

THE CURRENT CANADIAN 3c STAMP.

A work of art—I don't think.

BY A. M. MUIRHEAD.

I will now introduce to the the readers of this essay, the current 3 cent stamp of the Dominion of Canada. All who have seen this stamp will, I am sure, join with the writer in acknowledging that it is a work of art, of a certain kind. It is printed in red and if examined carefully show that there is a queen's head in the centre. Care should be taken, however, in examining the stamp not to mistake the printed from the obverse or gummed side. Above the queen's head, is a curved label on which is inscribed in very small letters "Canada Postage." At the bottom, appears the legend "3 cents 3" in imitation of the circus announcement "2 bands 2." We really owe the designer a great debt, as, were this legend not appended to the stamp, we might think the denomination was "3 cents 4." We should not overlook this piece of thoughtfulness on the part of the designer, but should accord to his memory the heartfelt thanks that he well deserves.

The color, the palest of light red, is so ethereal and illusive that it cannot be seen in a strong light, but should be examined it in the gloaming when the light are dim and low, so to speak. I would respectfully suggest to the government of this Dominion the advisa-

bility of printing the stamps on black paper so that its lineaments may be visible to ordinary people before the sun sets. When I buy a sheet of three cents stamps, I always use them as quickly as possible, fearing that I will awake some fine morning and find the pale light red has proved too *spirituelle* for our vigorous climate and that it has faded from view, leaving only a sheet of perforated stamp hinges. Thus it is, we put in successive governments to monkey with the tariff and help roll up a public debt that shall challenge the admiration of the outside world, but none are brave enough to change the design of our postage stamps—this would be too revolutionary, too radical by far.

BERLIN, ONTARIO, GETS THE CONVENTION.

The trustees of the Dominion Philatelic Association, have decided that the second convention of that society, will be held at Berlin, Ontario, at a date to be fixed later. Berlin is a town of about 8,000 population, including a large philatelic contingent. In this town is published the *Philatelic Advocate*, of which Messrs. Starnaman Brothers are publishers, and Mr. Finlay I. Weaver, editor. A large attendance is looked for as the town is but sixty miles from Toronto, and conveniently near the other centres of philately in Ontario.