

THE PHILATELIC CANADIAN.

government overthrowings, and for her territorial size and population, holds a very inferior rank amongst nations. There is no stability about the country. With Chili it is different. Although not favored by Providence with anything like the natural resources of Brazil, still constitutional government is well established there. This fact is shown in her postage stamps. Chili makes very few changes in her postal emissions and there is no ostentation or display about them.

Glancing at Germany, we find the character of her people indelibly marked in her stamps. Color and the design—the most monotonous in existence. They do not even bother with having "Kaiser Bill" staring them in the face on every envelope. The heavy phlegmatic character of the German is portrayed in each and every one of her stamps.

For a last illustration take Japan. Her early stamps, printed upon paper so heavy that most of us would hesitate before using it for wall paper, yet there was nothing common-place about their appearance. The paper did not look cheap, it only looked behind the times. Look at Japan's more recent postal emissions, and we will see that she has been making rapid advances in civilization. The "Jap" has been to Europe, and has discovered how to make just as good a stamp out of half the paper.

And so I might go on and enumerate numbers of countries, to all of which this test could be applied. Examine a stamp carefully, and then think of the issuing country, and in the great majority of cases we shall discover numerous traits of character.

THE SPECULATOR AND PHILATELY.

The desire to make money easily and quickly is so universal that it far exceeds in scope and intensity any other passion

which agitates the human breast. Humanity loves money and hates work. Nothing delights man so much as to make money "on a spec." This desire of ours to prey upon our fellow-men has induced speculation in almost every article of a pecuniary value known to the world. The commonest speculator is, perhaps, the man on 'change, who buys and sells stocks and grain. But turn where we will we see examples of the nineteenth century spirit for speculation. Even the person of man himself is not inviolate. Both dead and alive, men have been the subject of barter. All the world knows how much speculation there formerly was in slaves; and there now lives, in a large American town, a person who devotes his whole time to visiting the various hospitals in the city and purchasing the dead bodies of unknown people, which he afterwards sells to doctors, students, and medical institutions. No doubt this dealer in corpses goes as much into excitements over the purchase of a "sub" who has died of some peculiar disease and which is, consequently, in great demand, as we stamp collectors would upon the "find" of a 12d Canada. Taking into consideration the great prevalence and far reaching effects of this modern inclination to speculation, can we wonder that the Goddess of Philately has been turned into a golden calf, before which kneels many worshippers.

Perhaps, before going any further, I might say that in using the term "philatelic speculator," I do not include the dealer who buys and sells stamps as a matter of business, but by "speculator" I mean a quasi-collector who keeps buying large quantities of duplicates, hoping to make large profits, as the stamps which he holds rises in value.

It may seem incredible to the uninitiated, but it is undoubtedly a fact, that thousands of the dollars of men who care nothing for philately, and know nothing of collecting, are now