

# The Monthly Echo.

VOL. 2.

ENGLISHTOWN, N. S., JANUARY, 1884.

NO. 1.

## The Emperor and the Gardener.

Chosroes, King of Persia, while hunting one day with his train, came upon an aged man who was planting a walnut tree in his garden. The monarch, riding up, asked him his age. "I am four years old," replied the peasant, without looking up.

One of the Emperor's attendants rebuked the man sharply for his impertinence, but the gardener answered:

"You censure me without cause, I did not speak unadvisedly; for the wise do not reckon that time which has been lost in folly and the cares of the world. I therefore consider that to be my real age, which has been passed in serving Deity, and discharging my duty to society."

The Emperor, struck with the singularity of the remark, observed "Thou canst not hope to see the trees thou art planting come to perfection."

"Certainly not," replied the sage, "but as others have planted that we might eat, it is but just that we should plant for the benefit of posterity."

"Excellent!" exclaimed Chosroes, and then, as was customary whenever anyone was honored with the applause of the sovereign, a purse bearer presented the old man with a thousand pieces of gold. The shrewd peasant received them with a low obeisance, saying:

"Oh, King, other men's trees come to perfection in the space of thirty years, but mine have produced fruit as soon as they were planted."

"Bravo!" cried the Emperor upon which a second purse was presented, when the old man exclaimed:

"The trees of other's bear fruit only once a year, but mine have yielded two crops in one day."

"Give him another thousand gold pieces, cried Chosroes, then spurring his horse away, he said to the gardener, "I dare not remain longer, reverend father, lest thy wit should exhaust my treasury."—*Clinton Montague.*

## FORGERIES.

Some will regret it, others will chuckle over the moral backsliding of Gruat & Bonn, of 3 Tavistock Street, Bedford Square, London. This firm, one of "some respectability and reputation," has been openly accused of selling forged Reunions, French Chiffre Taxe, Newspaper Express, and "Balloon Letters." The most important of these is the Reunions. They are not sold as the originals of 1852, but as reprints of them. The originals were intended for prepay postage, but very few were used for this purpose; reprints, as every one knows, are fresh impressions of obsolete stamps taken for the benefit of stamp collectors—or dealers, one or the other of them—and not intended for postal purposes. To a collector of a little experience it should not be a difficult matter to be able to distinguish between copies of the 'Simon Pure,' that is either the originals or reprints, and copies of Gruat and Bonn's own make. The former being type set, do not present a smooth appearance on paper, this is more evident on turning to the back of the stamp, whereas, the latter, having been printed from a wood cut, or an electrotype, present a remarkably smooth surface, and on turning them over, no pressing whatever is evident. This is the key to the detection of these humbugs. A better one, however, and one easier discovered exists. On a couple kindly sent me by the editor of the *Stamp Collector's Journal*, to-wit:— the water-mark in English *super wove*. It is to be hoped all dealers will take warning from this, and not venture on the stamp making business. Nichols, Butler & Co., tried it, and they have had to quit the field and give up the trade altogether; so doubtless will the aforesaid Gruat & Bonn.

Another forgery monger in the person of Mr. Arthur Horn, 15 Duck Mill Lane, Bedford, awaits exposure. In the *Bazaar Exchange and Mart*, of 20th July last, and in his price list, he advertises eight Pacific Steam Navigation Company, 1857, for 7d., five Bolivia, 1868, for 6d., four Mexico, 1865 for 6d., and three Dominica, for 5d. We are enabled to dispense with all kinds of tests concerning the above whenever