

long exist alone, and then the stamps of the defunct empire will become both scarce and valuable.

In Australia a movement has been set on foot to unite the several colonies under one government, should this be done the same effects will be produced as in the case of the B. N. A. provinces, as far as stamps are concerned. I would advise the readers of the "Gazette" to complete their sets of the above mentioned stamps, as well as all others which are likely to become rare and costly. By attending to this at once a collection might be made, by almost any one, which would be worth, in a year or two, three or four times the original cost.

Hoping that these few remarks and suggestions may be worth, at least, the space which they occupy in your columns.

I remain yours &c.

COLLECTOR.

THE STAMP COLLECTOR'S

Monthly Gazette.

SAINT JOHN, N. B., JULY, 1866.

Not the least interesting feature in the juvenile life of the last ten or fifteen years has been its many manifestations of curiosity gathering. Each in its turn has been followed with ardour, as each youth was emulous to outstrip his fellows in the number, variety, or rarity of his specimens of what happened to be the freak of the time. While the fever lasted it was the absorbing subject of thought in solitude, and conversation in company. It is only a very few years since the collecting of rare stones was in vogue; and many a weary mile have we known enthusiastic classmates travel in search of something worthy of being added to what they were pleased to term their "Cabinet." Under proper guidance this spirited scouring of the country for its "stone records" might have been brought to the aid of science; but unfortunately the teachers of those days were like too many of the present time, either lacked the capacity, the determination, or the knowledge requisite for this. Without a guide or instructor to show them how to read and learn the story which every little shell and pebble had to tell, their zeal gradually cooled and ultimately expired. But healthy youth cannot remain inactive. He will labour for the pleasure of excitement alone, if for nothing else. The "rock period" was followed by "Coin collecting." Here was a new field for enterprise, and every old box till, and trunk was rumaged by the young numismatical for rare and obsolete coins. This amusement, in theatre parlance, had a "long run," but latterly to the great grief of many antique Aunts was laid aside for—what, reader, do you think? For nothing less than *Bean gathering!* Then it was that every field and farm and greenhouse and garden were ransacked for new varieties of beans. We

have seen a kind hearted seedman surrounded with an importunate band of urchins begging for beans as if each was a precious stone. Many who did not "know beans" before, were now made thoroughly acquainted with all their peculiarities, and many bean gardens were to be seen in many strange places. This, too, faded, and then came the collecting of crests and seals. If the real could not be had, a wax impression could; but as this required time and tact and talent for successful manipulation, it was soon given up for something that could be more easily followed. And then we had an illustration of "extremes" meeting, even in juvenile fancy. Crests were laid aside for *Cards*. How any sensible youth could ever devote time to the nonsensical practice of "card collecting" we could never understand, but yet it was the case, however absurd it may now appear.

Such collections might be of use to an aspiring "printers, devil" but to no one else. This subject however was soon exhausted, and then came *Stamp Collecting*. This latter differs from all the others. It is more congenial to the youthful mind—is more instructive and more likely to remain in vogue than any of its predecessors. When a boy gets a new stamp he is of course desirous to know all about it. Is it from Italy or France, Honolulu or China, Japan or India, he turns to his geography and learns the history, the trade, the commerce and degree or civilization of the place from whence this last stranger has come. Thus is it that stamp collecting ministers not only to the innate curiosity of youth but is an important aid in teaching him general geographical knowledge. It is therefore we think most likely to endure, and should be encouraged by parents and teachers.

That comical sheet the Rochester N. H. *Intelligencer* for July has just reached our office. Terms only 20 cents a year in advance, address Edwin Fernald, Rochester, N. H., for further particulars.

An attentive perusal of our advertising pages is requested. Anything may now be procured, from a bird's egg to a Meclenburg $\frac{1}{4}$ sch.

A mutilated letter mailed at Fort Erie, Canada, and addressed to a person at New Glasgow Pictou County, was received at the Halifax Post Office. Upon the cover was written "this letter was damaged in this office by a bullet from a Fenian musket."

Henry A. Stoneall, who was recently indicted before the United States District Court of New Jersey, on a charge of opening two letters while agent on the Postal car between New York and Washington, was released from trial at the present session of the court. His pardon was issued before conviction, and even before the case had come to trial.