

tions, it is easy to see to what extent the pursuit of their hobby will increase their knowledge of the location, extent, kind of government, history and general characteristics of the countries of the world, information which will be of the greatest value to them in after life. There is no risk in saying that collectors of the kind referred to far excel in accurate knowledge of the world, all boys who have had only the advantages of even the best schools. The latter have as a rule only vague notions of the existence of many of the most remote and least known parts of the globe and of their form of government, political relations, etc., while the former must from the very nature of their favorite amusement, become familiar with all these things.

Is there no reason for inferring that the boys now engaged in collecting stamps, will in a few years, be amongst our most energetic, intelligent and consequently most successful business men?

[From *Collector's Aid.*]

THE MORESNET JOKE.

No doubt most of our readers would like to hear about this celebrated Philatelic joke so we publish it below,

Mon. Moons had noticed that a certain Philatelic journal, published in Paris, habitually cribbed from the Timbre-Post without the slightest acknowledgement. He determined to set a trap. In the Timbre-Post published on the 1st of April 1867, appeared a letter signed by J. E. Neom (which is of course, the name of M. Meon reversed) wherein the writer describes and illustrates a series of four

postage stamps, supposed to be issued by the Commune of Moresnet. After dwelling in a serio-comic strain upon the history and resources of Moresnet he gives the names of the printers of the stamps as Messrs De Visch and Livra. The unfortunate journalist for whom the trap was laid did not see that De Visch is the Flemish for Poisson, that Liva is simply Avil spelled backwards, while Passon d, Avil is, as most people are aware, the French equivalent for April Fool! In the next number of his paper, he not only swallowed the Moresnet stamps, but priced them for the benefit of his customers. in the Timbre Post of May, 1867. M. Moerns, after indulging in a hearty chuckle at the expense of his victim, explained the joke for the benefit of those whose dullness had prevented them seeing it.—*E. S. Tero.*

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