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TO THE NOVICE.

Have you ever had an opportunity to make a collection of postage stamps? No! Then you have missed the most fascinating pursuit in which a boy ever engaged. You say you have friends who are collectors, but you never tried it yourself? Ah, yes, you probably never had a chance to look into the subject, but now that you have a little spare time, we will talk it over, and then you will know all about it.

The postage stamp at a first glance seems to be a very insignificant thing, but in these days that little one inch piece of paper is as powerful in its sphere as the greatest king on earth.

The postage stamp when properly attached to a letter, will carry it to the uttermost end of the globe. The swiftest steam-boats, the fastest railroads, the most enduring animals are engaged to carry it. The most perfect safeguards that human ingenuity can devise are thrown about it, and life itself will be sacrificed to protect the missives bearing that little stamp.

To send a letter to China through any other medium than by a stamp, would cost many, many dollars, but by attaching this little piece of paper it will go anywhere for a few cents, while the power of governments will be lent it for protection. Isn't it a wonderful little thing when we look at it right?

Where is the boy who would not like to travel over the whole earth, gathering and keeping from each country, something

which belonged to each place? Few of us can travel thus, but at a small expense we can collect the stamps from every clime, each bearing its own distinctive picture or wording, and forming when together, an exhibition pleasing to the eye, instructive to the mind, and descriptive of the far away lands of which we delight to read.

A collection of postage stamps differs in an essential point from any other collection. Were you to collect minerals, coins, butterflies, or anything else, it would require large space in which to keep them, but your stamps are all mounted in one book, and a few moments is all that is necessary to find any country.

A collection of stamps will impart more knowledge to a boy in one week than he will get from his school books in many months, and do you ask why?

Because his collection is his toy, and all the knowledge he can gain from it is taken as a pleasure, whereas his books are considered a task.

He will learn all he can regarding his stamps because he is interested in them, and it is a pleasure to learn, and learning obtained in this manner is permanent.

Do you ask what can be learned from postage stamps? More than I could tell you in hours.

Nearly every new issue of postage stamps, put out is issued for some reason. A new king on the throne; a revolution in progress; a centennial of some great event; a jubilee. Of such events the collector learns through

(To be Continued)