

THE PHILATELIST.

I have arrived in Vicksburg for the purpose of giving your citizens a—, he commenced, when the red-headed man shouted :

What do I care where you've arrived to ! Don't stop me on the street again, sir.

The stamp album man went into a store and tried to trade stamp albums for some calico, and failing to make the exchange, he crossed the street and approached a man who was whistling for his dog.

Mister, I have arrived—, he was going on, when he saw that he was the same little red-headed man.

See here, said the little man, didn't I warn you over there not to say stamp albums to me again ?

It is an excellent album.

Well, now, you keep away from me—keep right away, continued the little man, as he walked off.

He went into a grocery and had some coffee put up, and was just coming out when the stamp album man came along and said :

Mister, I have arrived here in order to —.

The little man smiled. He said he had been looking for a stamp album—a good stamp album these many years, and he wanted to buy eighteen of them. He asked the stamp album man to follow him home, and they were seen on the street together. They were seen half a mile above the city by one party, and a mile above that by two boys, since which time no one has secured a clue to the fate of the stamp album man.

The red-headed man came back looking tired, and one of his fingers was done up in a rag, and he refuses to answer any questions. We believe there has been foul play, and we hope the police will make every effort to ferret out the guilty party.

Hearts may be aching for the return of the stamp album man, and even if he be dead, as we suspect, it will be some consolation for his widow to sit beside his grave, and remember that he was kind-hearted as well as earnest.

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BLACK MOUNTAIN.

Montenegro is one of the least known of the stamp issuing countries. Its domain is not very extensive, comprising but two thousand square miles, its inhabitants numbering about two millions. The proper name is Czernogora, (Black Mountain), Montenegro being an Italian translation.

Up to the year 1878 there were no towns in Montenegro, the capital Cetting, consisting of a collection of one hundred houses of a poor sort. After the Russo-Turkish war, the independence of Montenegro was recognized, and a slice of territory bordering on the Adriatic was added, giving them a solitary seaport.

In this newly acquired territory there are several towns, the largest containing 7,500 people. The people are very ignorant, hold education in contempt and very few of them can read or write. There are but three or four schools in the whole country. Up to 1871 there was not a single newspaper published within its borders. There is very little commerce and the people are poor. They are a brave and hardy