

MONTHLY



GAZETTE.

VOL. 1. NO. 1.]

ST. JOHN, NEW BRUNSWICK, JUNE 1, 1865.

[PRICE 5 CTS.]

To our Readers.

WE do not think that it is necessary to offer any apology to the stamp collecting community of these provinces, for bringing our little journal before them, and yet perhaps it is but meet that we should set forth our reasons for so doing. They are very easily stated, and we will endeavour to do so in as few words as possible.

We have long felt that a periodical of some kind, representing the interests of the *timbro phile* world in this quarter of the globe, was much needed; so we came. And here we are kind reader before you, hoping to win your approval, dreading lest we receive your censure; and if haply we gain your approbation and patronage, we will strive not to misuse your confidence; if not we shall at least have the proud satisfaction of having done our best to serve you. If you will but stand by us we will endeavour to do the same by you to the best of our ability and power.

We believe that many persons are under the impression that stamp collecting is slowly but surely dying out, and therefore a journal of this kind is superfluous. This is a wrong idea, it is true, we admit that with many it is not quite so popular as it once was. There is a certain class in every community, who, as soon as anything new or novel is originated, seize hold of it with great avidity, and even with much seeming earnestness; they talk "large," and make a great deal of noise, and then, as soon as the excitement has worn away, they drop it as the child does the *once* delightful toy.

So it is in this case: this said class when stamp collecting commenced, both in Europe and America, went at it with somewhat more than usual eagerness, and, just as might be expected their voice was more than usually loud. The idea was so simple, and seemed so *nice and interesting*, that they wondered they had not thought of it before.

But now that they had got hold of it, they determined that it should be known; accordingly their conversation was all of "obsoletes," "old and present issues," "the last new stamp," &c. &c.; until their unwilling hearers became thoroughly disgusted—directly with them and indirectly with their subject; and thus arose an unwarranted prejudice against the postage stamp movement.

Now when the voice of these noisy ones

ceased to be heard, many who only judged of the popularity of the thing, by the amount of talking done by these self-appointed *expounders* of the movement, erroneously inferred from this circumstance that the *timbro-mania* was getting pretty well "played out."

This was decidedly a mistake: it had passed only into other and better hands; and it is these latter that have made it what it is. Stamp collecting has been completely remodelled and systematized in all its details, and is now quite an institution in almost all civilized countries. If any proof were wanting to establish this truth, we need but point to the numerous stamp publications in existence, which are devoted entirely to this subject. In England alone there are at least a score of weekly and monthly papers and magazines of this kind, and it is also well represented on the continent of Europe and in the United States. We need not mention the regular stamp dealers and agents, they are to be found in every place of any importance, in abundance. In these provinces and more especially in New Brunswick and Prince Edward Island, we think the trade is in the hands of too few, there is not enough of opposition—which is generally said to be the life of trade. We therefore propose to put new life into it by getting up a little more opposition. This will, we believe, work beneficially for both buyer and seller, for stamps will be sold at a lower rate, and at these more moderate prices a larger number will be disposed of. Thus, trade will be extended, and the interests of all parties will be advanced, directly or indirectly.

To those persons who have not the opportunity of seeing British or Foreign "stamp collector's" periodicals, our journal will be particularly valuable, for we intend to give a general synopsis of their contents, each month, in our columns. All new stamps will be noticed as they appear; forgeries, of which there are very many in circulation, will be duly announced and observed as correctly as possible; and in our advertizing columns will be found the names and addresses of the most enterprising and trustworthy dealers and agents.

And now, kind readers, in conclusion we respectfully solicit your continued patronage and favours, as we are determined, if possible, to make our paper one of the best of its kind; and should we receive sufficient encouragement in the way