

stamp collector does, upon inspecting a stamp, is to hold it up to the light to examine the water-mark.

To show the ridiculous folly and prejudice of writers on the American school, we have only to mention an article which appeared in the October number of the *Postage Stamp Reporter*. Mr. Wheeler, the editor, says, when speaking of the collection of envelopes, that the only argument in favor of uncut specimens is that they are thus issued by the government, but that it must be "a stolidly practical collector, whose imagination is not sufficiently vivid to supply the trifling deficiency," meaning the blank portion of the envelope. We presume Mr. Wheeler's collection chiefly consists of spurious stamps which he imagines are genuine, or perhaps his intellect is so very bright that he imagines he sees plastered firmly into the squares of "Wheeler's Postage Stamp Album," the whole of the 2500 stamps for which there are spaces. Altogether, we would say that an imaginary collection is one which even the firmest believer in the American school would hardly put up with. At the end of a long tirade of four pages, against those whose opinions and inclinations do not exactly coincide with those of Mr. Wheeler we find he offers for sale. "The old stamped letter sheets, 1861 issue, on blue paper, two sizes, note and letter sheets, water marked, P. O. D. U. S." Does Mr. Wheeler belong to that set of avaricious dealers, which he mentions, who trade in varieties of water-mark, size etc.?

Counterfeit Stamps.

The numerous forgeries now in the stamp market, have called forth a continuous article of this kind, to aid our readers in their detection. We hope subscribers will give us their assistance, by sending for description all spurious stamps, they may have in their possession, and if possible the name of the person from whom they were purchased, as we shall deem it our duty to warn collectors of dishonest dealers, as well as expose their wares. The best imitations that have as yet appeared are manufactured by Spiro Bros of Hamburg. There a large number of these in circulation throughout Ca-

na and the United States, but besides European we have American forgers, they are principally located in Boston, (we hope their trash was destroyed by the late fire), and their counterfeits mostly consist of United States local stamps. The best way to avoid being taken in, is to buy only from well known dealers, and not from some trumpery stamp vendor, whose prices may be a cent or two lower. Stamps, like other articles of trade, have a regular market value, and when they are advertised at prices much less than this, there is sure to be something wrong with them. We commence our article with, a description of a dangerous forgery of the new 4c. green, Prince Edward Island, taken from the Stamp Collector's Magazine.

GENUINE.

- 1.—The crown of the head of the portrait does not touch the frame. There is a plainly visible space between it and the frame, along the whole length.
- 2.—The square disks in the lower angles, containing the figure 4, are a trifle higher than the band running between them inscribed with the value.
- 3.—There is a clear space between the letter o in the word: POSTAGE, on the first line of the inscription, and the letter E of PRINCE in the second line.
- 4.—There is a vertical line of fine dots outside the exterior row of fine horizontal lines which forms part of the ground on the right hand side. In other words, each one of these horizontal lines is succeeded by a dot.

FORGED.

- 1.—The crown of the head touches the frame along a certain distance, and in a direct line under the letters DW of the word EDWARD in the inscription in the upper margin.
- 2.—The square disks in the lower angles, containing the figure 4, do not project above the intervening band, inscribed with the value.
- 3.—The letter o in the word POSTAGE, in the first line of the inscription, touches the letter E of PRINCE on the second line.
- 4.—The line of dots, referred to on the other side, is absent.

We could go on multiplying the distinctive characteristics, but we have been care-