

answer—what collector is dissatisfied with his lot? What one is depressed? What old attic and musty trunk pillaged? What pocket book drained with taxes? Whose stamps have I unjustly taken, or collections coveted or robbed? Whose honor have I questioned? Whose rights, though of the weakest and poorest, have I tampered with? I dwell where I would ever-dwell, in the good opinion of my brother philatelists. It is written on your bills that I do not owe you more than is paid.

The foundation of my hobby is not any other power than love. Suppose now, my ambition add another stamp to my collection—is it an evil? The stamp album already bound for us by the joint acts of the bookbinder and his late assistant, we found empty and light. It is now full and heavy. One harmonious whole has grown out of sundry retail and wholesale purchases. With my hands they are placed in the album. The arrangement of them have I planned, and put them on fast and sure. Prosperity and plenty are on all the pages. The stamp on the pages bear testimony to the distant and various industries which he seeks its market, through the mails. This is no vain boasting—receive it not so, good friends; it is but truth. He who cheats sins with him who cheats another. He who is unjust to himself, or less than just, is minus many stamps as well as he who gives his stamps away to his neighbor's boy. I tell you what I want and what I have, that your knowledge of what I lack in the stamp line may not rest on ignorant grounds. If I am more than just to myself, please lick me. If I have overstepped the modesty that became me, I am open to your censure, (also your cents, sure) and will grin and bear it. But I have spoken, that you may know who I am—not only by my acts, but by my stamps. I tell you that I am ambitious—that I crave stamps, and while I live will have them. Being a stamp collector, an album is my chosen book. I love it. But I strive too—who can bear me witness that I do—that it shall be, while I own it, the nobbiest album in Christendom. If I can, I will yet hang the man that says it is not—that is I will hang him a May-basket sometime next December.

#### LITERARY NOTES.

*The Michigan Philatelist* is a new aspirant. It is mostly filled with non-philatelic matter, poorly printed on poor paper. We trust to see improvements in the near future.

*The Empire State Exchange* contains a philatelic department. See the advertisement of the publishers in this number.

The *Post Office* enjoys a first class advertising patronage, although not yet a year old. The paper as yet has published but little original reading matter, its space being mostly taken up with advertisements and reprinted articles.

The *American Collector* is announced from Rochester, Ind., with Harold Van Trump as editor. Mr. Van Trump is city editor of the *Daily Republican* of that place, and is a thorough newspaper man. He will, no doubt, make a success of his venture.

The *Coin and Stamp*, a new aspirant, has been received. It hails from San Antonio, Texas, and is published by Dr. J. B. Breeding. The contents and make-up of the first number is fair. It is the official organ of the Algoma City Philatelic Society.

*Plain Talk*, a high class, young peoples' journal, is among the best of our non-philatelic exchanges. It contains a Philatelic Department, which is ably edited by Alvah Davison the editor of the *Post Office*. The number before us contains a portrait of R. R. Bogert, of the Bogert and Dubrin Co.

As a result of the consolidation of the firms of Bogert & Co., of New York, and Dubrin and Hanes, of Philadelphia, under the firm name of "The Bogert and Dubrin Co.," *The Philatelic World* has merged into *The Philatelic Monthly*, which now comes to hand christened *The Philatelic Monthly and World*.

It is only a little over a year ago that *Mekeel's Weekly Stamp News* was begun as an experiment, and notwithstanding the many difficulties it has had to contend with it has completed its first volume. During the first year of its existence it has become a necessity to collectors, and during the entire year has been issued on time. Are you a subscriber? If not, you miss a great treat in the way of a philatelic nature, and having missed the first volume, you should subscribe at once, and thereby have the second. One dollar per year. Published by C. H. Mekeel, Locust street, St. Louis, Mo. Sample copies free.