

Walter N. Gardner

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POSTMAN'S KNOCK.

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The Postman's Knock,

THE ORGAN OF THE AMERICAN STAMP COLLECTOR,

Is published occasionally, and distributed gratis.

E. A. CRAIG, - - - - - Proprietor.

EDITORIAL.

When we began re-issuing our little sheet in October last, we fully intended to have it out regularly every month—and we can assure our friends it was no fault of ours that our intention was not carried out. But a combination of circumstances over which we had no control—such as accidents in the printing office, our own sickness, and other things we need not mention, have delayed us so that now we come before you only to bid you farewell. Farewell is a sad word—but it must be spoken; and our removal to California renders it highly improbable that the "Postman's Knock" will ever be heard at your doors again.

Skilled labor of every kind is very expensive on the Pacific Coast, and we fear the cost of printing it will be more than we can afford, but if business is good, and our profits in any way warrant the outlay, we will try and visit you occasionally.

During our period of editorship we have made many warm friends by our little paper, and we feel therefore much attached to it and will certainly strain a point to continue it if possible. If at any time, through our rough mode of writing, we have hurt any individuals feelings, we beg leave to apologize. We may not agree with the ideas promulgated by a certain class, but still in our invectives against the system, we had no intention of bringing its friends in, or of making it a personal matter, although from our writings it has doubtless looked

like it. We dislike personalities, and we begin to think that a stamp paper can be filled with something better than an exaggerated account of the villainies practised by some person with whom the Editor has quarrelled. We have no downright enemies made in this way that we are aware of, and we trust that after P.'s article, any person or persons who may in the past have been offended by us, will feel their wounds heal over at once.

NOTES AND QUERIES.

CANADA.—We observe that of late there is a very alarming increase of "surcharged" stamps, that is to say, stamps with some value different from their own, printed across their faces, and used to prepay postage at the thus "surcharged" rate.

We must confess, that we were extremely dubious in many cases of the genuineness of these improved specimens, but had no peg whereon to hang our suspicions—but now we think we can point out an undoubted attempt at imposition in the cases of two Canadian half-penny postals, one of which is surcharged 8d. STG., and the other with the figure 1. Our reasons are—that firstly it could be no object to any P.M. to do such a trick, as he could not be compelled to put stamps on letters at all, and only would give himself extra trouble without remuneration when he did so, he being allowed no commission on sales, as persons in his position are at present.

In olden days, stamps were rarely affixed to letters in any way, except occasionally by mercantile firms, who would buy them in quantity and stick them on before sending the missive to the mail, thus preventing delay in making change, in case it might be near "closing time." It does not seem probable that P.M.'s would take the trouble of first sticking the stamps on, and obliterating them afterwards, when they could ful-