

cessary antagonistic to aid him in his struggle for freedom.

Guy Sinclair postponed his paternal epistle—wrote another in instead, containing an order, and before another day had passed he was turning with gentle hands, but wearing a perplexed face, the leaves of a beautifully bound edition of a—Stamp Album.

*(To be Continued.)*

The collecting of Postage Stamps is a fashion not confined to this country, or to a single class; for collections are frequently to be seen in the drawing-room of the luxurious, the study of the enlightened, and the locker of the school-boy.

The fashion has been ridiculed, as all fashions will be; but if postage stamps are properly studied, collected and arranged, there is no reason why they may not be quite as instructive and entertaining as the collection of birds, butterflies, shells, books, engravings coins, or other objects.

The use and charm of collecting any kind of object is to educate the mind and the eye to careful observation, accurate comparison, and just reasonings on the differences and likenesses which they present; and to interest the collector in the design or art shown in their creation or manufacture, and the history of the country which produces or uses the objects collected. The postage stamps afford good objects for all these branches of study, as they are sufficiently different to present broad outlines for their classification, and yet some of the variations are so slight that they require minute examination and comparison to prevent them from being overlooked. The fact of obtaining stamps from so many countries suggests the inquiry, what were the circumstances that induced their adoption, the history of the countries which issue them, and the understanding why some countries have considered it necessary, in so few years as have passed since they first came into use, to make so many changes in the form or design of the stamp used, while other countries, like Holland, have never made the slightest change.

The changes referred to all mark some historical event of importance; such as the accession of a new king, a change in the form of government, or the absorption of a smaller state into some larger one, a change in the currency, or some other revolution. Hence, a collection of postage stamps may be considered, like a collection of coins, an epitome of the history of Europe and America for the last quarter of a century; and as they exhibit much variation in design and in execution, they may also be regarded as a collection of works of art on a small scale, showing the style of art of the countries that issue them; while the size of the collection, and the manner in which they are arranged and kept, will show the industry, judgment, neatness, and taste of the collector, who should always bear in mind that every accessory that is showy and

bright takes away from the appearance and interest of the stamps themselves.

The full use of the stamps in teaching geography and history can only be obtained when they are arranged in systematic and chronological order. This has unfortunately not been seen by many compilers of catalogues and collectors, who place their stamps of the different countries alphabetically, thus separating the stamps of neighbouring countries, of the same royal house, the same language, or kind of money, into different parts of their collection. Many of these compilers and collectors have not been consistent with themselves, and arranged their collections partly geographically and partly alphabetically; this is even less instructive, and more difficult to consult, as it is not easy to recollect how the stamps follow each other.—*From Dr. Gray's catalogue of Postage Stamps.*

St. John, N. B. June 22nd, 1866.

*To the Editor of the S. C. M. Gazette.*

SIR, With your kind permission, I should like to make a few observations, through the medium of your valuable journal, upon a subject which may not prove altogether uninteresting to the readers of the "*Gazette*." I purpose,—in view of the great and important national and political changes seemingly about to be effected, on this continent and in Europe—to consider the effect which these said changes will probably have upon the interests of the stamp-collecting community.

In the first place, as regards the approaching union of the B. N. A. provinces, this will, of course not only necessitate a central government but a general Post Office and a common and uniform series of postage stamps. Those now in use will be no longer issued, but will in future be classed amongst the obsolete stamps, and will also become both rare and more costly. I would therefore strongly advise all who intend to complete their assortment of our provincial stamps to fill up their sets as quickly as possible. At a later period they will cost much more than they do at present—while some varieties may be very difficult to procure at any price. This is the case, even now, with some of the old issues of New Brunswick and the neighbouring provinces.

Looking southward to the republic or empire of Mexico, (which ever it is,) we see a couple of governments, and three or four would-be rulers, fighting and scheming to obtain control of that unhappy country. Should the Franco-Austrian party succeed in placing Maximilian upon the throne, a new issue of stamps may be expected.

A war of great magnitude appears to be inevitable on the continent of Europe, it is hard to say what changes it may effect, one thing is pretty certain, however, viz; that the Ottoman Empire will suffer a pretty considerable cutting up. Turkey in Europe will probably share the fate of poor Poland; Turkey in Asia cannot