A storm was evidently approaching; it was getting very cold, and I began to feel very exhausted and numb.—How I did long for that bottle of sherry. If the shore ice on this side was lined with iolly, as on the opposite shore, we had yet some severe work to do. Happily, however, the rest of our course was easy; this was the last field, and, when we arrived at the edge of it, to our great joy we found quite clear water all the rest of the way.

I went the boat, and with a cheer we fell to the oars again, an extempore rowlock being improvised in place of that lost. In half an hour we reached

the shore ice, where was a party waiting for us.— We left them to pull the boat out of the water, and throwing ourselves down on the truck sleigh, were drawn up to the post-house, at which we arrived in six hours and ten minutes from leaving Cape Tormentive.

I suffered much for some time, but after changing all my clothes and eating some dinner, I got all right, and being so fortunate as to find a sleigh there, from the Bay of Verte, I engaged the driver to take me on, a distance of about thirty miles.— His drive was a repetition of that from Charlotte Town, only colder, with a heavy snow-storm for two days. We could not hold out for more than an hour at a time, without stopping at a cottage for a good warm.

I slept at Verte Bay, and the next day proceeded in the same way to Amhurst, about twenty-five miles. Here I was once more in civilization; and from this proceeded in a regular mail sleigh to Truro, about sixty miles. How the letters get from the cape to Amhurst goodness only knows.— Any one seems to pick up the bags and take them on as far as he is going.

At Amhurst, however, everything commences to go on *en regle*. A day and a half brought me to Truro, weerh is the railroad to Halifax, and thus ended my eventful journey. I was fortunate in recovering all my luggage piecemeal, in *three weeks'* time. The whole journey cost me six pounds sterling, not counting the cost of doing up my unhappy watch.

If any reader of this article has a correspondent in Prince Edward Island, let him not greatly wonder if, at any future time, between the months of December and May, a letter fails to reach its destination; for, occasionally, a whole mail has been obliged to be thrown overboard.—*Frank Leslie's Chimney Corner.*

POSTAL ITEMS.

☞ A return has just been published in London from which it appears that the persons employed on Sunday throughout the United Kingdom comprise 31 inspectors, 758 postmasters, 1,054 clerks 877 stampers and assorters, 3,762 letter carriers, 2,711 rural messengers, 8,852 sub-postmasters or receivers, and 2,716 "other persons," chiefly mail guards, mail cart drivers, and assistants at the smaller country offices. There are 454 head offices and 6,172 sub-offices open to the public on Sunday in England, 1,582 are not open. In Scotland 133 head offices and 1,082 sub-offices are open and 159 are closed. In Ireland 133 head offices and 1,485 sub-offices are open, and 40 are closed.

☞ A LONDONER inquired at the Post Office in Erie, Pa., the other day, for a letter for "Henry Hogden". He was told there was none. "Look 'ere he replied a little angrily, "you 'ave hexamined a hodd letter for my name. It don't commence with a haitch. It begins with a ho! Look in the ole that's got the ho's"

VERY RARE STAMPS.

Under this heading we propose to give a series of articles which will give the description, cause of rarity, market value &c. of some of the scarcest stamps known. Our first article will be on

THE EMBOSSED STAMPS OF NATAL.

Very few collectors possess any of these stamps; which is easily accounted for by their scarcity and extremely poor condition they are generally in.

The series consists of five values, each of a different design and from separate dies;

The design are as follow;

One penny. Rectangular; laced border; ONE above, PENNY below; crown in upper part of centre; NATAL beneath.

On blue, buff, and rose paper.

Market value, \$3.50 used.

The rose is the scarcest, excepting for collector of shades when the LIGHT-blue takes that rank.

Threepence. Large irregular-shaped design; NATAL in curved line above; crown underneath with V. R. disposed one letter on each side. THREEPENCE in oval medallion in lower part of stamp.

On pink paper.

Market value, \$1.00 used.

Sixpence. Rectangular frame; ornamented corners; NATAL above; crown, with V. R. on each side, in centre; SIX PENCE in two lines below.

On green paper.

Market value, \$6.00 unused, \$4 00 used.

The last two are the most common of the set but clear specimen cannot be had.

Ninepence. Large design; NATAL above; crown beneath it V. R. on sides. NINEPENCE, in two lines, inside of laurel wreath below crown.

On blue paper.

Market value, \$6.00 unused.

This is the scarcest, although not dearest, of the series very few collectors having a specimen.

One shilling. Rectangular frame with the upper and lower sides curved. NATAL above, crown below supported by the letters V. R.; ONE in a straight line under the crown, SHILLING in a curve at bottom.

On buff paper.

Market value, \$10.00 used.

This stamp is also of great rarity.

The design of the above stamps were engraved on steel, and are embossed on the paper; no printing or coloring was used. The paper employed is thickish; it has been called blotting paper but is not as it is sized. They are adhesive; the gum used being very thick. The date of issue is supposed to be 1852 or '57; the currency ceased in 1860 to give place to the series with the Queen's head. They were principally used on newspapers which accounts for their scarcity.

There are reprints existing which are, on close examination, proved to be from the genuine dies.* Also fac similes, but the maker, as such men generally do, blundered and indented the device, so that it appears SUNK instead of IN RELIEF.

* The publisher advertise them at \$8.00 per set of seven. WANTED GENUINE.

Answers to Correspondents.

C. K. J. & Co.; C. & H. G. Manchester Eng.—Send wholesale catalogues.

M. & Co. Philadelphia.—We are obliged for notice, will reciprocate in next number.

G. H. W. Pennington N. J.—Also to you for story but cannot use it as it has nothing to do with stamps. The first stamp you describe is an Italian Revenue; the other we cannot make out.

C. W. Norwich N. Y.—The new three cent U. S. stamp ought to have a place in your album as we can't see why the 'large' and 'small lettered stamps of Great Britain; the 'Athenian' and 'Paris printed' stamps of Greece, and other such trifling differences should be classified and all the varieties of our own stamps be laid on the shelf.

C. R. Flushing N. Y.—The ten cent Confederate, same design as the one cent, is, undoubtedly, a hum bug. Sorry you got "taken in," you ought to know who you deal with.

G. W. K. Cincinnati O.—The reason you don't get an answer from C.M. Seltz is that he is dead he having departed this life in September.

F. A. D. MONTROSE PA.—1. The dealers in England call the stamps of Europe 'Continentials', hence by "mixed continentals" is meant mixed European stamps. 2. „Essays" are design for stamps rejected by the Government. 3. "Proofs" are regular stamps struck off in various colors.

W. B. OMAHA. We can get for you any book or publication at the regular retail price and forward it free of carriage.

BIG INDIAN.—We will subscribe for you on receipt of two dollars, per year.

HOOSIER.—We are sorry to say he is not.

CONUNDRUMS.

No. 3. Why is a Confederate two cent stamp like a Newspaper?

No. 4. Why should a Postmaster in the U. S. sometimes be called a Traitor?

Answers in our next.

WANTED; contributors to this column.

WANTED all kinds of Stamps, especially the old issues of Nova Scotia, New Brunswick Newfoundland, &c. Also, South American Stamps for which the best price, either in cash or stamp will be given.

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The Post Office DEPARTMENT is considering the expediency of reducing the size of postage stamps—by abolishing the vignettes. The Government saves one-half the weight, in the mails, of four hundred millions of stamps! It saves also one half the paper, the ink, the mucilage the stowage, the general bulk, and the cost of transportation.

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Those marked by an asterisk (*) are unused.

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| Antigua | 2 Varieties | \$0.14 |
| Austria | 18 " | .60 |
| Baden | 10 " | .30 |
| Bavaria | 10 " | -.25 |
| Belgium | 6 " | -.18 |
| Brazil | 4 " | -.25 |
| *Cape of Good Hope | 4 " square | 1.25 |
| *Confederate States | 4 " | .20 |
| Denmark | 6 " | -.20 |
| *Egypt 1866 | | 2.30 |
| * " 1867 | 6 " | 2.00 |
| Germany, North | 8 " | -.20 |
| " South | 10 " | .25 |
| Great Britain | 12 " | -.30 |
| Greece | 7 " | .30 |
| *Hamburg Boten | 116 " | 1.00 |
| Holland | 6 " | -.18 |
| Hong Kong | 5 " | .25 |
| India | 6 " | .20 |
| Italy | 6 " | -.18 |
| Jamaica | 5 " | -.35 |
| Luxembourg | 4 " | -.15 |
| *Natal | 7 " embossed | 8.00 |
| " | 3 " | .15 |
| New Brunswick | 5 " | -.12 |
| *New Orleans | 3 " | -.15 |
| N. S. Wales | 4 " | |
| New Zealand | 4 " | .20 |

| | | |
|----------------------|------|------|
| Norway | 5 " | .25 |
| Nova Scotia | 5 " | .12 |
| Portugal | 6 " | .40 |
| Prussia | 20 " | .50 |
| Queensland | 3 " | .15 |
| Russia | 4 " | .18 |
| Saxony | 10 " | .30 |
| Spain (all issues) | 10 " | .50 |
| * " official 55 | 4 " | .30 |
| States of the Church | 4 " | .20 |
| Sweden | 6 " | .20 |
| Switzerland | 12 " | .35 |
| Tasmania | 3 " | .15 |
| *United States 1851 | 3 " | 1.25 |
| * " N. Y. P. O. | 5 " | 2.00 |
| Victoria | 6 " | .30 |
| *Wells, Fargo & Co. | 11 " | 2.00 |
| Western Australia | 4 " | .25 |
| Wurtemberg | 12 " | .35 |

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THE NONPAREIL STAMP ALBUM, ruled to contain 1100 stamps, with the description of current issues in English, French, and German: The neatest and cheapest stamp Album published.—Price, 12 mo., cloth, 75 cents, by mail, 80 cents.

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FOR SALE BY F. TRIFET.

| Device. | Facial Value. | Selling Price. |
|------------------|---------------------------|----------------|
| Agreement, | 5 cents. | \$ |
| Bank Check, | 2 cents, blue and orange. | .01 |
| Bill of Lading, | 10 cents. | .01 |
| Bond, | 25 cents. | |
| Certificate, | 2 cents, blue and orange. | .02 |
| | 5 " | .01 |
| | 10 " | .01 |
| | 25 " | .02 |
| Charter Party, | 1 dollar. | |
| | 3 " | .08 |
| | 5 " | .06 |
| Contract, | 10 " | .25 |
| | 10 cents. | .01 |
| | 50 cents. | .02 |
| Conveyance, | 1 dollar. | |
| | 2 " | .05 |
| | 5 " | |
| | 10 " | |
| Entry of Goods, | 20 " | |
| | 50 cents. | |
| | 1 dollar. | |
| | 1 cent. | .01 |
| Express, | 2 " blue and orange. | |
| | 5 " | .02 |
| | 3 cents. | .01 |
| | 5 " | .01 |
| Foreign Exchange | 10 " | |
| | 15 " | |
| | 20 " | |
| | 30 " | |
| | 50 " | |
| | 70 " | .03 |
| | 1 dollar. | |
| | 1 " 30 cents. | |
| | 1 " 60 " | |
| | 1 " 90 " | |
| Inland Exchange, | 3 cents. | |
| | 4 " | .01 |
| | 5 " | .01 |
| | 6 " | .01 |
| | 10 " | .01 |
| | 15 " | .02 |
| | 20 " | .01 |
| | 30 " | .02 |
| | 40 " | .02 |
| | 60 " | .03 |
| 1 dollar. | .03 | |
| 1 " 50 cents. | .05 | |
| 2 " 50 " | .05 | |
| 3 " 50 " | | |
| Insurance, | 10 cents | |
| | 25 " | .02 |
| Lease, | 50 cents. | .13 |
| | 1 dollar | .30 |

| | | |
|-------------------|----------------------|-----|
| Life Insurance, | 25 cents. | |
| | 50 " | |
| Lottery Ticket, | 1 dollar. | |
| | 50 cents. | |
| Manifest, | 1 dollar. | |
| | 3 " | |
| | 5 " | |
| | 50 cents. | .02 |
| Mortgage, | 1 dollar. | |
| | 2 " | |
| | 5 " | .06 |
| | 10 " | |
| Original Process, | 15 " | |
| | 25 " | |
| | 50 cents. | .02 |
| Passage Ticket, | 50 cents. | |
| | 1 dollar. | |
| Playing Cards, | 1 cent. | |
| | 2 " blue and orange. | |
| | 3 " | |
| | 4 " | |
| | 5 " | |
| Power of Attor'y, | 10 " | |
| | 10 cents. | |
| | 25 " | .02 |
| Probate of Will, | 1 dollar. | .03 |
| | 50 cents | |
| | 1 dollar. | |
| Protest, | 2 " | |
| | 5 " | .06 |
| | 10 " | .25 |
| Proprietary, | 20 " | |
| | 25 cents. | |
| | 1 cent. | .01 |
| Surety Bond, | 2 " blue and orange. | .02 |
| | 3 " | .01 |
| | 4 " | .02 |
| Telegraph, | 5 " | |
| | 10 " | |
| | 50 cents. | .02 |
| U. S. Int. Rev., | 1 cent. | .07 |
| | 3 " | .02 |
| Warehouse Rec't, | 5 cents. | .01 |
| | 2 cents. | |
| No Denomination | 200 dollar | |

WANTED.—All kinds of Revenues not prices in this list.

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For a list of all the best Albums see page 27.

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Companion sheet to the arms of all nations.—
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The set of 116 all different. 75 cents

PACKETS.

Send for list of packets; I would particularly
recommend packets No. 3, 7, 13, 21, 25, 28, 30, 31,
32, 34, 38, and 43. My list of packet is not
equalled by any dealer on this continent.

SETS.

For list of sets see page 27. Only a few of the
Natalis, embossed issue at \$3.00 per set of seven.

UNITED STATES LOCALS.

20 varieties, 25 cents, 30 varieties, 50 cents, 50 va-
rieties, \$1.00, 75 varieties, \$2.00.—**WARRANTED
GENUINE.**

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The American Stamp Mercury

A JOURNAL DEVOTED TO STAMP COLLECTING.

VOL. I.

BOSTON, JUNE, 1868.

No. VIII.

THE AMERICAN STAMP MERCURY.

Published on the 1st of every month.

F. TRIFET, Proprietor,

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Address all communications as follows:

AMERICAN STAMP MERCURY,

Box 444, Boston, Mass.

NEWLY ISSUED STAMPS.

PARAGUAY.—We now give an engraving of the stamp described in our last numbers. Our



French cotemporary doubts this stamp and says, "we have already spoken of the new trial made by the American Inventors, in the shape of a stamp for Parag-

quay. But thinking that the public cannot be put too much on guard against these little thefts, we have decided to go to the expense of getting an engraving that speaks more to the eyes than any long discourse." We take it for a genuine stamp, and shall have the pleasure of sending our friend the specimen in our collection to satisfy him of the same.

ORANGE FREE STATE.—We also give an engraving of the 1 penny stamp of the lately issued series. For the benefit of our readers we would say that the Free State of Orange is situated on the coast of Cape Colony and its stamps should be placed in the African portion of their Album.



DENMARK.—A new stamp has been added to the current series, viz: 8 skilling, color stone, perforated and watermarked with a crown.

WURTEMBERG.—It is said that a new value, 7 kreuzer, slate blue, is to replace the 6 kreuzer as soon as the supply of the latter gives out.



NEW SOUTH WALES.—A Stamp issued sometime since, but which had escaped our notice, is represented in the annexed engraving; its color is red and it is perforated.

SWITZERLAND.—The third envelope, value 30 centimes, light blue, has just been issued.

SAXONY.—Our rather small list of novelties closes this month with a 2 pfennige stamp, issued by the Dresden Express Company, and struck in blue on bands of white paper.

REVIEW OF THE POSTAGE STAMPS IN THE FRENCH EXHIBITION.

TRANSLATED FROM THE FRENCH OF DR. MAGNUS,
Extracted from the Philatelist.

Journals of every size will not fail to inform their readers about the wonders of the exhibition in the Field of Mars. But if we may judge by the slight attention apparently paid by the public to the cases containing postage stamps, and the disrespect evinced by the principal journals towards *timbro-*

maniacs, we must not expect any account from them of the riches of the exhibition in this respect. What may be seen there would be the glory of many an album. We hasten to make amateurs acquainted with the interesting objects in question.

Whatever relates to postage stamps is disseminated in several groups, and in a certain number of classes. In the first group, 5th class, engravings and medals; in the 2nd group, 6th class, printing and library productions; and 8th class, application of design and labour to the useful arts; in the 5th group, 40th class, productions of mines, metal work, &c.; in the 6th group, 59th class, material and appliances of paper, dying matter, and impressions; in the 10th group, 89th class, material and methods for instructing children; and 95th class, instruments and special appliances for the use of first-class workmen. The understanding scarcely follows the motives of this diffusion, but we leave the commission to justify itself. The following reason may be given. Postage-stamps may be regarded—

- 1st. As works of art.
- 2nd. As specimens of engraving.
- 3rd. As printing products.
- 4th. As necessitating special machines for engraving or dividing them.
- 5th. As elements of instruction.

Accordingly, as examined under one of these heads they may enter one of the numerous classes admitted by the commission. We must really make a reservation for the 89th class.

We do not comprehend how a collection to be sold for £140 can be attainable by children, if even adults. We fancy the exhibition has been made the pretext for a little private commerce in postage stamps, whose apparent motive is the view of M. de S.'s collection. Every time either ourselves or our friends have sought to visit this collection, some plausible pretext has been found for putting off its examination, such as fatigue, the multitude of visitors, the fear of soiling it, &c.; while these motives never existed with regard to the stamps for sale, S. G. D. G. (*sans garantie du gouvernement*). It is true these latter are just such as may be found in tobacconist's windows, and whose want of rarity is not redeemed even by cleanliness. Let us hope that this will be rectified.

Our readers will allow us to conduct them step by step into the middle of the exhibition. We will take care to indicate the place where each object can be found. Enter the 2nd gallery, dedicated to the material and appliances of the liberal arts; and, in obedience to the rules of courtesy

towards our guests, turn to the right, and first penetrate into the English compartment.

One name comes uppermost in our mind, and we immediately look for the case of M. De la Rue, that renowned manufacturer of Stamps for Great Britain, the English colonies, and other foreign countries. To our great surprise his name is wanting in the catalogue; but, in compensation, his exhibition is conspicuously apparent in the *Rue d'Angleterre*, and that in a form convenient for examination. It consists of black frames fastened to a pillar by one of their vertical sides, which may be examined in turn like the leaves of a book. There are objects of all sorts, caricatures, music, playing cards of every kind, all doubtless interesting, but foreign to our present purpose. The stamps are contained in five sheets. There are to be seen together, postage, bill and receipt, and various other special stamps, all, however relating to fiscal purposes. On the first sheet, in rows of six by eight, and all perforated are:

Bermudas: 1, 2, 6 pence, and one shilling.

Vancouver's Island: 5 and 10 cents.

Ceylon: The recently-emitted 3 pence.

Natal: 1 Shilling.

Malta: $\frac{1}{2}$ penny.

All these stamps are impressed in colour on glazed paper, and must bear the c.c. and crown watermark,

[Here follows a description of the Natal, now familiar to our readers, but then first seen by the learned doctor.]

On a second frame we find four small sheets, each containing 15 Belgian stamps with the effigy of Leopold I.:—

| | |
|--------------|----------|
| 10 centimes, | blue. |
| 20 " | carmine. |
| 30 " | lilac. |
| 40 " | green. |

also six sheet each containing 50 impressions of the 1 franc in light brown.

It will be remarked that the colours are not the official ones. They are essays printed on cardboard, but nevertheless, highly interesting.

The third frame is likewise filled with stamps on cardboard, those of new South Wales, with the legend **STAMP DUTY**, values 4, 6, and 8 pence, 1 shilling, 1s. 6d., 2 shillings. These are rectangular. In the midst is the Queen's portrait in a circle, printed in lilac, with the legend, **NEW SOUTH WALES STAMP DUTY**. The rest of the stamp is filled in with coloured ornamentation. Above the circle is the value in figure, this is repeated below in letters.

A fourth frame contains on the left a group of

the following 25 stamps in the official colours, impressed on cardboard with the greatest care:—

British Honduras: 1 penny, 6 p., 1 shilling.

Confederate States: 1c., (Colquhoun), [who may this be, will the *Philatelist* tell us? ED. MERCURY.] and 5 c., (J. Davis.)

Jamaica: Revenue, 1 penny, and the well known 1d and 3d.; postage, 2, 3, 4, and 6p., and 1s.

British Columbia: 3 pence, paleblue.

Natal: 1 shilling, (previously mentioned.)

Italy: the eight stamps emitted in 1863.

Belgium: 30 centimes, green and carmine.

Pendant to these, on the right, is a group of 25 stamps, consisting of different fiscals, viz:—

Jamaica: 1 p., 10 p., 5 shillings.

Hong Kong: Stamp Duty, 3 25, 50 cents; 1, 2, 3, 10 dollars.

Great Britain: Ireland petty Sessions, green and pink. Registration companies, 6 pence blue, ditto pink, 1 sh. green, also violet, 5 sh. brown, £1 green, also orange.

Then follows a description of the new 5 shilling stamp, impressed in three colours, green, orange, carmine.

After these some Inland Revenue stamps, type different from those in use: green, brown, and violet.

The interval of these two groups is occupied by three charming stamps destined for Australia. They represent a sheep in the midst of pastureland, beneath which is the word LICENSE and the value.

2 shillings, lilac; 10 sh., green; 20 sh., brown.

The rest of the frame is filled with different fiscal stamps, such as those of the Probate Court and the Matrimonial Cause. In the midst is the current set of English stamps, except the 1p and 2p, on cardboard but having no letters at the angles. Among these are two stamps apparently intended to complete the series.

[The doctor then describes our recently issued 10 pence and 2 shillings, remarking that the small corner squares, designed to contain the variable letters as well as the minute compartment appropriated to the almost microscopic figure which used to puzzle collectors in these and the other English specimens, are all left vacant.]

The colours of the specimens exhibited are—

10 pence, sky-blue, orange, carmine, pale-brown. 2 shillings, brown, green, blue.

Below these appear the postage stamp of

Cape of Good Hope: 6 p., 1sh., usual colours.

Belgium: 30 centimes, light brown, blue.

Natal: 1 shilling, green.

Inland Revenue: 1 penny.

India, foreign bills: 2, 3, 4, 6, 8, 12 annas, 1 rupee, 1r. 8a. 2, 3, 4 6, 8, 12, 18, 24 rupees, 5 livres, 2 livres, 10 rupees, all alike on cardboard, rectangular oblong design varying with the value but all preserving a recognizable family appearance.

Finally: the stamps of New South Wales, like the preceding in design, but different in colour.

[Our writer proceeds to remark that apparently three new values are contemplated by the English post-office, but that perhaps the project will never take effect. He must be better informed long ere this.]

The fifth frame contains stamps impressed on cardboard in black. The following may be seen—

Hong Kong: the complete postal series.

India: 8 pies, 1 anna, 2a., 4a., last type, 6a. 8p., new value, 8 annas.

Jamaica: Revenue and commercial stamps, and the complete postal set.

New South Wales: 1p. and 2p. current.

Confederate States: the 1 and 5 cents already indicated.

Bermudas, British Columbia, Vancouver, British Honduras, Cape of Good Hope, Bahamas, Malta, Sierra Leone, Mauritius: sets in use at various times.

Italian commercials and postage-stamps of all values, including the 2 c. and the new 20 c.

India: Commercial, telegraphic, and foreign bill stamps.

Italy: MARCA DA BOLLO stamps, emitted in 1862, and the three pasport and legalization stamps of the same period.

Finally, the commercial stamps of Jamaica, the Cape, Hong Kong, and India. [Our author proceeds to describe the new Indian stamps, 6 annas 8 p., already noted in this magazine.]

We remark, moreover, the telegraphic stamps of the same country. They are eight in number, and of the following values: 4 and 8 annas, 1 rupee, 1r. 2a., 5, 10, 25, 50 rupees. They have Queen Victoria's portrait twice repeated, with the inscription: GOVERNMENT OF INDIA: TELEGRAPH DEPARTMENT. All the values, as in the commercials are of different designs. Here is another country then which has adopted the system of pre-paying telegraphic despatches by means of stamps. A boon for amateurs who collect specimens of such a nature.

What riches! How beautiful and fresh these stamps are at first sight! Yet a more attentive examination does not satisfy the mind. The impression is too faint. The nature of the glazed

paper does not allow the ink to penetrate. The surrounding ornaments are also much too elaborate. They are pretty stamps; but they are not works of art.

Would you know their designer? In a corner of a small compartment behind the 1st gallery, 5th class, is a modest frame bearing this simple indication:—**F. JOUBERT, LONDON, STEEL ENGRAVING IN RELIEF.**

Then are exhibited many well-known stamps, all impressed in black; all showing the central portion only, the frame being hidden under grey paper. We find there—

India: Receipt, bill or draft, $\frac{1}{2}$ anna.

Hong Kong: 12 cents.

Jamaica: 1 penny.

Great Britain: Customs, 1 penny.

Belgium: Portrait of Leopold I, without frame.

Mexico: Portrait of Maximilian, without frame.

Jamaica: 10 shillings,

India: 4 annas, corners channeled, British Columbia and Vancouver: $2\frac{1}{2}$ p.

Portugal: **IMPOSTO DO SELLO**, portrait of Don Pedro.

Italy: **MARCA DA BOLLO**, 1 lira, 20 centesimi.

Confederate States: 5 cents, Jefferson Davis.

Portugal: Portrait of Don Luis, without frame.

We learn from the examination of this tableau that the stamps engraved with Maximilian's portrait are the work of M. Joubert. It nevertheless strikes us that their impression took place in Mexico; and what makes us think so is the staining of the paper owing to the bad management of the plate. The impression would have been better in London. Among these portraits we remark that of J. Davis. It is a firmly-engraved stamp, a true work of art, and does honor to the house of De la Rue.

Whatever opinion may be entertained of the value of these engravings, it is not a little flattering to our national self-love that Great Britain and the majority of English possessions are indebted for their stamps to a pair of Frenchmen.

We must not quit the English section without signalling in the lower part of a large frame, the 5 and 10 centesimos of Montevideo, figures with arms, impressed in black. This frame belongs to Messrs. Maclure and Macdonald of Glasgow. We find also in the glass case of Messrs. Causton, Joseph, and Son, London, among specimens of bank notes, two stamps whose use it is impossible for us to pronounce. They represent a swan in an oval. Above is **W. AUSTRALIA**; below, **ONE POUND**. One is a pure-brown, the other is orange. (Deed stamps probably.) We remark, moreover, the absence of

stamps in the glass cases of several exhibitors who expose specimens of bank notes, &c., and the total absence of the productions of Messrs. Nissen and Parker, and Waterlow and Son. [To be continued.]

POSTAL MISCELLANY.

THE ST. LOUIS STAMPS.—"Le Timbrophile," in its last number, has an article on these Stamps by which it proves that they are bogus. Although we have no objection to this, we mention the fact because it closes its argument by the following:

"These Stamps probably come from that Bostonian factory which, lately, has the privilege of inundating the market with stamps that have never existed but in the inventive brain of the director of said manufactory."

We do not deny the fact, but would state that we have nothing to do in the direction of the "Manufactory," and to contradict all inference in that way that might be brought home to us.

HOW TO GET ANSWERS AND SAVE POSTAGE.—The Typographic Advertiser has the following under the above heading which we would call to the attention of our readers. The parts in *Italics* we add for our own benefit.

Persons who expect replies to their letters in due course of mail ought to commit to memory the following obvious rules:—

1. Write legibly, if you can. *If you cannot, get somebody that can to do it for you.* Florishes are not essential.
2. Date your letter.
3. Give your town, county and state. (We may remark, by the way, that Congress should appoint a standing committee to change every duplicated name of town throughout the country, using the aboriginal terms as far as they will go.)
4. Use only as many words as will clearly express your meaning.
5. When you order from parties who do not know you, give references, *or better still, send the amount of the order.*
6. Sign your name,—"*yours truly*" not being sufficient to identify the personality of the writer. *You need not sign it more than once but have it plain, principally the initial of the last name.*
7. If the subject matter relates solely to your own profit or convenience, enclose a stamp or a

stamped envelope. *We require it in all cases.*

8. If you intend to enclose a money order, or a sample, be sure to do so. *Otherwise, we will not attend to it.*

9. See that the envelope is effectually closed.

10. Put on the full amount of stamps. *If you don't put any on, your letter never reaches its destination.*

11. Address the envelope plainly and correctly. *There is no need of putting such addresses as the following which we once received.*

F. TRIFET,

Publisher of the Am. Stamp Mercury.

20 State Street,

Boston or

or 57 Court Str. Box 444 Mass.

dealer in Stamps.

12. Post the letter.

13. *Call for the answer at the Post Office, and don't let it come back to us endorsed "Not called for."*

If, these precautions being used, you do not get a reply in due time, you may conscientiously rail at Uncle Samuel, and not blame us for the delay.

Puzzles for Stamp Collectors.

ENIGMAS.

13.—I am composed of 39 letters.

My 25, 14, 27, 30, 16, 20, has lately issued stamps.

" 28, 3, 10, 13, 12, 2, 15, 26, 8, 27, 22, 32, 34, 15, 27, 39, is the inscription on a Stamp.

" 5, 34, 16, 4, 8, 35, 19, 26, 1, is the value on a Venezuela Stamp.

" 34, 31, 6, 8, 28, 28, 22, 16, is the condition of U. S. stamps at the present time.

" 38, 30, 23, 13, is what some stamps are.

" 28, 17, 20, 33, 9, 6, 37, 39, 13, 7, is a gratis stamp paper.

" 29, 35, 11, 15, 24, 16, 30, 16, is a country that uses stamps.

" 21, 14, 12, 29, 26, has but one stamp.

" 18, 14, 27, 8, 5, 34, 7, issued stamps in 1851.

" 36, 37, 6, 30, is a West India Island that uses stamps.

My whole is the name of two stamp publications.

14.—I am composed of 54 letters,

My 48, 33, 37, 4, 20, 7, 19, 16, 33, 3, 26, 13, 33,

33, 45, is the inscription on a stamp.

My 15, 40, 50, 1, 21, 4, 9, 38, 5, 4, 24, 33, 54, 14, 30, 43, 61, 3, 33, 23, 43, 17, 22, 4, 25, 4, inscription on a stamp.

" 33, 36, 18, 48, 6, is a country that has some rare stamps.

" 52, 16, 33, 46, 53, 40, 33, 41, is a country of Asia that uses stamps.

" 15, 40, 10, 1, 42, 46, 11, 39, is a country in Europe that uses stamps.

" 43, 20, 45, 26, 12, issued stamps in 1866.

" 8, 15, 32, 4, 33, has had a large number of stamps.

" 17, 45, 27, 31, 26, 38, 10, 46, 49, 22, is a defunct stamp paper.

" 47, 27, 10, 29, 11, 34, 40, 13, 50, issued stamps in 1857.

" 35, 38, 33, 24, 34, 48, is one of the British Provinces that uses stamps.

" 16, 33, 3, 50, 2, 4, 28, 39, 4, 33, 46, is the value on a stamp.

" 52, 38, 31, 44, 49, 10, 46, issued stamps in 1859.

My whole is the name of a stamp album and its author.

Answers to Puzzles in Our Last.

8.—Because they are green.

9.—Because it takes notes.

10.—The American Stamp Mercury.

11.—Constantinople.

12.—Wanted, contributors to puzzles.

CORRESPONDENCE.

The Canada Envelopes.

To the Editor of THE AMERICAN STAMP MERCURY.

SIR:—It has always been a disputed point among philatelists as to whether the Canada envelope stamps on buff paper were genuine government emissions, or *myths* gotten up to sell. I myself have been for some time fully convinced in my own mind that they were bogus, but as many doubt it, I herewith present a letter received in answer to one addressed to the Post Master General of Canada, by me. It is quite surprising to me to see that Messrs. Alfred Smith & Co. have included them in their catalogue, which I supposed was an axiom to go by, thinking that they did not assert fallacies. Should this come to their notice, I shall expect to see them omitted in the next edition of their catalogue.

POST OFFICE, QUEBEC, CANADA,

April 30th, 1868

SIR:—Stamped envelopes were issued on whit

paper, but *never on buff*. We have a new issue of stamps for the Dominion, the old issue being recalled. No envelope stamps under the new issue.

R. G. PATTON,
Ass't P. M. G.

W. A. K. Meriden, Conn.

The above letter proves the correctness of my former supposition, and fully proves the character of those stamps.

Respectfully,
W. A. K.

Meriden, Conn.

Answers to Correspondents.

W. H. S. Easton, Pa.—1: The "Mercury" has over 400 subscribers. 2, We don't know the owner's name or the number of Stamps in the largest collection. The largest hereabouts consists of 2500, counting locals. Our own (two months since we began) numbers 1700. 3. We cannot give you the names of the subscribers as it would not pay. 4. The firm you speak of is not a "Hoax" but almost so. 5. We have most all the newly issued stamps for sale as fast as they come out. 6. All stamps sold by the publisher since June 1867 are genuine.

C. W. Norwich, N. Y.—Wells, Fargo & Co's stamps were issued by them to prepay postage on letters and parcels conveyed by them, by their coaches on the overland route to California. They are now obsolete.

INQUIRER.—We will give a list next month of the different varieties of Wurtemberg stamps that we should collect.

J. W. P. Richmond, Va.—If you will send your stamps on for examination, we will tell you whether they are genuine or not.

METROPOLITAN.—The "S. C. Record" has not been published since last November though we have its publisher's word that it has not yet "gone up."

C. W. A. New York.—Your Basle stamp is a forgery.

Received Since Our Last.

THE AMERICAN JOURNAL OF PHILATELY; Nos. 2 and 3. New York; The N. Y. Philatelic Society.

This publication of which we have only seen the two last number and doubt the existence of the first is a 12 page octavo size paper, four pages being

devoted to New York dealer's advertisement and the balance, in the number from which we write with the transactions of the New York Philatelic Society. A chapter on newly issued stamps, Editor's Mail Bag, containing several articles, among them one taken from our pages and not credited, correspondence and other articles. It is well printed, but we would advise the publishers to use better paper, and not make the margin larger than the reading matter.

As a whole, it is a nice thing and we hope that it will succeed and continue to flourish.

Among the advertisements, we notice Confederate 10 cts. rose head of *Beauregard* for sale cheap. Would our contemporary inform us what they are? our curiosity has been excited lately on the Confederate stamps.

LE TIMBROPHILE, No. 42, Paris, France; Pierre Mahe.

N. E. P. O. RECORD; Nos. 11, 12, 13 and 14, Boston, Mass. Wm. M. Kendall.

[In this column we will give our *honest* and *unrestrained* opinion of all and any Timbrophilic publication that may come to our notice. If it deserves it, we will praise it, if it does not, we will criticise it, and hope their publishers will look on it in the same light, as we do and not expect "puffs" when they don't deserve it.]

ADVERTISED LETTERS.

We have letters sent to the following addresses and returned to us as "not called for." The parties to whom they are addressed will please claim them within ninety days, or they will be destroyed.

W. E. Cushing, Cleveland, Ohio.

W. L. Rich, Yonkers, N. Y.

A. F. Stoll, Orange, N. Y. (?)

A. L. Selles, Westchester,—

N. B. Strong, Hartford, Conn.

Also a lot of stamps for a young lady in Hartford, who forgot to sign her name to the order.

NEWLY ISSUED STAMPS CHEAP.

AUSTRIA, 2 kr. 5 cts., 3 kr. 6 cts., Newspaper stamp, 5 cts.; AUSTRIAN ITALY, 2 sld., 5 cts.; CANADA, 1-2 ct. 2 cts., 1 ct. 3 cts., 2 cts. 5 cts., 3 cts. 8 cts., the set of 7, 90 cts.; GERMANY, 1-4 s. gr. 5 cts., 1-3 s. gr. 6 cts., 1-2 s. gr. 8 cts.; HAMBURG, 1-2 sch. 6 cts.; MOLDO WALLACHIA, 2 bani, 6 cts., 4 bani 10 cts., 18 bani 35 cts.; SPAIN, 5 mill, 5 cts., 10 mill 8 cts.; SWITZERLAND 5 cent. env, 6 cts., 10 cent, env, 8 cts.; VENEZUELA 1-2 centavo, 8 cts., 1 centavo 10 cts.

All the above are unused and lately issued.

F. TRIFET, 20 State Street,
Boston, Mass.

CHEAP SETS.

Those marked by an asterisk (*) are unused.

| | | |
|------------------------|-------------|--------|
| Antigua | 2 Varieties | \$0.14 |
| Austria | 20 " | .60 |
| Austrian Italy | 6 " | .20 |
| Baden | 10 " | .30 |
| Bavaria, '51-62, | 8 " | .20 |
| Bavaria, '67, | 4 " | .15 |
| Belgium | 6 " | .20 |
| Brazil | 5 " | .30 |
| British Guiana, | 4 " | .20 |
| Brunswick | 5 " | .25 |
| *Canada 1851 | 6 " | 6.00 |
| " " '60-68 | 8 " | .15 |
| " " '68 | 7 " | .90 |
| *Cape of Good Hope Sq. | 4 " | 1.25 |
| Denmark | 5 " | .15 |
| *Egypt 1866 | 7 " | 2.30 |
| " " 1867 | 6 " | 2.00 |
| *France | 4 " | .12 |
| " | 10 " | .18 |
| Germany, North | 5 " | .18 |
| " " " '68, | 3 " | .20 |
| Germany South | 10 " | .30 |
| " " " '68, | 3 " | .20 |
| Great Britain | 12 " | .30 |
| Greece | 7 Varieties | .30 |
| Grenada | 2 " | .12 |
| *Hamburg Boten | 116 " | .75 |
| Hamburg, | 4 " | .20 |
| Hanover | 6 " | .25 |
| Hong Kong | 10 " | .45 |
| India | 6 " | .25 |
| *Ionian Islands | 3 " | .50 |
| Italy | 10 " | .35 |
| Jamaica | 4 " | .25 |
| *Luxemburg | 4 " | .15 |
| Mecklemburg Schwerin | 4 " | .25 |
| Moldo Wallachia 1868, | 3 " | .80 |
| Natal | 3 " | .15 |
| " " embossed, | 7 " | 8.00 |
| New Brunswick | 5 " | .12 |
| New South Wales | 4 " | .20 |
| New Zealand | 4 " | .20 |
| *Nicaragua | 2 " | .40 |
| Norway | 4 " | .20 |
| Nova Scotia | 5 " | .12 |
| Portugal | 5 " | .30 |
| Prussia | 25 " | .75 |
| " " | 5 " | .25 |
| Queensland | 3 " | .15 |
| *Romagna | 9 " | 1.75 |
| Roman States, | 6 " | .30 |
| Russia | 4 " | .20 |
| Salvador | 4 " | .75 |
| Saxony | 12 " | .40 |
| Schleswing Holstein | 5 " | .25 |
| *Sicily | 7 " | 1.75 |
| *Servia | 4 " | .30 |
| Spain (all issues) | 10 " | .50 |
| " " " " | 6 " | .35 |
| " " July' 67, | 4 " | .50 |
| " " Official, '54, | 4 " | .40 |
| " " " '55, | 4 " | .30 |
| Straits Settlement | 6 " | 1.00 |
| Sweden | 5 " | .15 |

| | | |
|---------------------|------|------|
| Switzerland | 12 " | .35 |
| * " envelopes | 3 " | .30 |
| Tasmania | 4 " | .20 |
| Trinidad | 3 " | .18 |
| *United States 1851 | 8 " | 1.10 |
| *N. Y. P. O. | 6 " | 2.50 |
| *Wells, Fargo & Co. | 11 " | 2.00 |
| Victoria | 6 " | .25 |
| Western Australia | 4 " | .25 |
| Wurtemberg | 8 " | .25 |

F. TRIFET, 20 State St., Room 12,
Boston, Mass.

Issued June 1st.

A New and Illustrated
DESCRIPTIVE PRICE-LIST
AND
CATALOGUE
OF

American and Foreign
Postage Stamps,

For Sale by F. TRIFET.

This is a new and complete Price Catalogue of all stamps issued from 1840 to 1868; compiled on an entirely new plan, and containing illustrations of many new and rare stamps. All former prices cancelled from date. SEND FOR IT. Sent, post paid, to any address on receipt of 15 cents, or 5 three cent stamps. A few copies will be interleaved with blank sheets to make notes, &c. These must be ordered in advance. Price, 25 cents. Address

F. TRIFET, 20 State St.,
Boston, Mass.

WANTED! The following stamps in any quantity.

CANADA; ½d., 6d. sterling, 10d., 12d. and envelopes.

NEW BRUNSWICK; 3d, 6d, 12d, 2 and 17 cents.

NEWFOUNDLAND; 4d, 6½d, 1s SCARLET, and 12, 13, and 24 cents.

NOVA SCOTIA; 1, 3, 6, 12 pence, and 8½ cents.

Also all kinds of Hong Kong, India, Victoria, Mexico, Salvador, New Zealand, Tasmania, and other colonial and South American stamps.

Persons having such will please send them on for inspection with the lowest prices pr. piece, dozen or hundred.

F. TRIFET
6-6t. 20 State St. Boston, Mass.

UNITED STATES.

The Set of Eight, including the 90 cent, 1851 unused, \$1.10,

Wells, Fargo & Co., Set of 11 unused, 2.00,
N. Y. P. O., Set of Five, 2.50.

The above are very cheap, and I have but a few sets on hand.

F. TRIFET, 20 State Street,
Boston, Mass.

5-3t

F. Trifet's June Announcements.

A New Illustrated Price Catalogue.

F. TRIFET'S NEW CATALOGUE published June 1st, gives the description and value of every stamp issued from 1840 to June, '68. It is illustrated with engravings of many new and rare stamps, and is the only complete catalogue published in America.

Price 15 cents. Interleaved with blank pages for making notes, &c., 25 cents.

40 Varieties for 25 cents.

THE TWENTY-FIVE CENT PACKET OF used stamps contains forty varieties, including Austria, Baden, Bavaria, Sweden, Canada, Switzerland, &c. All warranted genuine.

Cheap Italian Stamps.

ROMAGNA, SET OF NINE, \$1.75; Sicily, set of seven, \$1.75; Naples, set of eight, \$1.25. All unused and warranted genuine.

New Canada Stamps in Packets.

IN THE ONE DOLLAR PACKET OF UNUSED STAMPS there is a $\frac{1}{2}$, 1, 2 and 3 cent stamp of the new issue of Canada, besides 36 other stamps. All warranted genuine.

18 Colonial Stamps for 25 Cents.

F. TRIFET'S TWENTY-FIVE CENT PACKET OF used colonial stamps contains 18 varieties, including Barbadoes, Victoria, New South Wales, Queensland, &c.—All warranted genuine.

Cheap Sets of Unused Stamps.

EGYPT, 1866, set of seven, \$2.25. Egypt, 1867, set of six, \$2.00. Canada, 1851, set of six, \$6.00. Canada, 1868, set of seven, 90 cents. Ionian Islands, set of three, 60 cents. All unused and warranted genuine.

20 Used and Unused Stamps for 25 cents.

THE TWENTY-FIVE CENT PACKET OF USED AND Unused Stamps contains 20 varieties, including Greece, Brazil, Barbadoes, &c. All warranted genuine.

Hamburg Boten Stamps.

SETS OF 116, INCLUDING HAMER'S ADHESIVES & Envelopes, 2 sets of Hamonia, 4 of Scheerenbeck, 2 of Lafrentz, Krantz, &c., being the complete set for 75 cents. Warranted genuine.

The Cheapest Album advertised.

MULREADY ALBUM NO. 1. BOUGHT UP TO the present time, spaces being provided for all new issues, small oblong, cloth, post free, 90 cents. This is the best Album, for the money.

Fac Similes of Confederate Stamps.

ON RECEIPT OF 25 CENTS, I WILL SEND packet number four which contains 40 varieties of Confederate *Fac Similes*. They are well executed and very cheap. A discount will be made on a dozen packets.

The Cheapest Stamp Album.

NONPAREIL POSTAGE STAMP ALBUM, ruled to contain over 1100 stamps, with the description of current issue in English, French and German. Embossed cloth covers, post free 55 cents!

The latest Descriptive Catalogue.

THE STAMP COLLECTOR'S HAND-BOOK.— It gives a description of all stamps issued from 1840 to 1867 compiled by the late C. M. Seltz. Post-paid, 25 cents.

The only Album containing Places for Revenues.

HILL'S BOSTON STAMP ALBUM, contains places for 3000 Stamps, is divided into countries, each country having sufficient spaces for all past present and future issues. Printed in carmine ink, 4 to cloth gilt sides, \$3.00 post free, \$3.25.

For any of the above address F. TRIFET, 20 State Street, Boston, Mass.

The best Album published.

LALLIER'S ALBUM, TRANSLATED INTO English from the seventh French edition. Contains a full description of all American and foreign stamps, with compartments arranged for the reception of each. This is the most complete Album published. Imperial oblong, 5.00, cloth, clasp, post free \$5.50 half turkey morocco, better paper \$7.00.

15 unused stamps for 25 cents.

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The American Stamp Mercury

A JOURNAL DEVOTED TO STAMP COLLECTING.

VOL. I.

BOSTON, JULY, 1868.

No. IX.

THE AMERICAN STAMP MERCURY.

Published on the 1st of every month.

F. TRIFET, Proprietor,

20 STATE STREET, - BOSTON.

TERMS:

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AMERICAN STAMP MERCURY,

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NEWLY ISSUED STAMPS.

Our list this month is uncommonly small, and therefore few illustrations can be given, we hope next month to be able to give a better assortment, both of stamps and engravings. This time we commence with a beautiful set of stamps for

BOLIVIA.—We have seen but one value, the ten, but are indebted to the *Journal of Philately* for the description of the others. The design is a landscape in the centre, consisting of mountains, cattle, a star, &c. This is contained in an oval, covering part of flags, spears, &c., nine stars below. **CORREOS DE BOLIVIA** above, **DIEZ CENTAVOS** below and figures of value in upper angles.

They are rectangular, perforated and unwater-

marked and consist of the following values:

| |
|-------------------|
| 5 centavos green, |
| 10 " vermilion, |
| 50 " blue, |
| 100 " yellow, |
| 500 " black. |

ECUADOR.—We have in our collection a 12 real stamp, same design as the $\frac{1}{2}$ and 1 real, color rose. Is this a newly issued, or a "discovery." We pause for a reply.

WURTEMBERG.—The 7 kreuzer stamp noticed in our last is now in use.

CONFEDERATE STATES.—Once more we are called to speak of the Jackson (?) stamp by an article in the *S. C. Magazine*. This paper extracts Mr. Stephen's letter in our April number and does not understand part of it. Mr. S., 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. We hope to see in its next number the letter of Mr. St. George Offut which will, we think, warn the English Timbrophilist from being swindled by this humbug. To further help American collectors to detect it, we give an engraving of it.



While on this subject we may state that a New-York firm has, we have been told, a postmarked specimen on a whole envelope, of the recently denounced St. Louis stamps.

LEVANT.—A new set of stamps has been issued to supersede those now in use. They consist of

| |
|----------------------|
| 1 Kop., brown, |
| 3 " green, |
| 5 " blue, |
| 10 " green and rose. |

All of them are on white paper and perforated.

NORWAY.—A new value has appeared for this country. The design is the same as the last issue, 1 skilling flock.

THE VARIETIES OF THE WURTEMBERG STAMPS.

BY THE EDITOR.

We do not propose in this short article to give a minute description of all the stamps of Wurtemberg, but only of those which we think ought to be collected. Our ideas of collecting stamps are as follows :

1st. The real stamp as first issued.
2d. The different *standard* shades, not those done by the effects of the sun or acids.
3d. The different *kinds* of perforations. The mode of counting the number of holes is, to our minds, perfectly absurd. Why not collect stamps with thin or thick gum or no gum at all? It would not be more nonsensical.

4th. Watermarks when they serve to denote the date of an issue, such as the 1855-6-7 Spanish.

With the above rules we find 31 varieties of adhesive stamps have been issued for Wurtemberg. It is the list of these 31 varieties that we propose to give in this article.

FIGURE IN CENTER.

I. No threads, unperforated, colored paper.

- 1 Kr. buff,
- 3 " yellow,
- 6 " green,
- 9 " rose,
- 18 " violet.

ARMS.

II. With silk thread, not perforated, white paper.

- 1 Kr. brown,
- 3 " orange,
- 6 " green,
- 9 " rose,
- 18 " blue.

III. No thread, not perforated.

- 1 Kr. brown,
- 3 " orange,
- 6 " green,
- 9 " rose,
- 18 " blue.

IV. No threads, perforated by machine.

- 1 Kr. brown,
- 3 " orange,
- 6 " green,
- 9 " rose,
- 18 " blue.

V. No threads, perforated by machine.

- 1 Kr. green,
- 3 " rose,
- 6 " blue,

9 " brown,

18 " orange.

VI. No threads, perforated by *roulette*.

1 Kr. green,

3 " rose,

6 " blue,

7 " "

9 " brown,

18 " orange.

The above are what varieties we collect, besides which there are an average of two shades to each stamp making in all about 65 varieties.

If our readers collect all these and do the same with each country they need not be astonished when they ask some magazine the number of stamps issued and they tell him 3000 and in the next answer " Mr. So-and-So has 4000 stamps in his collection."

CORRESPONDENCE.

The Canada Envelopes Again.

To the Editor of the AMERICAN STAMP MERCURY.

SIR:— Prompted by a desire to put collectors on their guard, against being imposed upon, and wishing to settle a long disputed point, I wrote to the Post Master General of Canada, asking if the Envelope Stamps of that Province were ever printed on buff paper. You know the result for the fact that I send you a copy of a letter received in answer, stating that they *never were printed on buff paper*. It would be supposed that information coming from that source would be an axiom to go by, but in this case it is not. I have been laboring under a great mistake. I have now received information on the subject, which warrants me in asserting the impression on buff paper to be *Proofs and taken from the same dies that the white ones are printed from*. Therefore they are just as worthy of insertion in a collection as any proofs. I can present sufficient proof to establish the truth of this assertion if required. Asking pardon for thus encroaching upon your valuable space.

I remain, Sir, Yours Truly,

W. A. K.

Meriden, Conn.

We differ from our correspondent. Proofs have been struck from the real dies on buff paper but *only a few*. Those in question are in great number and they are forthcoming as fast as money to pay for them. We always did and always will consider these as *well executed forgeries* and beg our correspondent to "present sufficient proof" to establish the genuineness of these stamps and then, and not till then, shall we believe in their genuine character.

PHILATELY.

This is the new fangled term which a few egotists in Europe and a very few more in America, have in their self-sufficient wisdom decided to be the term by which the science of stamp collecting shall henceforth and for ever be designated.

Before accepting the word however, it might be as well to ascertain whence the same high sounding term is derived.

The coiners of the words gravely inform us that "Philately" is compounded from two Greek words, one of which means a *friend* and the other *exemption from tax* and on the strength of these two words, the word "Philatelist" literally "antitaxationist" is introduced to an enlightened community. So far, so good; in that sense, we have no objection whatever to the word "Philately," nay more we are an ardent Philatelist ourself and have a righteous contempt for income rates, special licenses, manufacturer's taxes, beer barrel stamps and other impositions as well as for the mercenary officials who impose them; but we respectfully submit that anti-taxationist and Stamp Collector are not synonymous terms, and further that not even the widest stretch of the imagination of the amateur lexicographers who coined the term can convince any sensible collector that the word "Philately," either in its derivation or literal sense, is in any way applicable as designating the science of stamp collecting and for which purpose we will venture the remark that the word *Timbrophily*, has hitherto been found in every way suitable without taxing either the patience of collectors or the brains (if they have any) of the pedantic egotists who coined the lovely phrase Philately.

REVIEW OF THE POSTAGE STAMPS IN THE FRENCH EXHIBITION.

TRANSLATED FROM THE FRENCH OF DR. MAGNUS,

Extracted from the Philatelist.

[continued from page 56.]

Among the English machinery, near the pyramid of Australian gold and the staircase leading to the gallery overlooking it, is all the apparatus pertaining to an English post-office. Separate tables for printed matter, &c., that on which letters are stamped, and the machine operating thereat, which is self-supplying with ink, and at one stroke impresses both date and the characteristic mark of the issuing post-office. The different

registered inscriptions are multiplied by means of copying paper interposed between the sheet bearing the actual writing and another, sometimes even a triplicate. Here is seen also both a simple letter-weight, and a graduated one denoting *grammes* as well as ounces. Farther on is the counter of the post-office. On one side stands a pillar box analogous to some in various parts of Paris; on another, a second box, fixed in a wall. We see, too, a miniature model of the machine invented by Messrs. Turner and Co., engineer, for lifting both clerks and mails in the London General post-office. Here on a table lie specimens of the different bags employed; the vignettes for marking them; and even the Argand lamp used in the travelling post-offices. The packets are now supposed to be made up ready for transmission. First we see a remembrance of the past—a miniature model of the Liverpool Royal Mail and appurtenances; then railway carriages shooting along a small tramway. Every one stops for a view of this miniature train. It is the travelling post-office. Everything is complete, even to the apparatus for dropping the bags and receiving others at different stations without stopping the train. The clerks alone are wanting, but complaint agents explain to you all these details. What then is needed? Actually nothing, for there are glass plates with coloured inscriptions for being affixed to lamps which indicate the nearest post-office; others in white ware for placing near the letter boxes to give necessary information; charts showing the circulation of dispatches in the city of London; and a frame exhibiting a series of adhesives and envelopes.

On the left: the twopenny envelope dark-blue, on white, with threads. Two dated penny envelopes on white.

On the right: a dated penny envelope on bluish paper. A pair of penny envelopes with threads.

In the center: a sheet containing a score of the large lettered threepenny labels in five rows.

Below, to the left, in a line: 1p., black, florets at the angles; 1p., amaranth, same design; 2p., blue, perforated, with letters at each corner; 3p., carmine-pink, with small letters.

Underneath: a sheet bearing a score of large-lettered fourpennies in five rows, and a similar one of sixpennies.

In the centre: covers; the Mulready vignette, 2p. blue and 1p. black, with the usual postal regulations.

On the right: a range of 4p., 6p., 9p., and 1sh. adhesives, all with small letters.

Then a pair of sheets holding respectively twenty large lettered 9p. and 1sh. in 5 rows.

The whole breadth of the frame is taken up by a row of cut envelopes and embossed stamps of the following values: 1p., 2p., 3p., and undated 6p.; the 4d., 6d., and 1sh., and the undated shilling and tenpenny. The undated ones are the adhesives of 1842. The others are fragments of envelopes.

The frame is completed by four sheets of the following stamps in four ranks by five:

The 1p. black, 1p. amaranth, and 2p. blue, each with four letters, the 3p. and the three halfpenny adhesive. The 3p. alone is perforated. The four letters of the last did not strike us as being of the same size as those on the essay known.

We must add that all this material has been assembled by the care of Mr. Pearson Hill, which means that it has been formed with what may be termed paternal love, and with such attention as would be expected from the son of the celebrated promoter of postal reform in England.

We earnestly advise our readers to visit this corner of the English exhibition, which will give them a good idea of the organization of postal service; for the procedure in England and in France is pretty much alike.

Let us now return to the French part of the exhibition, following the course of the machinery. We first meet with the frames of two exhibitors, Class 59, between the *rues* of Alace and Normandy. One of them, M. Bordes, jun., 33 Rue d'Amsterdam, Paris, prints postage stamps by help of a cylinder. This he exhibits, bearing twenty impressions in a row. These are not disposed in continuous perpendicular lines, but alternately the center of one corresponding with the lines separating those above and below it (like bricks in a wall, as described by ourselves in last month's number). Worked off from this machine is a rouleau in appearance like those prepared for papering rooms, covered with stamps, whose number we should estimate at 6,400, bearing the emperor's effigy in black, blue and carmine, but without specified value. We say nothing respecting the engraving, which serves principally to show the mode of impression, and this must certainly considerably lessen the expense.

The other exhibitor, M. Chezard, announces a patent taken in 1863, and an addition thereto in 1864, for printing stamps by means of a cylinder. His impressions are lineal, not alternating. There are several specimens of a blue stamp with the emperor's head, and sheets of the same in green. A third, likewise on a sheet, represents a cadu-

ceus in the center. All these have no specified value. The inventor announces that a million can be printed in an hour, which is certainly a surprising fact. With regard to the engraving, we can but repeat what we said before on the subject.

In the same machine gallery, M. Duloz, Class 95 exposes specimens of metal engraving and patterns of impressions executed by means of these engravings. He is the inventor of a procedure which is a wonderful combination of science applied to the art of engraving, reproducing an artist's design on copper, either in cameo or intaglio. From a plate made for *taille-douce* he forms a typographic die. This corner of the machine gallery is a branch of his workroom, where the plates are engraved and printed at the same time. All around figure the productions. In one frame are the Moldo-Wallachians, with Prince Couza's effigy, four blue, two orange, two carmine, and four violet. In the centre are four of the French empire stamps, blue, lilac, orange, and carmine. In a similar frame are the Ottoman labels. In a larger one, near the door, are the Ottomans, both postal and *chiffre-taxe*, in series of six, as well as the commercial labels of the same empire; then four sheets of Moldo-Wallachians, orange, violet, carmine and blue; then three rows of French commercials, blue, violet, and orange.

Leaving the machine department for the second gallery, we again see Moldo-Wallachians in the glass case of M. Stern, Class 8, 228. In the centre of a frame is the prince's photograph which served as a pattern for the engraver, and around it the 2 paras in ochre, blue, carmine, and violet, and the 5 paras in violet. Then follow a copperplate with 30 of the 5p. stamps, and some sheets impressed with the 5p. in vermilion, blue, carmine, and bistre. Below are the three steel dies of the 2, 5, and 20 paras. These stamps are simple as to composition, yet not devoid of elegance and gracefulness. It is not the designer's fault if the effigy they bear resembles a goodly *gendarme*. M. Duloz engraved these; but the revolution which broke out at Bucharest in the beginning of last year, overthrowing the prince's government, did not allow the emission of this series, which could but give the Roumanian population a high idea of French art.

M. Stern's exhibition contains, moreover, a 50 centime stamp for the Haitian Republic. When the restless citizens of this black republic shall think proper to gratify themselves with postage stamp, we hope they may apply to this engraver.

Not far off, in the same room, Class 90, 68, is a large tableau, reproducing all the types which have appeared in the *Magazin Pittoresque*. Then

M. Riester, Class 8, 207, among other ornamental engravings, exhibits his two essays for Egypt and Bolivia. M. Gasté, the lithographer's glass case, Class 6, 108, contains the same engraver's essay for San Marino.

In M. Poitevin's cases we again find the Ottoman stamps, for this engraver's exhibition is in two parts. In one are found entire sheets of the 10 paras, the 20 p. stamp and *chiffre-taxe*, the 1 piastre and the 2p. and a quarter of a sheet of 5 piastres. There are to be seen, moreover, the French commercial and telegraphic, of which we shall speak anon. On one side the glass case in two rows of eight stamps each, may be seen the 1p. pearl-grey, the 2p. blue, the 5p. red, and the 25p. orange, as well as the 10 paras green, the 20p orange-yellow, and the brown 25 piastre *chiffre-taxe*. The other case, in a neighbouring room, presents French *timbre de dimension*, erroneously termed stamps of value, worked off under M. Poitevin's directions in his stamp atelier. The values and colours are six, viz; 20 centimes, lilac-grey; 50c., bistre; 1 franc green; 1.50, brick; 2f., pale-blue; 3f., carmine. All these alike in design, depict the arms of the French empire on a shield, upon the imperial mantle, surmounted by a crown. There details are lost in the lines of the groundwork, and all effects destroyed for that reason. The impression is, moreover very defective. The same case contains the intended French telegram stamps. They are very similar in type to the old adhesive *dimension* labels; representing a crowned eagle holding a thunderbolt, within a coloured oval. At the upper angles are bees; at the lower is the value in figures. The word TIMBRE-TELEGRAMME, and the value come out in the oval, in white on colour. There are four values of them: 50 centimes, green; 25c., carmine; 2 francs, violet; 1f., ochre. The designer of the engraving is M. Oudiné, to whose art are due some remarkable medals and coins, among others those of the French Republic. We imagine these stamps have been modified on the primitive die, and multiplied by the method of M. Duloz.

[To be continued.]

Answers to Puzzles in Our Last.

13.—Le Timbrophile and the American Stamp Mercury.

14.—The Illustrated Postage Stamp Album and Catalogue by G. Banschke.

POSTAL MISCELLANY.

LETTERS directed with lead-pencils are now sent to the Dead Letter Office.

PRINCE MICHEL of Servia was assassinated while walking with his cousin and a lady some day last month. We would not call the attention of our readers to this, were it not to say that we doubt if one out of a thousand persons, besides stamps collectors, in this country, ever heard of this man's name, before it was made so public by his death. The same might be said of Heligoland, Orange Free State, and other countries which Timbrophili brings to our notice.

Answers to Correspondents.

F. A. D.—Montrose, Pa.—By the looks of things we should judge that all the values of United States stamps will be embossed.

J. F. S.—New York.—The Prussian official or special stamps are printed on gold beater's skin on the wrong side, therefore when once stuck on the paper they cannot be pulled off without spoiling the impression.

W. J. R.—Albany, N. Y.—Our object in having the initial of the last name of correspondents is this, letters directed to Post Offices are placed in pigeon holes according to said initial and if we write "A. B. Hodge," instead of "A. B. Dodge," it is very likely that the letter will never be delivered.

G. W. W.—Portsmouth, N. H.—1. Your enigma is not quite up to the standard. Try again. 2. Our publisher does not "swap" stamp for stamp. Send your duplicates and state the lowest price you want in cash and state what stamps you want for that amount.

G. F. H.—Montclair, N. J.—The statement of a dealer to you, saying that he *could* sell cheaper than any one else, is not true, for there are plenty European dealers and our own publisher that *can* and *does* undersell him.

We would also advise the same party to stop using his influence, if he has any, with our correspondents, for his statement to you that F. Trifet sells from 25 to 100 per cent in advance of cost is, to use a mild term, a lie. If nothing else can be done to stop this, we will give him the benefit of a free advertisement in our columns, name and all.

the report of the P. M. General of Canada for the year 1851 (*in which the receipts from sales of stamps forms part of the statistics*) that our publisher correctly stated the date of issue of the first Canada stamps to be 1851, and we defy him to produce any evidence to the contrary other than the weak rapid authority of the erudite compiler of the so-called "Chronological and heterogeneous system" which forms such an important feature in his Journal but which system is entirely copied from our publishers price catalogue *without a single exception*, and as the worthy compiler thereof vauntingly places his name above the valuable result of his labors and as he returns thanks to Lallier, Gray, Brown, as well as to the imaginary personage Bunger of Bungtown we do modestly present our humble claims on his gratitude seeing that his valuable compilation is simply a transposed reprint of our catalogue, *not a single original line having as yet appeared in it.*

Of course such an enlightened and gifted gentleman as the compiler is known to be would not descend to plagiarism,—of course not but we leave such of our readers as have been fortunate to obtain a glimpse of the "Chronological system" to form their own conclusions.

Regarding the sneer at our grammar we will only remark that we have a tolerable respect both for Grammatic rules and Webster's Dictionary which latter is a work which we advise our worthy cotemporary to add to the "Philatelic" library at the earliest possible date and further to study it devoutly and in the course of a few months he may probably ascertain that the words *columnne*, *tho*, *catalogue*, *persume* &c. are not to be found in it,

The rest of his criticism we comprehend not, for like the peace of God, it passeth our understanding. "But, more anon" if need be.

ADVERTISED LETTERS.

We have letters sent to the following addresses and returned to us as "not called for." The parties to whom they are addressed will please claim them within ninety days, or they will be destroyed.

O. Zabel, 255 N. 15th. St. Philadelphia, Pa

H. Lawson, West Chester, N. Y.

C. B. Cook, Castile, N. Y.

E. Hitchcock, Springfield, Mass.

PROSPECTUS OF THE 2D VOL.

OF

The American Stamp Mercury.

ENLARGED TO TWELVE PAGES.

With the next number but one of the *Mercury*, the second volume begins, and the publisher feels it his duty to thank the collectors of America, as well as abroad, for the liberal support they have given it during the first year of its existence. No pains will be spared to keep it above all others in rank, and nothing that work or money can do will be left undone, in order to keep to it the title it has attained of

THE BEST STAMP PAPER IN AMERICA.

The publisher hopes to see all the old names on his new list, and is sure that his friends will not desert him, but send as long lists of clubs as they can get. Remember that the size of the paper is in your hands, and the more subscribers, the larger the magazine. The following will be the

CONTENTS :

NEWLY ISSUED STAMPS.—A full list of all stamps issued during the month will be given, illustrated with, on an average, *three engravings a month.*

ORIGINAL ARTICLES,—by some of the best writers at home and abroad.

CORRESPONDENCE.—This will no doubt be an interesting portion as the number of correspondents is very large and *extends all over the world.*

ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS.—Any information the editor can give, he will gladly do so in this column.

EXTRACTS.—This will be a *new and very interesting* feature. All the *best* articles in our exchanges will be reprinted here, *as fast as they appear in them*, therefore making the editorial corps of the *Mercury* as large as all the others put together. This will, it is believed, be a great improvement, and a person subscribing to the *Mercury* will thus get *all* the news he would otherwise find in a dozen magazines.

ADVERTISEMENTS—will be inserted in the other four pages only, thereby not interfering with the reading matter in the least.

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Those marked by an asterisk (*) are unused.

| | | |
|------------------------|--------------|--------|
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| Baden | 10 " | .30 |
| Bavaria, '51-62, | 8 " | .20 |
| Bavaria, '67, | 4 " | .15 |
| Belgium | 6 " | .20 |
| Bermuda, | 4 " | .45 |
| Brazil | 5 " | .30 |
| British Guiana, | 4 " | .20 |
| Brunswick | 5 " | .25 |
| *Canada 1851 | 6 " | 6.00 |
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| Germany, North | 10 " | .30 |
| " " " '68, | 3 " | .20 |
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| " " " '68, | 3 " | .20 |
| Great Britain | 12 " | .30 |
| Greece | 7 Varieties | .30 |
| *Hamburg Boten | 116 " | .75 |
| Hamburg, | 4 " | .20 |
| Hanover | 6 " | .25 |
| Holland, | 5 " | .15 |
| Hong Kong | 10 " | .45 |
| India | 6 " | .25 |
| *Ionian Islands | 3 " | .50 |
| Italy | 10 " | .35 |
| Jamaica | 4 " | .25 |
| Mecklenburg Schwerin | 4 " | .25 |
| Moldo Wallachia 1868, | 3 " | .20 |
| Natal | 3 " | .15 |
| " " embossed, | 7 " | 8.00 |
| New South Wales | 4 " | .20 |
| New Zealand | 4 " | .20 |
| *Nicaragua | 2 " | .40 |
| Norway | 4 " | .20 |
| Oldenburg, | 4 " | .18 |
| Prussia | 25 " | .75 |
| " " | 5 " | .25 |
| Queensland | 3 " | .15 |
| *Romagna | 9 " | 1.75 |
| Roman States, | 6 " | .30 |
| Russia | 4 " | .20 |
| Salvador | 3 " | .60 |
| Saxony | 12 " | .40 |
| Schleswing Holstein | 5 " | .25 |
| *Sicily | 7 " | 1.75 |
| *Servia | 7 " | .80 |
| Spain (all issues) | 10 " | .50 |
| " " " " | 6 " | .35 |
| " " July '67, | 4 " | .50 |
| " " Official, '54, | 4 " | .40 |
| " " " '55, | 4 " | .30 |
| Straits Settlement | 6 " | 1.00 |
| Sweden | 5 " | .15 |
| Switzerland | 12 " | .35 |
| " " envelopes | 3 " | .30 |
| Tasmania | 4 " | .20 |
| Trinidad | 3 " | .18 |

| | | | |
|---------------------|----|---|------|
| *United States 1851 | 8 | " | 1.10 |
| *N. Y. P. O. | 5 | " | 2.50 |
| *Wells, Fargo & Co. | 11 | " | 2.00 |
| Victoria | 6 | " | .25 |
| Western Australia | 4 | " | .25 |
| Wurtemberg | 8 | " | .25 |

F. TRIFET, 20 State St., Room 12,
Boston, Mass.

Issued June 1868.

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DESCRIPTIVE PRICE-LIST

AND
CATALOGUE
OF

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Postage Stamps,

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This is a new and complete Price Catalogue of all stamps issued from 1840 to 1868; compiled on an entirely new plan, and containing illustrations of many new and rare stamps. All former prices cancelled from date. SEND FOR IT. Sent, post paid, to any address on receipt of 15 cents, or 5¢ three cent stamps. *A few copies will be interleaved with blank sheets to make notes, &c. Price, 25 cents.

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Cheap Italian Stamps.

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IN THE ONE DOLLAR PACKET OF UNUSED STAMPS there is a $\frac{1}{2}$, 1, 2 and 3 cent stamp of the new issue of Canada, besides 36 other stamps. All warranted genuine.

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20 Used and Unused Stamps for 25 cents.

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Hamburg Boten Stamps.

SETS OF 116, INCLUDING HAMER'S ADHESIVES & S Envelopes, 2 sets of Hamonia, 4 of Scheerneck, 2 of Lafrentz, Krantz, &c., being the complete set for 75 cents. Warranted genuine.

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ON RECEIPT OF 25 CTS., I WILL SEND PACKET number four, which contains 40 varieties of Confederate *Fac Similes*. They are well executed and cheap. A discount will be made on a dozen packets.

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THE STAMP COLLECTOR'S HANDBOOK.—IT gives a description of all stamps issued from 1840 to 1867 compiled by the late C. M. Celfz. Postpaid, 25 cents.

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NEW PACKET LIST ISSUED MAY 20TH. SEND one stamp for it. You will find on it many packets that cannot be equalled and none that can be beaten by any dealer in this Country. 540 have been sold since May 20th.

Confederate Stamps, Cheap.

NOW IS THE TIME TO FILL YOUR SETS. 1 CENT orange, \$2.50. 2 cents green, \$2.00. 5 cents green or blue, 60 cents. 10 cents blue, \$1.00. 10 cent rose \$2.00. Ten cents blue \$2.00. All the above are the old issue, very rare and cheap, also warranted genuine

If you try other dealers and are not satisfied, try me. **ONLY ONE TRIAL IS SOLICITED AND IF NOT** satisfactory, I am willing to return the money. This is an advantage that other dealers don't give you.

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UNITED STATES STAMPS, COMPLETE SET OF 1851 issue \$1.10. Set of Wells, Fargo & Co.'s Express Stamps \$2.00. Set of N. Y. P. O. stamps, one stamp and four proofs, \$2.50. All unused and warranted genuine.

60 used and unused Stamps for 75 cents.

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Well mixed European Stamps.

CONTINENTALS IN LARGE OR SMALL LOTS. 100 for 25 cents, 500 \$1.15. Better quality 100 for 50 cents; 500 \$2.00.

Wood cuts of newly issued Stamps.

ENGRAVINGS OF NEWLY ISSUED STAMPS These are electrotypes of well executed cuts and are suitable to illustrate dealer's lists, circulars, &c. 18 varieties now ready, price \$1.00 each, or \$16.00 for the set

Extraordinary Success.

MAY 20TH. I ISSUED MY NEW PACKET LIST called "the Vini, Vidi, Vici, series" and am most thankful for the number of them that have been ordered. No better advertisement of these popular packets can be made than to state that 540 have been sold since they were first issued, May 20th to June 30th.

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ENTERTAINING READING FOR STAMP COL- lectors as well as others. The best Stamp Paper in America. Is always quoted as the authority. Subscription only 50 cents per year. Examine this number and if you are not a subscriber you will soon be. Back numbers supplied.

Flags and Arms of all nations.

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THE THREE DOLLAR PACKET OF USED AND unused stamps contains 175 varieties including Holland, Western Australia, Hamburg 1868, also Germany, Wurtemberg Parma, new Canada, Turk's Island, Sardinia &c. All warranted genuine.

Wanted to Buy

STAMPS OF ALL KINDS, PARTICULARLY THE first issue of New Brunswick, Nova Scotia and Newfoundland, Colonial stamps of all kinds, no matter how common or rare, and all other stamps. Also collections,

For any of the above address F. TRIFET, 20 State Street, Boston, Mass.

The American Stamp Mercury

A JOURNAL DEVOTED TO STAMP COLLECTING.

VOL. I.

BOSTON, OCTOBER, 1868.

No. XII

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F. TRIFET, Proprietor,
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NEWLY ISSUED STAMPS.

SUEZ CANAL COMPANY.—This Company has just



issued a series of stamps, similar in appearance to the annexed engraving, the use of which is to prepay the letters of the persons engaged in the working of

the Canal. There are six values:

1 centime, black, 20 centimes blue,

5 " green, 40 " rose,

The others are no doubt 10 and 80 centimes though we are not sure.

SARAWAK.—The *Philatelist* announces a stamp for this province, the value of which is three cents, printed in brown or yellow paper perforated.

INDIA.—The new 8 anna stamp noticed in our last is obtained by placing the head of the four anna, octagonal, inside of the eight anna frame. It is printed as formerly, pink on white.

STRAITS SETTLEMENTS.—We have to add two more values to the present issue, viz:

2 cents, light-brown,

4 " carmine.

SWITZERLAND.—The 25 centimes stamp announced some time since has made his appearance. It is of the same type as the other values, printed in green. Also an envelope of the same value and colour.

Our "Local" Stamps.

BY S. A. T.

[Continued from Page 79.]

The next Local stamp claiming our attention is that issued by I. H. Prince, of Portland, Maine. This stamp is still used, and dates back some seven years. It may perhaps sound strange to some of our readers to learn that a great number of letters are daily conveyed between Portland and Boston by a private party in the face of the high sounding but unconstitutional proclamation to be seen in the Boston P.O. regulations which states that *the streets of Boston have been declared a postal route to the exclusion of all unauthorized letter carriers.*

Mr. Prince's stamp continues in existence for the following reason:

By the present mail arrangements between Portland and Boston, the afternoon mail closes in Portland at about 3 P. M., consequently letters posted after that hour have to wait the following mail which is not made up until the next morning, and in consequence, letters posted after 3 P. M. are not delivered in Boston until noon of the fol-

