

ORANGE FREE STATE.—The shilling stamp is now a brown-orange shade.

RUSSIAN LOCALS.—New designs have appeared lately. Our illustration is of an obsolete issue for Melitopol, the new emission represents a man on horseback smoking a cigar, *gy.* the postman? Other recently emitted stamps are:



Fatejh 4 kop dark blue.

" 6 " vermilion.

Boguchar, 5 kop. black.

Demiansk, 3 kop. black on blue.

GERMAN EMPIRE.—The *Philatelist* announces two new stamps, a $2\frac{1}{2}$ groschen for the North, and a 9 krenzer for the South, both printed in brown. The cause of these emissions was the inconvenience of having to use two stamps to make up these amounts.

GUATAMALA.—The same journal mentions new stamps of the values of 1 and 4 reales, colored yellow and mauve respectively. No description is given.

TURKEY.—From our Turkish correspondent we learn that since July 31st, Messrs. T. B. Morton & Co. have withdrawn their steamers from the Levant local trade, and their postal service has consequently ceased to exist. Morton's steamers have since October, 1870, been running on a new line, that formerly served by the French Messageries, this is, we presume, what is meant by the Levant trade, and not their other line up the Danube; should this supposition prove correct, only the oblong set of stamps issued in 1870, will have become obsolete, and the circular stamps still continue in use.

CALIFORNIAN LOCALS.—We have lately seen a hitherto undescribed frank; it is an envelope bearing the Pacific Union Express Co.'s imprint, with the design surcharged by Wells, Fargo & Co.'s. Has the P. U. Ex. been bought out? Perhaps some of our Californian readers will inform us.

The Extended System.

In our September number we stated that we would uphold the extended system of

collecting, and introduced our magazine with an article in favor of the collection of whole envelopes. We have been asked by many of our subscribers, why, in a country where the greater number of collectors belong to the American school, we should pursue this course, and we will now take the opportunity of giving our reasons. Our chief reason for joining in the ranks of the European school, is that by such a course we will satisfy a greater number of collectors, than by sticking solely to the American; for the collector of the former school will find in our columns the information he requires, and he of the latter may depend upon not being neglected. Let us ask our readers if they know of any magazine, which has proved successful, whose articles have been strictly confined by the principles of the lesser system. In the October number of the *A. J. of Philately*, which was for a long time the strongest opponent to European collectors, we find the following: "Collectors of the so-called French school get very few forgeries in their albums, their greater knowledge of stamps and their belongings, such as paper, water-marks and perforations, render them to a great extent excellent judges, and it is not for such I write but for those who have not yet seen the advantage, nay, absolute necessity, of making the collection of stamps what it should be, a study and a science, worthy of being prosecuted thoroughly." This is a sign of the times, American collectors are beginning to see "the absolute necessity" of studying their stamps.

For many years we, ourselves, collected on the principle of getting as many stamps as possible, and sticking them into an album without further attention; but, upon reading an article in one of the magazines in favor of a systematic study of stamps, we thought we would give the nonsensical system, as it then seemed to us, a trial. Immediately our eyes were opened, a new train of pleasure and amusement spread itself before our enlightened vision, and from that hour we became a Philatelist. Our readers, who have never studied the *minutiae* of their stamps, cannot imagine how much interest there is to be derived from water-marks; there are so many singular and intricate designs, that almost the first thing a true