

The Postman's Knock.

back his means of locomotion are a pair of crutches, on which he hobbles around quite smartly, but is not capable of travelling any great distance on them. It was expected that the invigorating air of his native climate would work wonders, but the hope proved fallacious, and he is now again obliged to remove—this time to California, in the salubrious breezes of which country he will eventually recover, if recovery is possible.

Mr. Craig's connection with philately began in the year 1864, about which time he became an ardent collector. In 1865, in partnership with Mr. Robert Melvin he commenced business in a small way as a dealer, but in Oct. of that year Mr. Melvin retired from the concern; and Mr. C. finding that his engaging in any other pursuit while a law student, was likely to tell against him in going up for admission as an Attorney: changed the business name first to Ridgeway Jones, and shortly after to "The Excelsior Stamp Association," under which latter title he has (excepting while in England), carried it on to the present time. He has been very successful as a dealer, owing simply to the fact, that he has always been prompt and honest, and has not spared money in advertising. In fact, it was the very laxity of the U. S. dealers which first built the E. S. A. up: for collectors in writing to the latter had formerly 10 cents postage to pay on their orders, while at home it only required 3; but they like to be attended to sharply, and cheerfully paid it rather than wait two or three weeks for a reply, as their countrymen invariably compelled them to do. The promptness of the St. John firm soon became well known, and in Nov., 1867, when Mr. Craig was obliged to give it up. The Excelsior Stamp Association had a business and a name unequalled in America.

While he was absent, the concern was unfortunately allowed to go on to ruin, and, since his return, he has had to build it all up anew—which he has succeeded in doing, and now again he leaves it, at this time in the hands of a gentleman whom he fully expects to carry out the re-established reputation.

Mr. Craig has edited two stamp periodicals, the "Stamp Argus," and the "Postman's Knock," and with regard to the first series of the latter, when it is to be remembered that he had to write every line of its contents himself, that his means of obtaining information were limited, and that in most cases he got it up, corrected proof, and prepared it for mailing while he was propped up in bed, and suffering intolerable agony, it will be considered at least passable.

The service the "Postman's Knock" has done to Philately is incalculable—it circulated everywhere, it circulated gratis, its contents were not perhaps up to the standard as regarded the nicer distinctions, &c., but they were suited to the persons who were its readers; for to tell the truth, the greater number of stamp papers published at a subscription price are so intensely learned, as to be of little or no use to common collectors at all. Mr. Craig's views of timbrophy have always been those of the English School, though of late the greatly increasing number of stamps has compelled him to modify his tenets to a considerable extent, and look favorably on some things to which he was formerly bitterly opposed. He has come to the determination, that because a person may not hold exactly the same ideas as one self, is no reason why such person is entirely devoid of intellect: a conclusion which we naturally draw from most of the philatelic publications now issued. He would feel proud to be considered the founder of the 'American Moderate School,' in which every one could hold his own opinions, unquestioned, and all shall work together for the spread of Stamp Collecting.

Mr. Craig was for many years an earnest and hard working unit of the Temperance organizations, and held for two years the office of Grand Guide of Cadets of the Province. He is also a Freemason; and a member of Hibernia Lodge, No. 3, N. B. R. (late 301 Irish Registry.)

✂ We have received information that the new One Cent Canada (small size) is issued.