

STAMPS AND COINS.

Boys who collect stamps or coins are requested to use this page. Send the Editor a list of the stamps and coins you have for sale or exchange and your list will be inserted free.

What Coins to Collect.

This is simply a matter of taste and must depend largely upon one's ability to purchase. When one realizes that the world's largest collections are far from complete, and never will be complete, it is vain to have serious ambitions in that way. Do not think of such a thing as completion and never attempt it. Remember completion is not of this world, not even in coins. A wrong idea is prevalent that coin collecting is an expensive luxury only to be indulged in by those of wealth. Never was greater mistake, for all things considered, the great bulk of them are very cheap and it is astonishing what a wondrous variety can be gathered together in a short period by one actively interested, and in an inexpensive way. We undertake to say that a collection of from one to five hundred can be gotten together at an average of five cents each, and that another five hundred can be added at an average of ten cents each, and these would include an extensive variety—old and new—from all portions of the world. We would not have it understood that such a collection could be accumulated in a week, month or year, but it can be done.—The American Boy.

A Great Postage Stamp Exhibition.

The first exhibition of postage stamps ever held in France was opened recently by M. Mougeot, Postmaster-General, in the hall of the National Society of Horticulture in Paris. The exhibition, a correspondent of the London News says, contains rare stamps, whose value may be gathered from the fact that they have been insured for £80,000. They are watched by half a dozen detectives, the authorities having remembered how the priceless collection of the Paris mint was stolen a few years ago. Perhaps the finest show at the stamp exhibition is that of M. Bernichon, son of the organizers. In a glass case may be seen two Mauritius stamps bearing the familiar effigy of Queen Victoria. Their nominal values are one penny and two penny respectively, and the

other day M. Bernichon refused an offer of £2,100 for them. Only nineteen Mauritius stamps of the 1847 issue are known to exist—ten red (1d), and nine blue (2d). Eighteen of these came from the collection of Dr. Legrand, who purchased them thirty-five years ago. The nineteenth stamp was discovered twenty-five years ago. It is impossible to give a detailed account of the private collections, 150 in number, on view. They come from almost every country in the world.—Selected.

Coin Values.

A silver real, 1779, Charles III. (1759-1788), Spain, if good, is worth 75 cents.

The American half-dollars of 1812, 1824, 1825, and 1836 are worth in good condition 75 cents each.

A St. Helena half-penny is worth 25 cents. 1821 is the only date.

A Mexican dollar of 1742 in good condition is worth \$250.

Orange Free State Stamps.

The latest Orange Free State variety is the present issue surcharged "V.R.L." and value in figures. The surcharge is printed in black with and without dots. The dotless specimens appear to come from the bottom row of the sheet of stamps. The "spotted" question seems to be a very interesting one to Tommy Atkins when not busy, as he and his friends talk of little else. I think I am safe to say that inside of a year the value of this stamp will increase 100 per cent.—Selected.

Indian Stamps.

Imperial Indian stamps for the most part are used for franking letters abroad. Imperial Indian stamps surcharged for use in Native States have franking power to any part of British India. The native princes finding that it pays them to issue stamps, naturally issue an ever increasing number, for no other purpose than to draw money from the pockets of stamp collectors, and most of us will look forward to the time when one set of stamps will be sufficient for the whole of India.—The Stamp Collector.