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## Rare and Obsolete Stamps.

## NO. 1.

IN order to make our paper still more attractive and valuable to the collector, we intend continuing monthly a series of articles on rare and obsolete stamps. As our space is more confined this issue than it usually has been, we are compelled to make this article much shorter than we originally intended. But perhaps next month we may have more room—for the present, however, our readers must accept this apology, as it is the best we can do under the circumstances. We will at once proceed to our task, and note first:

## THE 12D. CANADA.

This stamp, as some of our readers are aware, was in use but a short time; so short, that many persons—even those residing in Canada—know nothing about it. One gentleman living in Quebec, to whom we had written on the subject some time ago, informed us that we must have been labouring under some mistake when we asked him for some particulars about it. He told us that no such stamp was ever issued; but a subsequent letter from him told a totally different tale, (as we expected.) He gave us a few facts, and that was all we wanted. It was at first intended for postage to England, and was actually used for a time. The postage was afterwards reduced, and the 10d. stamp took the place of the 12d. The latter is now (the genuine) one of the rarest in existence, and very readily obtains such prices as \$4.00, and even \$5.00 for one specimen. Proofs are often offered for sale on India paper, with the word *specimen* printed at the side. Amateur collectors must content themselves with this last, for it is utterly impossible to obtain the real Simon Pure article for less than the sums we name; and even then it is doubtful whether it can be had at that price or not. The color of the genuine stamp is black. It is an adhesive, and contains a portrait of Queen Victoria in an inscribed oval, with figures 12 at corners. The Canadian stamps were first issued in the year 1851, and not in 1856 or 1857 as stated in several catalogues.

COLLECTORS will do well to send for Messrs. G. W. Winterburn & Co.'s Catalogue, before purchasing elsewhere. Price only 15 cents.

## Postal Chit-Chat.

WHY is a letter posted to a friend like a small American coin? Because it is one sent, (one cent.)

WHY is a naughty school boy like a postage stamp? Because he needs to be licked and put in the corner to make him stick to his letters.

PLINY MILES, a gentleman well known in the United States from his efforts in behalf of cheap postage, died recently at the Island of Malta; He was a native of Watertown, New York.—*Cincinnati Daily Gazette.*

Courteous Georgia Postmaster has paid over to the Post Office Department, in greenbacks, the value of the postage stamps he had on hand at the breaking out of the war. This is the only case of the kind which has come to the knowledge of the department.

THE Tribunal of Justice at Paris has condemned M. Marion to pay the sum of 5000frs. for advertising and selling the current French stamps above their facial value.

THE French Colonial stamps are now used in the Isle of Reunion.

AN exchange paper contains the following:—Nicaragua is so called after the name of an Indian King who ruled that country previous to the discovery by the Spaniards. The country is in a very insecure condition at present and it is not safe to enclose money in letters.

NEW STAMPED ENVELOPES.—The Post Office Department has shown a desire to meet the wants of the business public by an issue of two new varieties of stamped envelopes, viz.: the ordinary letter size with the double rate of six cent stamps, and the official size bearing the single rate of three cent stamps. Heretofore in sending letters weighing half an ounce or more in letter size Government envelopes, it has been necessary to use an adhesive stamp to pay the excess of postage, thus disfiguring the appearance of the envelope and causing an increase of work in the labor of cancellation. So in regard to the official size, with an inclosure of less weight than half an ounce, the use of stamped envelopes is necessitated of one rate postage. Both these inconveniences are obviated by the issue of the new envelope, which will soon be for sale at the principal offices, throughout the