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BLACK MOUNTAIN.

Montenegro is one of the least known of the stamp-issuing countries. Its domain is not very extensive, comprising but two thousand square miles, its inhabitants numbering about two millions. The proper name is Czernogora, (Black Mountain), Montenegro being an Italian translation.

Up to the year 1878 there were no towns in Montenegro, the capital, Cetting, consisting of a collection of one hundred houses of a poor sort. After the Russo-Turkish war, the independence of Montenegro was recognized, and a slice of territory bordering on the Adriatic was added, giving them a solitary seaport.

In this newly acquired territory there are several towns, the largest containing 7,500 people. The people are very ignorant, hold education in contempt and very few of them can read or write. There are but three or four schools in the whole country. Up to 1871 there was not a single newspaper published within its borders. There is very little commerce and the people are poor. They are a brave and hardy race, however, and have many times waged war with their most powerful neighbors and not always to their disadvantage.

Montenegro is very mountainous, in fact, it is nearly all mountains, so that the land is, to a great extent, unfit for agriculture.

Postage stamps were introduced in 1874, consisting of seven values, viz., 2 soldi (or novtch), yellow; 3, green; 5, red; 10, blue; 15, brown; 25, lilac. They bear the bust of the Hosfodar, Nicholas 1st, within a wreath. The value is at the bottom and an inscription in the native language at the top and on each side. Used specimens are rarely met with, but when it is considered how poor and ignorant the people are, and that few, even among the priests, can write, it is not to be wondered at; probably a vast number of these never saw or heard of a postage stamp.

ABOUT STAMP COLLECTING.

Judging from the numerous articles which have been written concerning the advantages to be gained from stamp collecting, the subject would seem to be exhausted and that nothing remains to be said. If such were the case, there are good reasons for keeping the arguments, so often advanced, before the philatelic fraternity, to encourage the older members and enlighten the latest accession to our ranks. The votaries of philately are almost universally intelligent, well bred boys, for no others could have inclination for such a pursuit or diversion. They have, too, those qualities so necessary for success in any enterprise—energy and persistence.

Given collectors of these qualifica-