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HOW TO COLLECT STAMPS.

This subject has been disturbing the minds of stamp collectors for some time, our answer is to form a general collection, and at the same time take up a certain country or division as a speciality. This is the proper way to "specialism"—so called, you will not get half the benefit of Philately by only collecting one country, but you are at liberty to make a speciality of your choice of say: British, North America. The CANADIAN PHILATELIST recently had some articles on "specialism vs. General Collecting," and in a late number of the PHILATELIC JOURNAL of Great Britain:—

Mr. J. Bernstein, Jr., has been leading the crusade against specialism in vigorous, if scarcely logical fashion. * * * He uses the stock arguments against specialism, that after a time a specialist's collection contains every obtainable variety, and then the collector's pastime practically ceases, his enthusiasm wanes and in all probability he ends by selling his collection; that the specialist moves in a groove, and not only loses touch with other branches of philately but finds stamp literature flat, stale and unprofitable. He admits that specialism, as regards one's own country, shows nothing worse than harmless patriotism, but most illogically condemns the same thing as applied to foreign countries, after answering (or attempting to answer) the various arguments of many of his opponents on this question, Mr. Bernstein gets tired, and drops it. He says:—

"I may add, in conclusion, that should any other such impetuous remarks made by my opponent appear, they will be answered with the silent contempt they deserve,"—which apart from its inexcusable rancor, is rich, exceedingly rich. To treat an opponent with silent contempt is very often a feat both courageous and commendable, but to TELL him of SILENT contempt is surely a fearful and wonderful manœuvre. Mr. Bernstein's contribution concludes the controversy which, from the point of view of the reader who wants something for his money, must have been a consummation devoutly to be wished. Such controversies conducted in a spirit of rancorous pig-headedness serve us useful purposes. Mr. Bernstein is doubtless still flored to specialism and his opponents are probably not a whit impressed by his domineering illogicality. Even if somebody has been convinced of something, he is probably like the man we read of in our "Butler":—

He that complies against his will,

Is of the same opinion still.

So much for the criticism of the P. J. of G. B. moral—Collect what you like and pay no attention to those who may wish to direct your path. Nine cases out of ten the party with his advice has not even had the experience in philately you have had.—Rex.