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DEVOTED TO STAMP COLLECTING.

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Collecting an Investment.

THIS time we are going to take a text, and said text will be an extract from a brief article under the Literary Chat in the June Munsey Magazine:

"If I were to begin life over again," said a collector of long experience, "I would hoard everything in the way of a book, pamphlet, periodical or letter that came into my possession, even if I had to hire a warehouse in which to store the accumulation. If I lived to the age of three score and ten I should reap the benefit of my thrift; if not, my descendants would." Questioned closely in regard to his meaning, the old collector continued: "In my opinion the fad of collecting all sorts of odds and ends is simply in its infancy in this country, and yet it has attained proportions that no one could have predicted when I was a boy. In those days we used to collect postage stamps. I can well remember when a postage stamp album of the kind that every collector possesses nowadays was a rarity, and happy the boy that could call one his own. Half a dollar was an enormous price to pay for a single stamp then, and I do not remember that anyone more than sixteen years of age ever thought of collecting them. A short time ago I met one of my old schoolboy friends, who asked me what had become of my stamp collection, and I was literally

unable to tell him. Then he remarked that he had come across his own a short time before, while rummaging through some old forgotten books and papers, and had sold it for \$800."

Here we find in a literary magazine, with perhaps the largest circulation of any of that class in the country, the expression of sentiments almost identical with those that the author of this article has so often written says a writer in one of late issues of Meekel's Stamp News, to the effect that collecting in general, and that of postage stamps in particular, was only in its infancy, and that its future development was a field of almost unlimited possibilities.

Those who fear for the future of philately, who see clearly in time to come a grand collapse of all this commercial fabric founded upon stamps, who see in the recent depression in stamp prices the beginning of such a decline, need to take counsel with the probabilities of the case, like the clearheaded observer quoted. The desire to collect is in the blood of the race, of all races, in fact—is a part of human nature. The dissemination of intelligence and increase of wealth are just as certain to make many kinds of collecting popular as they are to produce more beautiful and costly homes for the people to dwell in.

People will collect these things, first editions, rare pamphlets, autographs,