



The Dirigo Stamp Company
A Philatelic Story.

By HERBERT IREY WATTS.

Author of "Philatelia," "Harry's Stamps,"
"The Fatal Stamp," etc.

Chapter IV

Charlie hurried out to the pigeon loft the next morning and found that one of the birds Ed had taken had returned. He found a message, written on onion skin paper, tightly rolled and secured to one of the bird's tail feathers. It was quite brief and had evidently been written and sent the evening before

Winston Tues. eve.

"Charlie: Just arrived. We have already found the stamp Co. They are three jolly girls. We are invited to call on them this evening and talk stamps. You bet we're going. Expect another pigeon about 10 A. M. tomorrow. Ed.

Perhaps the reader has already guessed that the "three jolly girls" Ed mentions as composing the "company" and the three they met on their way to Winston were identical.

The next pigeon arrived on time and we will let Ed tell the story of their visit to the girls.

Winston, Wednesday morning

Dear Charlie:— Well we went to see the girls I spoke of last night and we had a splendid time. We called at the house of Miss Laureta Lewis Payne and the others Misses Nellie and Fanny Pegg, were there.

We have decided that both companies will retain the name of 'Dirigo' and work together without quarreling as seemed likely before we came here.

We have arranged to have the correspondence of the two firms carried

on by means of pigeons. The Pegg girls, who are cousins and live together have a lot of pigeons which will be used to carry our messages to them, and my pigeons will carry their messages to us. We will ship on the nine o'clock express fifty of their pigeons to you. You had better ship fifty of ours on return train. We will be home tomorrow evening. Yours, Ed.

Charlie received the fifty pigeons and sent one back with this message:

North Lynne, Wednesday

Birds arrived O. K. I send fifty in return addressed to N. & F. Pegg, Charlie Burdee.

Thursday evening Ed and Will reached home drenched to the skin by a heavy rain which was the beginning of what is known as the Rosevalley flood.

The next day, at noon the word went forth that the great dam was breaking, and the boys hurried out in time to see the great wall of iron and stone give way and the water go rushing down the valley.

This story will be continued next month. For 25c we will give you this paper one year and a copy of the popular philatelic novel "Philatelia" as premium. To those mentioning it we will send, free, the preceding chapters of "Dirigo Stamp Co.

FROM THE POST OFFICE.

The Visitor-- My man what are you in the penitentiary for?

Prisoner-- Collectin' stamps.

The visitor-- Collecting stamps? Why what is wrong in that?

Prisoner-- Nothin', but dey said I ought to have took the canceled ones only.

This paper until Jan'y 1898 for 25cts.