

we found a piece of half burnt paper which had apparently been a portion of the wadding of a gun. It was a small portion of a letter, but only one word could be made out, and that was merely the word "and," but the handwriting seemed familiar—so much so, that Ellen started when she saw it."

"Whose hand was it in?"

"Edward Bland's."

"Edward Bland's?"

"Yes, Ellen and I compared the word with the same one in his letters, and it was precisely the same. Your assassin must be a correspondent of his."

"That does not follow my dear; he may have merely stolen or found the letter. A man who would murder another in such a manner, would be guilty of any baseness."

"I thought that I had joined one link of the chain which is to discover him, but I fear that I deceived myself."

"Perhaps not, Alice. This may be a link of that chain; but I only caution you not to have too high hopes lest they may prove delusive."

Just then Ellen Foster came in and joined the lovers.

"Upon my word, Charles," she said, "you have a most miraculous way of getting into danger. However, in the last instance you were not alone in it, and that does not make it so bad."

"I must confess Ellen that however much I appreciate the merits of good society I cannot see that it is any advantage in a case of drowning."

"What a capital reasoner you are, Charles. I am charmed with your logic. I retract my words; but then you will confess that it is very unpleasant to be alone, especially when one is in a disagreeable situation. Am I not right?"

"Alone," muttered Charles, as he mused over the word; I have been alone long enough, and looking up he answered, gaily, "It is bad being alone, is it not Alice?—won't you name the day?"

"Let me name it," said Ellen, "and I'll say this day week. How does that suit your views, Charles, and yours, Alice?"

"Agreed," said Charles, jumping from his chair, and playfully grasping Alice's hand. "Won't this day week do as well as next year?"

Alice blushed and looked confused as any young lady might be expected to do under the circumstances; and Ellen made her escape from the room, leaving the lovers to finish the conversation themselves. We need not give all that was said pro and con; the result of it was that the day of Ellen's choosing was agreed on, and preparations immediately commenced for the wedding, which was to be on a grand scale.

Mrs. Alton entered a feeble protest against the shortness of the notice but as she was in a decided minority, she waived her objections as all minorities should do, and accepted the situation.

FORGED STAMPS

FROM

"THE VADE MECUM"

BY J. M. STOURTON, ESQ.

SPAIN.

Forgery No. 2.

GENUINE.

FORGED.

Words 'Correo' and 'Franco' are of moderate size, and do not, in any place, touch the white line below them.

The queen has a *nez retroussé*.

Words 'Correo' and 'Franco' are *very large*, and *touch* in several places, the white line below them.

The queen's nose is perfectly *straight*.

1851. Head of Queen to the right. 6 c., black. Rect. Date indicated.

Forgery, No. 1.

GENUINE.

FORGED.

In this Stamp also the queen has a *nez retroussé*.

Corner ornaments are composed of nine or ten folds. The black line surrounding the inscription and value, is very thin.

The end of the queen's hair *almost touches* the border line.

The left hand bottom corner of the queen's neck *almost touches* the border.

The queen's nose is quite *straight*.

Corner ornaments are only composed of *five* folds.

Black line surrounding the inscription and value, is *remarkably thick*.

The end of the queen's hair *does not nearly touch* the border line.

The left hand bottom corner of the queen's neck is *some distance* from the border.

Forgery, No. 2.

GENUINE.

FORGED.

Above the wreath nine strokes may be counted.

The shading of the chin and neck is composed wholly of little dots.

Die-printed.

There are only *six* strokes above the wreath.

The shading of the chin and neck is composed of both *dots and lines*.

Lithographed.

1850. Head of Queen to the left. Rect. 5 reales, cinnamon. Date indicated.

GENUINE.

FORGED.

The bottom of the neck touches the white line below it.

Background is composed of crossed lines very close together.

All the letters in 'Certificado' are of the same size.

The bottom of the neck *does not nearly touch* the white line below it.

The lines in the background are *further apart*.

The letters 'DO' of 'Certificado' are *smaller* than the rest of the letters.