

forged. In the five c., port local, the rarest of them, in the forgery the rays are very unequal, extending more to the right hand than to the left, and the top feather of the eagle's wing is curved to the left, and the foot of the eagle does not touch it; whereas in the genuine the wing is curved upwards, and the foot touches it.

### DOUBLE STAMP.

10 c., Cantonal Oblong. Composed of two 5c., port local.

Until recently this Stamp has been supposed to be imaginary. The doubt of its authenticity has however been effectually cleared up.

#### GENUINE.

The 'L' of 'Port Local' touches the bottom of the shield.

#### FORGED.

The 'L' of 'Port Local' does not touch the bottom of the shield.

### ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS.

NIX, *Montreal, C. E.*—It was through an oversight on our part that your letter and contents were not acknowledged sooner. All was correct therein.

RAPHAEL H., *Algiers*.—The postage from Algiers to New Brunswick, is, we believe, 80 centimes, and not 20, as you put on your letter. Send us 2 fr. and 50 c. in *unused* French Stamps, and we will send the Gazette for one year. Your letter cost us 1 fr. 50 c., which you can also send.

G. L. *New York*.—1. On the first of every month generally, but sometimes a little later. 2. You can ascertain by looking over our advertising columns. 3. Stamps enclosed all right,—thanks. 4. We have none at present.

We should like to hear from W. E. B., Philadelphia A. W. K., Fredonia, N. Y., and G. W., N. Y.

### THE STAMP COLLECTOR'S

## Monthly Gazette.

ST. JOHN, N. B., NOVEMBER, 1866.

Now that the Atlantic Cable has been successfully laid, and the Confederation of British America nearly completed, we hope that the time is not far distant when the Postal arrangements of our own and neighbouring provinces will be revised and modified in accordance with the progressive spirit of the age. Our Postal rates are liberal and low compared to what they were in olden times, but much yet remains to be done to meet the growing wants of the people. Compared with Great Britain and the United States, Colonial postage is high and the means of communication far from being as prompt and perfect as it might be. The Penny Postage of the Mother Country marks an era in the interchange of thought. It was one of the greatest reforms of the age, and has been productive of beneficial results to every class in society. While the penny postage of Britain is known and admired by the intelligent of the civilized world, the 3 cent postage of our neighbours across the lines is not less worthy of commendation and imitation. While in Britain a letter is carried from Land's End to John O'Groat's

for one penny, in the United States a letter of similar weight is conveyed with despatch from Calais to San Francisco for 3 cents. Compared with these rates our postage is extremely high. For instance from St. John N. B. to St. John's Newfoundland it is 14 cents, while from this to Great Britain it is 12½ cents, and from here to any village, town or city in the province 5 cents; and from St. Stephen to Calais 10 cents. Then again while a letter is brought from Sarnia to St. John for 5 cents, if dropped in the Post Office and carried from there to the next house it costs 2 for postage and 2 for delivery. We do not think it would be wise to return to the old system of rating by distance. Such sliding scales are cumbrous, intricate, difficult to work, and always unsatisfactory. The sooner obstacles placed in the way of a free interchange of thought whether in regard to domestic relations, friendship, or business, the better it will be for the people generally, free intercourse awakens and cultivates kindly feeling—facilitates business and is an unmistakable sign of unbounded intelligence, enterprise and civilization. We would like therefore to see our postal system assimilated to that of the Mother Country—with free delivery and a uniform rate of say 2 cents without regard to distance but limited of course to the present half ounce weight. A change of this kind would no doubt be universally satisfactory, and a happy inauguration of Confederation. With a change of the sort suggested there would be a decrease in the revenue accruing from this department of the public service, but it would not be continuous. The experience of other places shows that the quickening impetus given to letter writing makes more than amends for the apparent loss the ratio of increase in letters being greater than the reduction in rate. When Sir Rowland Hill first mooted his penny postage measure he was derided by almost everybody, and had to battle with almost every form of obloquy and opposition. With an unwavering faith and invincible resolution, he persevered and finally overcame the jeers and prejudices of his countrymen. The "dream of his boyhood" was realized: and his countrymen have now for many years enjoyed the blessings of cheap postage, yet the evil forebodings of the timid and time serving have not come to pass. The Post Office department in the Mother Country is now more popular and useful as well as more remunerative than ever before—even in the palmiest days of high postage and franking. We hope that the time is near when a similar change will be made in regard to letters in British America, and when the ocean and foreign postage, which in many cases is now so heavy, will be reduced to not more than half its present rate. We earnestly believe were this so, for one letter now carried from one part of British America to another or thence to the United States or Great Britain, ten would be mailed giving a much larger yearly revenue than can ever be realized under the present system. Had we the power we would go even farther than what has been suggested