

Written for THE CANADIAN PHILATELIST.

MY PA'S STAMPS.

BY CAPTAIN MILDMAY.

IM Jimmy Brown; my pa's a filate'ist; that's a man who collects stamps and sticks them in stamp albums. My sister collects stamps too, but I don't know what they call a woman stamp collector. Stamps are bits of colored paper with pictures of men's head and other things, that come off letters. I don't know why they stick stamps in album, I'm sure; I asked pa one day, and he said for nothing. Old people seem to do a great many things for nothing, anyway pa does. My sister don't know what she collects stamps for.

Pa went away one day and forgot to lock his desk; that's where he keeps the books he sticks stamps in. He always keeps his desk locked to keep me out, he says. I opened the desk and got out the two stamp albums; my, how nice the stamps looked; I guess I'll be a stamp collector when I'm big.

I found more than a thousand stamps which pa had forgot to stick in the albums, and then there were some red and green stamps on some letters which I took and cut off. As I had nothing to do I thought I'd stick all the stamps in the albums. I couldn't help laughing when I thought how surprised and glad pa would be when he had found out what I had done.

Now, I solemnly say that I never meant to do any harm. All I meant to do was to improve pa's stamp collection by sticking in the albums all the stamps he had forgot about. Why there was only three or four stamps on some of the pages, and you can't tell me that was right, for there were lots of square places drawn for stamps which pa had forgot about. I sometimes think its no use trying to help people as I tried to help pa. Pa's usually ungrateful; no matter how kind and thoughtful I am, he always manages to blame me. I shall try however not to give way to these bad feelings, as our minister says, we should keep on doing good no matter what happens.

I found lots of places where pa had forgot to stick stamps. I stuck in all the red and green stamps first and hadn't more than half finished with the others when the mucilage upset and went all over the stamp album; I wiped up as much as I could and left the rest.

Some stamps have black figers and words drawn on them. I would have been ashamed if I was the man that drew some of them. As I couldn't stick in any more stamps, and just to prove I could do it better than the man who did it, I drew all kinds of figers and words on more than a hundred stamps. I made most beautiful figers but the words didn't look as nice as I thought they would.

Just then our cat jumped up and spilt the ink and spoilt more than fifty stamps. I'm sure she didn't mean to do it. Cats don't know any better. I dried up the ink as best I could and put back the albums and things as I got them.

When pa came home that night, he brought the new minister with him. After a while the minister wanted to see pa's stamps and when pa went to get them I began to be really frightened. He just handed the albums to the minister without opening them. The minister said some very nice words about stamps till he came to where they stick Canada stamps (that's where I spilt the ink) when pa saw that he looked as if he had seen some disgusting ghosts. I got awful frightened, for pa had just bought a new bamboo cane last night. "My son, this meddling with sacred things must be stopped." With this remark he marched me up-stairs and then—well, I can't write about

the awful scenes that happened up-stairs; anyway, I'm able to sit up to-day.

I'm sure I didn't spill the ink, it was the cat, and it wasn't my fault the mucilage upset, but pa wouldn't give me time to tell him so.

Well, it's over now, let us say no more about it.

FISCAL COLLECTING.

R. S. WALTERS.

IT is but a matter of time ere revenue collecting becomes general. Every month sees its adherents increasing, and the demand for revenues and telegraph becoming greater, and there is no reason, as far as I can see, why this branch of philately should not become as great or even greater than the sway exercised by the postage stamp at the present time.

Now, how is it that revenue stamp collecting did not, and is not as general as the collection of postage stamps? The revenue stamp was in use centuries before the idea of the postage stamp was conceived. The leading cause is the regulation regarding the use of this class of stamps. They are placed on documents, and usually the law requires that they be left there, otherwise the document in question shall have no legal value. This is not always the case. Again, papers such as are required to be stamped with revenues are not so commonly seen as the letters which are flying to and fro before our eyes daily. Their partial obscurity is one reason why they have not been generally collected.

A time of changes is coming. New adherents to fiscal collecting are becoming very numerous. Take the beginner, and it will be found that he almost invariably mixes revenues in with his collection of postage. He sees no reason why one has any more claim on him than another. He has an eye for beauty of color and design. It will generally be found that he considers his revenues the pink of his collection.

Specialists of their native country invariably include revenues in their collections. To-day we find many who collect nothing but revenues, and again others who collect both postage and revenues.

Revenue collecting is steadily gaining ground. We now have numerous catalogues of revenue stamps published. An enterprising London firm have recently commenced the publication of the *Fiscal Philatelist*, which will do much for the cause. The leading journals are beginning to take hold of the subject, devoting their space and effort to its advancement.

Do you collect revenues? If not, you should remember they have a strong claim on you, whether specialist or general collectors. You find in them a range of variety greater than in postage stamps. The size is, on the average, larger. The increased size gives room for artistic design such as is seldom seen in postage stamps. Taken all around, examination will show you that for beauty, coloring and exquisite original design, revenue stamps have this even more than postage stamps. Reader, think this over, and let your decision be that you will collect revenues, even though it be on a small scale. Now's the time to begin. The demand at present is, comparatively speaking, small, and revenues can be bought at very low rates. But prices are steadily on the rise. As collectors increase, the prices do likewise. "A word to the wise is sufficient." Those who begin before the demand becomes general are the wise; and the result will be apparent in the near future. "Never put off till to-morrow what you can do to-day."