

makes any errors in it other than those I have written about the *Era* we—well, we will next month give the second instalment of the doings of this leech in our ranks—*The Philatelic Mocking Bird*.

WANAMAKER'S DEFENCE OF THE COLUMBIAN ISSUE.

BY CANADENSIS.

Then there grew a clamor of the reddest fight
That every man beheld, and all outside
Were stayed in awe to see that one man fight.

Unlike the "Defence of the Bridge against the Tuscan Army," the defence of the late Postmaster-General Wanamaker regarding the issue of Columbian stamps has been bloodless warfare. The dauntless ex-M.P.G. takes up the challenge of Secretary Walcott, and handles the latter without gloves. He first of all states that people are free to take their choice of either kind (the old or new issue), and states that there is always a certain number who decry every new issue. He goes on to say:—"For example, two years since, in superseding what was known as the series of old green stamps by the new series of smaller size, (the former being but a trifle less in size than the present Columbian stamps) there was no little complaint at the beginning, because the Department had adopted a smaller size, which it was claimed was unhandy. Any change of the design or size of stamps seems to make an occasion for fault-finding, which is sometimes

utterly without foundation, as in this particular instance, when considerable complaint was made against the quality of the paper and gumming, requests being not infrequently made for the use of the same paper and gumming as in previous use, when, as a matter of fact, there had been no change whatever in these particulars. It is perhaps true that in sixty-five millions of people there will be some who will find fault with any change, no matter what it be, even if for the better."

We herewith give a few of the many comments on this issue. To those who keep a scrap-book these clippings will be of interest in times to come:—

"They are so large that in order to make them serviceable they must be given almost as big a lick as the G.O.P. got last November.—*Louisville Courier Journal*.

"The 30-cent is one of the poorest specimens ever turned out of the U. S."—Zobel.

"They are not only hard to *beat* but their size also renders them difficult to lick."—*Boston Herald*.

"Take it for a blanket."—N. Y. *Recorder*.

"A fake to get the dollars from deluded collectors."—Mr. Sawyer.

"Is the United States seebeck-tized."—*Canadian Philatelist*.

"Oh, for a thousand tongues to lick them."—*Press*.

"I don't think them at all nice."—*Kate Field*.