

than the Columbians—Editor Cox, in *Western Philatelist*.

The engraving is coarse and indistinct, the ink somewhat muddy, the colors not over attractive.—E. L. Smiley, in *Boston Stamp Book*.

It will be noticed that in the extracts I have given above that many good judges like the Omahas, some with qualifications perhaps. On the other hand, the derogatory views certainly come from gentlemen whose opinions are generally considered worth something. Of course, the locality of the writers must be taken into consideration, and consequently what they say can be digested with a grain of salt.

HENRY A. CHAPMAN.

From Virginia.

The much abused Omaha issue was placed on sale at this office on June 20th. Comments on my part is unnecessary, as they have received all the abuse from others to cause a demand that might necessitate a further printing. Not having invested in Spanish Colonials, my surplus change permitted me purchasing one set complete. They are stamps that only cost face value, and one collector is satisfied.

July 1st revived business at the Custom House. Such times have not been seen for thirty years. Revenues here and revenues there,—one cannot read the newspaper unless his eyes look upon a stamp. The design is quite pretty and sticks close enough for its purpose. Good glue is more acceptable to those that have to use them, than a pretty picture that will not stick

after being licked. It is hard to serve two masters, and as hard to please two persons when they won't get on the same side of the fence.

The next in line—Grenada. On the 15th of August next the 400th anniversary of the discovery of Grenada will take place, for on that day of 1498 Columbus, after passing through the Straits of Boca del Dragon which separates Trinidad from the mainland of South America, sighted the islands of Tobago and Grenada. After the S.S.S.S. and a few others have blown off their wind to their satisfaction, poor Grenada will have wished that Columbus had stayed at home and had left her still in the dark, but happy. To celebrate the occasion, a special 2½d. stamp will be issued. As to the design I have not heard, but the Colonial Secretary will consider all suggestions offered by those interested.

Business is quite brisk, I may say more than one wishes for. Our only stamp dealer has put up shutters and quit. He called on me several days ago, thanked me for my patronage, etc., and said good bye. "There was money in the business," he said, "but someone else got it." His losses, in lost books and substituted stamps, over-balanced the profit. It is a singular thing to me the way some people will act. To some it may seem quite a joke to find a nice specimen, and place a torn or heavily cancelled one in its place. It is a joke, and that's the joke that keeps me out of the business.

"OLD DOMINION."

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