

REMINISCENCES,

Of the Travels of a Numismatist.

(BY J. G. BINGHAM, MCGRAWVILLE, N. Y.)

A pleasant morning in September last, found the writer accompanied by wife and daughter in the vicinity of Cheyenne City, W. T.

We were seated in a drawing room car of one of the fast trains of the Union Pacific R. R., en route for California and the Pacific Coast. Our meals were served us in the dining room cars that were attached our train, and they were well cooked and given us in as good condition as at any first-rate hotel of New York or Chicago.

Every one had had their breakfast, and felt the consequent satisfaction that results from partaking of the same. The passengers were as happy and agreeable a lot as it has been my pleasure to meet.

Sociability and joviality were the prominent features of the hour. Every one wished to know his neighbors, and to make the time pass pleasantly, and generally with success.

Election matters was one of the topics of conversation and some participants of certain gubernatorial candidates would get warmly engaged, but still with the greatest good humor, and wind off with a hearty laugh and a friendly slap on the shoulder.

During one of these discussions of a half dozen of us, and after we were tiring somewhat of discussing politics, a scarf-pin, worn by one of the party, was noticed by another, and the remark made that it was a decided novelty.

The gentleman took off the pin and passed it around for inspection, requesting each one to state what they thought it was. Opinions were various; but the general decision was, that it was an ancient gold coin and was rather pretty, certainly.

I coincided with these opinions, but went further, stating the country, name, age of the coin and gave a little history of its time.

This led to a further discussion in regard to the coinage of various countries, and some of the gentlemen spoke so intelligently and so correctly of the historical connections of the words coinages, that all were entertained and interested.

From history, the conversation drifted to telling stories; and I requested that these should be a continuation of the theme of old coins, and that each tell some personal recollection that had occurred in their past history.

The first was related by Dr. B.—of St. Louis, a man well known in the numismatic world; and the following is a digest of the main points of the story in his own words:

"Shortly after the close of the war of 1860 to '65, I held a position in a prominent bank of a large southern city that shall be nameless. The business of the bank was passably good. More borrowers than depositors were among our callers;

for the people had only begun to rise from their ruined plantations, and lacked the means to restock and replenish them again. Help must be hired, and no money to hire with. Everything was demoralized, and of necessity nothing but money could straighten out the complicity of affairs. The banks were ready to furnish means, providing the security was good and ample.

"I remember distinctly a lady calling one morning to negotiate a loan. She was plain and neatly dressed; and as she desired a private interview, I invited her into the inner office, and enquired what we could do for her. She told her story as briefly and to the point, and with that air of refinement and grace that denotes the true lady.

To be Continued.

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Chronicle.

BY R. R. BOGERT.

BERMUDA.—The stamps of this colony have been changed in color as follows:— $\frac{1}{2}$ p., green; 2p., violet; 3p., gray; 1sh., brown, and a post card, $1\frac{1}{2}$ p., carmine on buff.

BRITISH BECHNAUALAND.—This is a late addition to Cape of G. H., and the stamps of that colony have been surcharged "British Bechnauland" in two lines. The $\frac{1}{2}$ p., 1p., 2p., and 6p. are all that are reported as yet.

CAPE VERD.—This colony has changed its stamps, and issued a set similar to those of Mozambique, noted last month.

CEYLON.—A new design, value 5c., has been put in circulation recently. It consists of the head of the Queen to the left in oval, outside of which is inscribed in white letters—"Postage, Ceylon, Revenue, Five Cents." Color is lilac.

CYPRUS.—A 12 piastre red stamp has been issued.

DOMINICA.—The 6p. stamp has been surcharged "Half Penny."

FAKIDKOT.—The $\frac{1}{2}$ ra has been changed to black.

GIBRALTAR.—There are four sizes of registered envelopes measuring as follows:—131x73, 152x97, 253x175 and 290x152 mm.

GUINEA.—It is said that the stamps prepared some time ago are to be put in circulation soon, and all Portuguese colonies will have similar stamps. The embossed stamps issued lately are only temporary.

HAYTI.—There are two distinct shades of blue of the 7c. (C. C. 43 and 54).

HUNGARY.—A post card, measuring 161x78 mm., with inscription, "Posta-takariklap," is reported. Printed in black on white card. Value 5kr.

LAGOS.—A half-penny stamp, printed

in green, is reported. Same type as the other values.

MACAO.—The following changes have occurred in color:—10 reis, green, 20 reis, carmine, 40 reis, yellow.

MEXICO.—There are letter cards, value 4c., with stamp printed in new color.

NEW SOUTH WALES.—As the 5sh. stamp fell short of the demand, the "Stamp Duty" stamp of same value was surcharged "Postage," and is now in use as such: 10sh. and £1 stamps of same character are also reported.

PERSIA.—Unpaid letter stamps similar to those of France have been issued. The words "A Percevoir" run diagonally from lower left to upper right hand corner "Perse" at top. Value in circle in lower right hand corner. 1, 2, 5, 6, 10, 15 shahi. 1, 2, 5, prau. 1 toman.

PHILIPPINE IS.—A stamp of the current type, value $\frac{1}{2}$ centavo, green, has been issued. "Filipas. Impresos" is on the upper label.

PANUTCH.—The $\frac{1}{2}$ and 1 anna have appeared in red on yellow laid paper, and the 4 anna, red on white laid paper.

ROUMANIA.—The 25 b. blue of the new type.

SHANGHAI.—It is reported that the 80 cash lish has been surcharged "40 cash," and the 100 cash yellow "60 cash." The value is in Roman letters and Chinese characters.

STRAITS SETTLEMENTS.—A reply paid card, 1x1, green on buff.

ST. CHRISTOPHER.—Mr. Wettern has sent us two new cards, 1x1 carmine, and $1\frac{1}{2} \times 1\frac{1}{2}$ brown. Design similar to those of St. Vincent.

TORAGO.—A post card measuring 122x87 mm., carmine on buff, has been issued.

TOLIMA.—An unperforated 20c. lilac stamp has been sent us, which we have not seen noted. Arms in centre with "Estados Unidos de Colombia," below in curved line, "Correos del E. S. del Tolima," above in two curved lines, "Centavos" below in straight label, at each side of which is the value "20."

TURKEY.—Instead of carmine, the 2 piastres is orange.

URUGUAY.—A reply paid card 3x3, Form 4, 130x80 mm., green on violet, has been issued.

VENEZUELA.—The 5c. blue and 50c. green have just been issued. They were prepared several years ago. The 10c. prepared at the same time has not been issued yet. Several post cards are reported similar to last, but with "Targeta Postal" in ornamental shaded letters instead of plain letters.