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That Stamped Envelope.

Some of our subscribers have not received their premiums because they have neglected to send a stamped and addressed envelope. Without this no premium can be sent. Subscribers in the United States and Newfoundland should send an addressed envelope with a 3c stamp *in* it instead of *on* it. Subscribers in other countries may send 40c in well-centred unused stamps, as many different values as possible, which pays for subscription, premium, postage and exchange notice.

The New Hebrides.

The following information concerning this interesting group of islands is translated from the September, 1897, number of the *Collectionneur de Timbres-Poste*.

Between 13 deg. 4 min. and 20 deg. 15 min. south latitude and 164 deg. 10 min. and 167 deg. 50 min. east longitude lies the New Hebrides archipelago. It was discovered by Quiros in 1606, and visited by Bougainville in 1768 and by Cook in 1773. Christened *Espiritu Santo* by the first and the *Cyclades* by the second, it has finally preserved the name given it by the great English navigator.

This archipelago comprises a considerable number of islands forming two groups and named as follows: *Annatum*, *Erroman*, *Tanna*, *Aniwa* and *Erromango*, which make the first group, nearest to New Caledon-

ia; and *Sandwich*, *Maiwo*, *Api*, *Lopevi*, *Ambrym*, *Aurora*, *Espiritu Santo*, *Aoba*, *Malikolo* and others, which compose the second group.

To the north of these are the *Torres Islands* and *Banks Islands*, and, at a short distance, *Vanikoro*, sadly memorable for the wreck of *La Perouse*.

It may be said that geographically these islands are an unique group, so great is the surface over which they are spread. The archipelago properly called the *New Hebrides* embraces about the same area as the whole of *New Caledonia*, about 7500 square miles.

As to population, it can only be indicated approximately, the interior being very little known and the estimates of travellers being very far from the same. It may be said that the population is from 60,000 to 100,000 and is becoming smaller every day.

The formation is madreporic (coral) and volcanic. Accordingly the existence of several volcanoes has been proved, three of which are active, those of *Tanna*, *Lopevi* and *Ambrym*.

The soil is most fertile, streams are numerous and vast forests cover the mountains to the edge of the sea. There are the same forms of vegetation which are met with in *New Caledonia*. The animals are not very numerous, and as indigenous to the islands may be mentioned the duck, the pigeon, several species of parrot, some small birds and the serpent.