

The Past Year.

Looking over my album to-night my thoughts travel back over the events of the year which has just closed.

What a swift-passing eventful year it has been. How many Philatelists have come and gone. Many of the old names which were familiar to the readers of stampic literature have disappeared, while new ones take their vacant place.

This year, now past, will live in Philatelic history, on account of the events which have marked its career.

Rare stamps have been discovered new varieties, before unknown, have been brought to the attention of Philatelists and numerous frauds have been exposed.

As I predicted at the close of '95, the approval sheet business has greatly fallen off, and the unsolicited sheet is fast becoming a nuisance.

We can proudly say that the banner of fair Philately has not retreated an inch, but in fact has advanced.

Since the election harmony is restored and most Philatelists are working to advance our favorite study.

If everything moves on as it bids fair to do, the year 1897 will exceed in interest even this year of years.

H. I. WATTS.

Is it a fact? It has been recently stated that one million pounds of ink are required annually for printing the national currency and revenue stamps of the United States.

Shades in Canadian Postage Stamps.

By R. G. WIDDICOMBE.

There are probably more shades in Canadian postage stamps than in the stamps of any other country. Though the issues are not numerous, and a collection of these stamps alone would make a very small showing, yet taking into consideration the minor varieties and innumerable shades a very fine accumulation would be the result.

The first on the list is the 3 pence red. There are practically no shades in this stamp, although by close examination I suppose might two or three be found.

The 6 pence is found in several colors, each color having a distinct shade of its own. A few of these such as lilac, brown lilac, violet, black violet, and purple might be mentioned, although by careful comparison various other colors and shades could be secured.

In the $\frac{1}{2}$ penny there is the rose and pink. The 10 pence has chiefly the dark and light blue, while the $7\frac{1}{2}$ pence and 12 pence really has no shades at

Of course it must be remembered that by carefully comparing and examining your stamps many shades might be found which would never appear in any catalogue yet they would be just as legitimate as those that are mentioned.

Owing to a change in the currency of Canada from £. s. and d. to \$ & cts a new issue of stamps appeared in 1858 This set consisted of five-values, the