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PLEASE READ SPECIAL NOTICE MARKED IN RED.

Stamp Collecting not so Foolish after all.

There is no pastime of the present day more instructive, than that of collecting postage stamps. Stamps were invented and first used in Great Britain in 1840, and have since been gradually adopted by almost every country of the globe, China being the last to introduce them, though the first to use coined money. We are frequently asked the use or sense of collecting "those dirty bits of paper?" To such querists we say "what is the use of collecting oil paintings, old china, potter and bric a-brac of all kinds? There are thousands of persons who do it and derive no instruction from it compared to what they would learn from stamp collecting. From the latter we learn geography, history, language and arithmetic. Take for example the one penny (1865) stamp of Bermuda. We see the name and naturally ask where are the Bermudas, we take our atlas and find that they are a group of islands in the Atlantic ocean, about 800 miles east of Charlestown, S. C. We see the profile of Queen Victoria on the stamp, and thereby know the islands belong to Great Britain. The one penny next attracts our attention how much is a penny? about two cents. Thus we learn where countries are situated, their rulers, the kind of money they use, the numerals of their language, and also learn to make the finest distinctions between colors; to tell steel engravings from wood cuts or lithographs, and many other useful items of knowledge. Now parents and guardians when you see your children and wards engaged in this instructive amusement, do not discourage them from it, but give them every assistance and encouragement in your power to send their orders to the Dominion Bazaar Co., Toronto, Ont., and if they wish to make a little pocket money, give them a start in an Agency for our cheap genuine Stamp Packets.

The Language of Postage Stamps.

The language of postage stamps just invented. A postage stamp placed upside down on left corner of letter means: I love you; in same crosswise. My heart is another's; straight: Good-bye, sweetheart, good-bye; upside down in right hand corner: Write no more; in centre at the top: Yes; opposite at bottom: No; on right hand corner at a right angle: Do you love me? in left hand corner. I hate you; top corner right: I wish your friendship; bottom corner left: I seek your acquaintance; on line with surname: Accept my love, same upside down: I am engaged; at right angle in same place: I long to see you; in middle at right hand edge: Write immediately. While this is all very good as far as it goes, those who put a postage stamp on any but the right hand upper corner of an envelope must hold themselves responsible for all the swearing of the post office clerks, and are at any time liable to persecution for turning the Queen's head upside down.

Should stamp collecting be subject to ridicule when such noble personages as the Royal Family of England, his Holiness the Pope, Baron Rothschild, and probably the most prominent of American collectors—Gen. W. T. Sherman, deem it entertaining enough for them.

The late king Victor Emanuel and A. T. Stewart were both active stamp collectors.

Mr. F. E. Hunter's collection sold at auction last March in New York and realised \$143,847.

An article in one paper says there are about 200,000 persons in the U. S. alone who are engaged in the business of stamp collecting.

If you wish to spend your winter evenings pleasantly, there is no amusement where you can gain more useful knowledge and in a cheaper manner, than in forming a collection of stamps or coins. Send stamp for our coin catalogues.