

tors' Journal, Empire State Philatelist, Spark, Echo, Exporter, Foreign Stamp Collectors' News, Hoosier Minorologist and Archaeologist, The Inter-Quarterly Change, Philatelic Journal of America, General-Anzeiger für Philatelie, Independent Philatelist, Philatelic Star, Dealers' Advertiser and Collectors' Exchange, Fonetic Herald.

*. Publishers of philatelic papers will confer a favor on us by sending two copies of each issue, and we shall be most happy to do so in return.

NEW ISSUES

That have appeared, or are about to appear:

Azores.—The new 20 reis, carmine, has the small surcharge; also the 30 reis card.

Barbados.—The new type has appeared, 3d. violet.

Corea.—Issued five new stamps: 5, 10, 25, 50 and 100 M.

Dominican Republic.—Five new stamps are as follows: 1c. green, 2c. carmine, 5c. blue, 10c. orange, 20c. brown.

Jamaica.—The 1d. has changed color as well as the $\frac{1}{2}$ d. and 2d.; the color is now carmine.

Paraguay.—The 1c. is green, 5c. vermillion, and 10c. blue.

St. Christopher.—The 1d., rose, cut diagonally and surcharged "Half-penny."

Surinam.—The new stamps are as follows: 1c. lilac, 2c. yellow, and 12 $\frac{1}{2}$ c. blue.

Victoria.—Bearing the inscription, Stamp Duty: $\frac{1}{2}$ d. green, 1d. red, 2d. violet, 3d. bistre, 4d. carmine, 6d. blue and 8d. carmine.

NEWS OF INTEREST.

To write in haste and repent at leisure is the experience of many an impetuous correspondent, who is ignorant or oblivious of the rule that a letter once posted can never be taken out of the box, that it becomes the property of the postmaster-general until it is delivered. The reports give many instances of the painful results of haste and carelessness: "On one occasion a gentlemanly-looking person called and expressed a fear that he had enclosed two letters in wrong envelopes, and that all his prospects in life depended on his having his letters back, and correcting the mistake; inas-

much as they revealed plans which he had adopted to save two mercantile houses in the same line of business, whose interests clashed at every point." A similar blunder occurred in a more delicate affair, when a young lady was most urgent to have her letters returned, as she had accepted the wrong offer of marriage. The local postmaster was unable to resist her earnest entreaties, and thus prevented a painful catastrophe. But a whole romance might be written on the following incident:—A young lady, who had been engaged to a prosperous young manufacturer, was informed, a few days before the marriage was fixed for, that the firm was insolvent. Not a moment was to be lost, and a letter was written and posted, breaking the engagement; when, within two hours, it was discovered that the report was entirely unfounded. The report continues: "The daughter with her parents rushed to the post-office, and no words can describe the scene—the appeals, the tears, the wringing of hands, the united entreaties of the family, to have the fatal letter restored, but, alas! all was vain, the rule admitted of no exception."—From *The Royal Mail*.

Payments are made in Madagascar generally in money, though I have found some tribes still using the primitive method of barter. The only coin at present recognized as currency is the dollar either of France (the 5-franc piece in silver), of Germany, Holland, Italy, Russia, or Spain. For smaller payments than 4s., these coins are broken up and weighed. They are cut into all sizes and shapes, having no distinctive value attached to each piece, and the worth is only ascertained by careful weighing. For this purpose everyone carries a pair of native scales and weights. These are made with so great exactitude that the variation of the 720th part of a dollar can be detected. Buying is a tedious process, rendered more so by the fact that a single weighing is seldom accepted by the native, who almost invariably puts the money first in one pan of the scales and then into the other, to be quite certain that the balance is perfectly true. But such a cumbersome method, reminding us of the time when Abraham weighed his pieces of silver, must disappear before the onrush of civilization and commerce. At least one offer has already been made to the Prime Minister by an English firm to supply the country with a coinage of its own. But before this can be accomplished many conservative prejudices have to be overcome, and the suspicious distrust of the people to be surmounted. After having been accustomed to weigh every piece of silver, and to reject every smooth dollar, it will not be easy to induce these people to accept coins of a nominal value only;

more especially as with them time is not an article of very great value, and the haggling a long while over the just balancing of a pennyworth of silver is a daily amusement. — From *Madagascar and France*, by Geo. A. Shaw.

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