

THE CANADIAN PHILATELIC MAGAZINE

labels indicate the difficulty experienced in defraying the expenses of resisting the pretender.

But here the story ends, so far at least as the mother country is concerned; though we can pursue it further when we turn to the pages of Cuba, Porto Rico, and the Philippines. In all three cases we are shown how the baby has grown into the boy; but these series of stamps had only a brief course to run. For the American war broke out; and soon we find postage stamps of the United States overprinted with the name of one or other of the three Spanish dependencies. And in the case of each it is curious to notice how accurately the course of subsequent events is reflected on the philatelic page. Cuba with a lovely series of its own, emblematic of a new order of things; Porto Rico retained as a lawful prize of war; and the Philippines with a stamp issued by the insurgents, who are still vainly disputing with the United States for victory and final supremacy.

On turning our eyes across the silver streak, and taking notice of the political ups and downs of our nearest neighbors during the last fifty years, it is instructive to find how faithfully these events are recorded in the pages of our albums.

Starting soon after the revolution which drove Louis Philippe as a refugee to seek the shelter of ever-hospitable Albion, we have a fine series of stamps inscribed "Repub. Franc." and showing the profile of liberty. In the next issue the superscription is the same, but the image is that of Napoleon. Ere long we have another set displaying the same features,

but a momentous change has occurred in the inscription which now reads "Empire Franc." Then after the famous plebiscite was taken and the prospects of a settled dynasty appeared to be assured, a new emission of stamps took place, with laureated head and the fuller legend "Empire Francais." But such hopes were destined to remain unfulfilled, as we can perceive from the succeeding issue, made hurriedly at Bordeaux, without perforations, roughly lithographed, and with many variations of colour. What a reminder we have here of Sedan, and Metz, and Paris in the hands of the commune! The series which follow tell of settled government once more; and their varying designs may be regarded as emblematic of as many phases in the constitution of the Republic.

But at the present crisis in the history of the British Empire, the student will turn with alacrity to the tale so graphically disclosed by the stamps of the South African Republic, better known to us as the Transvaal. From 1870 till 1877 we are confronted with the familiar square stamps, displaying the arms of the Republic, more or less coarsely executed.

Then came the British occupation, indicated for a time by overprinting these stamps with V. R., and the altered designation "Transvaal". In 1878 we have a new issue bearing the well-known profile of her most gracious Majesty, and with the value expressed in English currency.

A Sphere of British influence thus became a British possession; not destined however to remain as such for long; since the memories of Majuba hill still rankle in our minds; followed by "the great