

## Pure Cream Skimmed from Literary Milk.

By REGINALD KINNERSLY.

Unlike all great events, we come not with blowing of trumpets, clashing of cymbals and shouting of people; but nevertheless we are here to stay. Although we hail from the "wild and woolly west," we are not ignorant of the fact that many Eastern contemporaries are singing a song entitled "Too many stamp papers."—Rocky Mountain Stamp.

The present status of philately can only be a matter of pride to all earnest collectors. Recent years have seen a steady increase in the number of devotees and an increased interest and ever-growing intelligence. Continual study and comparison has made the general body of philatelists experts, and they are not easily deceived by the most skillful fabrications.—*Philatelic Facts and Fallacies.*

Stamp collecting cannot be killed, but it can be injured by the injudicious activity of men who are indebted to it for a living. The most potent influence for evil so far developed is the multiplication of minor varieties with their attendant albums and catalogues.—*Metropolitan Philatelist.*

We are hardly convinced that the U. S. stamps were ever printed on regular laid paper. A veteran collector informs us that the so-called ribbed paper varieties were so common that he gave up examining them, as a waste of time.—*Weekly Phil. Era.*

The slang word "fake" so commonly used in philately is traceable to the German word "fegan"—to furbish up, clean, sweep. Mr. Nankiwel says, "It is a question

whether the use of the word should not be extended to the clever mending of damaged stamps. Here is good material for discussion. What is the true status of a mended stamp? Is mending "faking"—Stamp Collector's Fortnightly.

We do not particularly care whether all agree with us, but our opinion is that the collection of plate numbers of the U. S. stamps is rank nonsense. There is no more philately in it than there is in collecting cigarette pictures. When it is considered that the number may go as high as 1000 or more, the nonsense of the fad becomes apparent. There is no science in it.—*The Stamp.*

A dealer in Hanover is offering fac-similes of the U. S. Columbian issue at 15 marks per 100 sets (less than 4c a set.) It is said that over 28,000 sets have been sold. It is to be regretted there is no way of stopping its sale.—*Stamp Lore.*

A serviceable stamp paper is one that will furnish the collector with information and at the same time afford him opportunities for securing stamps at the lowest market prices.—*American Stamp.*

It has been said that "a candidate is the is the noblest work of God!" Therefore let us look over the candidate, and if one shall please us, let us call him one of America's foremost philatelists; but if one shall not please us, let us "soak him in the neck" for it doesn't amount to a row of beans. It's only a sham battle after all. Nothing will be hurt but people's feelings and feelings are considered out and objectionable in these civilized times.—*Halifax Philatelic Magazine.*

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Cape of Good Hope stamps are designated "Mary and her Little Lamb."