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## DENMARK AND HER STAMPS.

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Denmark is a small country, about half as large as South Carolina, yet she has for many years held a prominent position in European affairs. It is not worthy, however, that during a period of nearly fifty years since her first stamps were issued, her stamps have not been graced(?) by the head of her King. The present ruler has held his position for 37 years, being known as the "Grandfather of Europe." He was an officer in the Danish army when, in 1842, he married Princess Louise of Hesse, who was then 25, a year older than himself. "Christian" has been a name identified with the history of Denmark, our subject being known as Christian IX. In Erald's veire we read:—

King Christian stood by lofty mast  
In mist and smoke;  
His sword was hammering so fast,  
Down went the foeman's hull and mast  
In mist and smoke.

The young couple were possessors of "blue blood," but money was a "minor variety" with them then. Louise mended Christian's garments, and the three daughters born to them had to sew for themselves. It was hardly expected that in the future, one would wear a dress worth forty thousand dollars, as she did in the Kremlin at Moscow.

However, Christian became King of Denmark in 1863, and I believe that year was marked by the war in which Schleswig-Holstein was taken away from the little kingdom. Six children were born to the royal pair before they became possessed of the throne. The crown

prince was the oldest child, but two of his sisters made royal marriages a head of him, and the whole six, thanks to their match-making mother and Queen Victoria, have done well in a royal sense. As Frederick the oldest son, has had nine children, plenty of boys among them. Denmark will be supplied with Kings for a long time to come, one of the boys, heir presumptive, is named Christian.

Denmark is a good country to specialize in. Less than half a dozen of its stamps of the regular issues are high priced, and they are not particularly steep. Speculation as the term is often defined, does not seem to have touched Denmark, probably because her stamps have no special claim to beauty. Crowns, shields, wreaths and swords are made use of in their make-up. At first sight, not having on my glass, the earlier issues made me think of the skull and cross-bones, but better vision showed that a crown surmounted crossed swords, surrounded by a wreath. On the shield which was made use of later, are three animals which are probably meant for a trio of lions, I shouldn't dare to call them so, for fear certain critics would call me down as in the case of my designation of the "monkey" stamp of Congo.

The stamps of Denmark are comprised in a little over one hundred in number. Her dependency in the West Indies has barely twenty issues, and these are mostly within reasonable bounds. At present there seems to be a likelihood of the United States buying the