

believe all its departments are in *AI* working order, which is an unusual occurrence among Philatelic societies.

We see by a recent issue of *Stanley Gibbons' Monthly Journal* that the ways of the postal officials in Persia are inscrutable. Some time ago the 7 sh. stamps ran short at a certain office, but as 10 sh. stamps were plentiful, the postmaster informed his customers that they must put 10 sh. on their letters instead of 9 sh. (usually made up of 7 sh. and 2 sh.), and as the officials usually take the money and put the stamps on the letters themselves, the senders were forced to an extra charge of 1 sh. per letter.

Doubtless most of our readers were at the World's Columbian Exposition, but few seem aware of the immense quantities of counterfeit stamps that were sold on the ground, especially in the Manufacturers' Building. Here forgeries were openly exposed for sale, at low prices it is true, yet it is to be regretted that some Chicago collectors did not bring the matter before the proper authorities, who would probably have stopped it. The counterfeits were all imitations of the very poorest order, and cancelled. Cape of Good Hope triangulars and Suez Canal were abundant. This trash, we regret to say, has been carried all over the States and Canada.

The quality of philatelic literature in general is improving. The *Christmas Pennysonian Philatelist* has just been received and consists of 164 pages and cover, 96 pages of which consist of reading matter. Several illustrations are given among which is a plate of 34 American collectors and dealers; a page illustration shows us the three Reading editors of the paper Messrs. Kissinger, Kantner and Fox, or as they call themselves, "Reading's great three." The articles are numerous, the poetry abundant, and the contributors are our best writers. We regret we have not the space at our disposal to give an extensive review of the articles, which are exceptionally fine. Taken all together the *Christmas Pennysonian* is a very creditable number.

In our last issue we promised to secure additional information regarding Henry Ades Fowler and his *Canadian Journal of Philately*. He has ceased publishing the paper and has sent his creditors a statement like this: "As *The Canadian Journal of Philately* has suspended publication on Dec 1st, 1893, and you rank as a creditor of the paper its affairs will have to be wound up before a settlement is sent you." Notwithstanding, an advertisement has since appeared in another paper of his, *The International Philatelist*, soliciting subscriptions for this new defunct journal. Subscribers are apt to be out on the amount of their subscriptions, \$2 00 or \$3 00 as the case may be. Should any further information be received our readers will be promptly informed in regard to the developments.

## Mr. R. Chas. Sparks.



**M**R. R. CHAS. SPARKS, whose portrait we present this week, is one of the leading advanced collectors of Canada, he resides at Ottawa, at which place he was born in 1869, and he is consequently about 25 years of age. Mr. Sparks began collecting at a very early age and until recently was a general collector, he now however is a specialist and collects British North American stamps only, of which he has a very fine collection, among which we may mention the shillings of Newfoundland, Nova Scotia, and New Brunswick, used and unused, and an unsevered pair of 7½ pence Canada. Mr. Sparks is at present studying law.

WRITTEN FOR THE CANADIAN PHILATELIC WEEKLY.

## "What Fooly We Mortals Be."

BY W. A. WITHROW.

**S**MITHTOWN has a Philatelic club. Am I a member? Do I not collect stamps expressly for his own use. He makes a spe. ally and am I not a resident of the afore said metropolis?

We are seven! There is McKeever, the tailor, who can spin the most impossible of yarns, and of whom we all stand in awe. He has a fine collection, levying as he does upon all of our rarities in payment of our accounts.

Then there is Gauthier, the Frenchman, who keeps, literally, meat and sausages. He carries around over three hundred pounds avoirdupois weight, and imports a chair into our club-room expressly for his own use. He makes a spe. ally of United States stamps, and is in the market for any stamps his collection does not sport, if the owner will take his note in payment, without mortgage or security.

Next comes Rogers who keeps an establishment for the refreshment of the inner man, vulgarly known as a restaurant; and Nolle, who carries a line of imitation (warranted) jewelry.

Brown, the druggist, and Rettinger, dealer in boots and shoes, complete the list with the possible exception of your humble servant, who occupies his spare moments in killing time.

Brown brought the *American Philatelic Magazine* to the meeting one evening and read an article from the same for our entertainment. Then he glanced around the room. Every chair was occupied but one. It stood back in the corner, looming up grandly in the uncertain light. It was Gauthier's!

Then he said: "Gentlemen, I will now read to you an editorial from this magazine, the import of which we might all take to heart. It is entitled 'Hypnotism in Philately.'"

We were all attention at once. McKeever

was awakened and we then listened to the excellent remarks made by Prof. F. Brown.

There was a far-away look in our Brown's eyes as he said: "My namesakes ideas are all very well in their way, but is the best possible? I am of the opinion that it should be demonstrated. Suppose we send to Halifax, No Man's Land, and secure the services of Prof. Jones? I have heard that he is a capital hypnotizer, and our dear friend Gauthier will make a capital subject."

Only then did we see the point. In an unprecedented space of time two dollars was collected and a letter was dispatched to Prof. Jones, enclosing the amount, requesting his services the following Friday evening.

We agreed, to promote the success of the experiment, that Gauthier should not be informed of our intentions. Friday evening came, and so did the worthy professor, and also Gauthier.

The professor was palmed of as a visiting Philatelist, and he sat and talked with Gauthier for fully five minutes before he could get him under his control. Finally he remarked:

"Now, gentlemen, what are your desires? He is now under my control after a terrific struggle. Such a large body is difficult to subdue."

Noble suggested that it would be a good idea to present him with some oddities in United States stamps, so Brown handed him a cigarette label, and the professor said it was an unperfected twenty-four cent first issue. An angelic smile came over Gauthier's countenance and he scrambled up on the table to thank us for presenting him "a stamp which he had never dreamed of owning."

Then a two cent claret and a two cent gem were temporarily utilized as a twelve and twenty-four cent 1810, grilled issue, and Gauthier was overcome. Tears streamed down his cheeks and his voice took on a pathetic wail as he tried to thank us "for our many kindnesses."

But when McKeever attempted to levy on these varieties, Gauthier's expression quickly changed. "Take away his finest stamps! no indeed!" and it was with difficulty that he was restrained from chastizing our friend, the tailor.

To make a long story short, he was put through every conceivable operation, causing a great quantity of amusements, but finally at eleven o'clock, the professor intimated that he was getting tired and that only another lot of cash would keep him up. At this outbreak we made haste to tell him to let up on Gauthier. He tried to bring him in, but could not in any way.

What were we to do? The professor was frightened out of his wits and left for home for night he would not be lynched? We were in a quandary.

A council of war was held and many impossible plans were suggested and rejected. Then McKeever said: "Faith and I have it! I've often said Gauthier's sausages were enough to take the dead, and why not try 'em'?"

Happy thought! We did it! A long link was brought in and after one long snuff, Gauthier recovered. Our experiment was an undoubted success but we never tried it more.

The highest price on record (\$680) has just been paid for two stamps—namely, a penny red and a two-penny blue of Mauritius of 1817, with the word "Post Office" on the left side, with the words "Faith and I have it." There are only fourteen known copies of this stamp in the world, but they are in collections of the highest repute, such as those of Baron Rothschild, Le Comte de Ferrary, Dr. Legrand, etc., and are not likely to come into the market.

### ONE OF MANY.

324 George St., Toronto, Canada, Jan. 2, 1894.  
Mr. L. M. Stuebel, London, Canada.  
Dear Sir—I have received a copy of your new weekly, it knocks out all the other weeklies.

Yours truly,  
Chas. R. Dipple.