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## THE STAMPS OF THE REPUBLIC OF COUNANI.

A brand new State, calling itself the Republic of Counani, has appeared upon the scene, and not only assures us that it has been in existence eight years, but during that period has had *three* issues of postage stamps, and prefers a claim to be admitted within the Universal Postal Union! The scene is laid in a tract of country between French Guiana and Brazil, the ownership of which appears to have been disputed by the Governments on both sides for some years, but it is of too insignificant importance ever to have been settled.

We transcribe below a letter which the *Timbre-Poste* has recently received from the brother of the President of this Republic (who is a Frenchman), together with the remarks of M. Moens thereon, and we think few will disagree with his scepticism as to the actuality of the whole business. The fiasco of his Majesty Mari, King of the Sedangs (who was also a Frenchman), is so recent an episode in philatelic history, that we incline to the belief that this occidental republic is about as genuine as the Oriental kingdom, and that the president of to-day may be a member of the family of that blighted monarch of two years ago.

PARA, 30th July, 1873.

Mr. J. B. MOENS, Brussels.

At the request of one of my friends, Mr. M. F. Antimes, I write this letter to you on the subject of the Republic of Counani and its stamps.

This Republic—which, as Henri Coudreau puts it, has nothing to do with comic opera—is a fine country, and one which really exists and is rapidly coming to the front, although it has not yet been officially recognized by all the Powers.

It was proclaimed in 1886 at St. Marie de Counani, on the River Counani, by the heads of the villages in the territory, which was formerly known by the name of "The Franco-Brazillian Contested Territory. These heads or chiefs met in a general assembly, and elected as President of the Republic Mons. Jules Gros, a French Notary, who unfortunately was unable to do much that was expected of

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