

Cameron. I got the letter, and with this confession I leave the stamp and envelope which gave me my revenge and a burden of remorse as heavy as ever mortal carried.

May God have mercy on my soul!

CHARLES L. CAMDEN.

This remarkable letter, with the envelope still bearing the fatal stamp, was found by the clergyman who was with Camden at his death, and by him was given to me. We agreed that its publication could do no possible good, and, out of regard for the family of the deceased, we decided to keep the matter to ourselves and it is now given to the public for the first time, only names of persons and places changed.

I placed the fateful stamp in my album, merely as a curiosity, and twelve years passed away, finding me still an ardent philatelist, as of old.

On the night of Dec. 16, 1889, I was sitting in my library looking over my stamp collection, when a sudden thought reminded me that it was the twelfth anniversary of Howard Cameron's death.

Moved by an impulse I cannot explain, I turned to the page where rested the deadly stamp. I sat looking at it, lost in reverie, when I was startled by a sudden change in its appearance. I looked more closely. A dim, misty haze seemed to float around it, and, as it cleared away, I saw, in place of the head of the "Father of his Country," the face of a lovely young girl assume shape. I rubbed my eyes and pinched myself to be sure that I was not dreaming, but no, I was wide awake, and still before me was the face of the beautiful young girl, now fast growing dimmer.

Finally the view dissolved and another took its place, forming slowly, the mist growing fainter, as before, but this time it was the face of a young man which looked at me from the stamp.

As you all know, the 3c., 1872, is a green stamp, and I was horrified to see it assume a reddish tinge until it was of the color of blood. It stayed but a moment thus, when it slowly began to fade.

Again came the mist, and shining through it I saw letters of fire. Clearer and plainer they grew until they formed themselves into words, and I read the Scriptural injunction:—

"THOU SHALT NOT KILL!"

Gradually this, too, disappeared, and the stamp once more assumed its proper shade and face. I watched long, but there were no further demonstrations, and I at last retired thoroughly mystified.

This was three years ago, and each succeeding year, on the night of December 16th, I have watched the stamp and have seen the same panorama of changes appear and disappear, and I am as deeply mystified as ever.

Can I explain it? No; nor can anybody. Were you to see the stamp at any time other than the anniversary of the murder your gaze would encounter nothing but an innocent-appearing postage stamp with Washington's portrait beaming benignly out upon you. It is only on this particular day that the changes take place.

You are skeptical, of course; I can expect nothing else, but stay, there is one way in which I can silence your disbelief. Come to me on the night of Dec. 16th, at eight o'clock, and stand with me before my album and gaze at the stamp. If you do not see enough to change your skepticism to belief, then you may condemn my narrative and myself to your heart's content.

Until such a time I shall continue to call this most interesting specimen of my collection

"The Demon Stamp."

Written for THE CANADIAN PHILATELIST

DON'TS.

DON'T buy heavily-cancelled or torn stamps, unless you cannot possibly obtain them otherwise. Such stamps are worth about one-fourth the price of a good stamp.

Don't attend an auction sale and expect to get rare stamps for nothing almost, or let a dealer outbid you on a certain stamp and feel especially honored next day if he offers you the same stamp at 25% increase.

Don't soak your stamps when cleaning them, as it spoils their appearance very much. Rub them over lightly with a soft camel's-hair brush moistened.

Don't use these sticky, perfumed, perforated hinges—don't.

Don't keep a lot of stamps a month, when the dealer expressly states that returns must be made in ten days.

Don't send a lot of bids to an auctioneer and request him to buy only to a certain amount, and don't send about twice the amount of bids you have money to spare, expecting to get only one-half of what you bid on.

Don't lick these European stamps, especially now, as you are liable to catch cholera and fever germs.

Don't return these cheap sheets containing only common continentals, and on which is no return postage. Let us try to stop this nuisance.

Don't think that you were naturally born an editor, and start an amateur stamp paper. Nearly all papers are started by some one who thinks just this, and nine-tenths of them never issue their second number.

Don't slight the "kid" collector's dealers. On them rests the future of philately.

Don't advertise a collector or dealer as a fraud until you have written him a few times. Perhaps he has overlooked the matter or is absent from home.

Don't, above all, don't be a fraud or substituter. There is nothing so despicable as a philatelic fraud.

DON'TS FOR EDITORS.

Don't have a review column unless it treats of all magazines quite fully, as you will create an impression that you have a surplus of space and wish to fill it out. Isn't such as this interesting reading? "The H.P. has eight pages this month." "The M.P. is an improvement this month over our last," etc.

Don't allow articles, very vague, in regard to Ph. Von Ferrer, Geo. Gould, etc., nor clippings about five years old, unless of general interest, in your magazine.

Don't occupy space with *fairy* stories and the like. Give the suffering public some good original matter on stamps—not on the "development of the postal system," "the post-office twenty years ago," etc.

DON'TS FOR THE ADVANCED COLLECTOR.

Don't think, because you have been collecting a few years, that you "know it all." I recently talked with a collector of eight years' experience who did not know the 1857 U.S. 3c. "outer line" variety. He supposed it was on the sides of the stamp.

Don't think, because you have written a few articles for the philatelic press, that you have the ability to edit a paper with yourself only as contributor, as you will soon exhaust your original matter, and, what is more likely, the cash.

Do not use the album with printed spaces for every (?) stamp ever issued. Where will the new