

## The Postman's Knock.

fill their duty by merely impressing the envelopes with the common "PAID" hand-stamp.

Secondly, no subordinate P.M. would dare to surcharge a stamp in this way, as he would most certainly lose his situation for attempting to sell his stock at a value above its face. Of course, the authorities at the G. P. O. could do it if they pleased; but any one who will read the P.M.G.'s report of the original stock remaining on hand at the time the cent issue came in use, will see that there never was any lack, either of the eight-pence sterling labels, or of any of the others.

Thirdly, if a P.M. should daringly change the values in this way, — if such attempt was not taken notice of as swindling, it would be regarded merely as an obliteration, and this surcharged stamp would count the poster of the letter as exactly one half-penny, while the recipient would have the pleasure of singing songs of joy (in an under tone,) as he "torked over" double postage on missive "insufficiently prepaid."

SANDWICH ISLANDS.—Some time ago we purchased a collection of stamps, containing among others a specimen of the 13c. Sandwich Islands, which we innocently supposed to be genuine. This collection had been made mostly in 1863, and we do not think the original owner ever added to its numbers after 1865 or 1866, about which latter date it was forwarded to St. John for sale. No market being found, it was sent to England in charge of Mr. B., one of our Colonial Merchants going home for goods. He was instructed to take £5 sterling for it, if he could get it, but the eminent firm to whom he offered it, would only give £4. On this he brought it back with him, and, finding that the owner, (a lady,) was rather nettled that he had not taken the sum tendered, gallantly purchased it at that price himself.

Not being a collector, and not having the slightest knowledge of stamps, the book was of no use to him, and was consequently locked up in a drawer, and so remained till a few months ago, when it coming to his knowledge that we purchased such articles, he brought it to us and we bought it.

We give the above little history of the

book to show the antiquity of the stamp, and that it is almost next to impossible that it can be a forgery.

Now, we have three other Sandwich Islands 13c. specimens, and among the lot are fairly puzzled, and shall simply describe the differences existing between them to try and puzzle our readers also.

We shall number them as follows:—

No. 1, *undoubtedly genuine*, being procured direct from the Sandwich Islands Government. No. 2, *presumedly genuine*, this being the specimen which we took out of the collection above spoken of. No. 3, *presumedly forged*; and No. 4, *presumedly forged*. The points of difference we shall select, are as follows:—No. 1 has a stop after "States"; it has no stop after "8 cts.;" there is barely room for a stop after "5 cts.;" the "3" in the right upper corner is on a level with the "1". No. 2 has no stop after "States;" it has a stop after "8 cts.;" there is a space after "5 cts.;" the "3" in the right upper corner is *higher* than the "1." No. 3, it has no stop after "States;" it has no stop after "8 cts.;" there is barely room for the stop after "5 cts.;" the "3" in the right upper corner is *lower down* than the "1." No. 4 has no stop after "States;" it has a stop after "8 cts.;" it has plenty of space after "5 cts.;" the "3" in the right upper corner is *higher up* than the "1."

With regard to paper, Nos. 1, 2 and 3 are on white, rather thick; No. 4 is on blue. As to color, Nos. 1 and 2 are what we call red, No. 2 being much lighter, while 3 is a bright vermilion red, and 4 is a kind of rose purple.

Touching length, Nos. 1 and 2 are alike, while No. 4 is longer than either, and No. 3 is the shortest of all. Besides these, there are innumerable little differences which we cannot describe, not having room; but we may add that the only two which resemble each other are Nos. 2 and 4, and still there are the differences in the length and color. Our theory is that Nos. 1 and 2 are both genuine, from different plates, and No. 4 is a forgery from No. 2. As regards No. 3 we do not know what to say—perhaps it is a later and improved imitation.