

be issued till May 1, 1901.

The 60th catalogue is receiving its due amount of write up, and the sales are very good.

The Postoffice Department has issued a circular stating that contributions for the relief of the sufferers by the Galveston storm who are in the postal service will be received and receipted for by the Hon. J. A. Merritt, postmaster at Washington, D. C.

The Department directs that all mail, other than letters in the usual form, for the Yukon territory, be withheld by the public until about May, 1901: as it will not be forwarded until then.

Stamp Statistics.

BY STOKES.

The pleasure of inspecting a general collection of six or seven thousand is not to be had every day, and to some people it is quite a revelation to find that so many varieties exist. But when we consider the number that has been issued, and what might be gathered, seven thousand varieties would not appear so extraordinary.

The total number of postage stamps, envelopes and cards issued by all countries in the world is over fourteen and one half thousand—a collection that would stretch the binding of our wedged albums.

It is interesting to know what countries help most to make this aggregate. A complete collection of British Colonies numbers over four thousand alone, which leaves ten thousand to be accounted for by the rest of the world. For a single country the United States leads the world with 295 varieties of postage stamps, with another issue in sight; a fact which we will leave

our United States friends to feel proud of or not; but, by the way, how they attempted to ridicule Canada for having three issues in two years, although our total is only a shade over one-third of theirs. Next to U. S. comes Spain with 282 varieties and is followed by Nicaragua with 262 varieties, and Salvador with 230. Then comes Uruguay, Mexico, Cuba and the Philippines.

With but one exception the above mentioned countries are American, so you may readily suppose that America leads other continents; which it does with a total of 4795 varieties; Europe comes next with 3565, Asia 2775, Africa 5466, and Oceania with 1027.

In comparing last year's issues Europe leads with 206 new varieties, Asia next with 202, Africa 146, America 139, Oceania 122; making the total of last year's issues 315.

Stories in the Youth's Companion

In the 52 issues of the year THE YOUTH'S COMPANION publishes more than 200 stories, yet so carefully are they selected that they prove inexhaustible in variety, unailing in the power to delight. The stories already in hand for THE COMPANION'S 1901 volume show that this feature of the paper will be as strong as ever.

Among the groups of stories will be one of "Old Settler's Day Tales"—stories actually told at some of the gatherings of pioneers in the West. There will be four stories "Tales of Our Inland Seas," picturing the adventures of the sailors on the Great Lakes; and there will also be four true tales from the Zoos, told by keepers and trainers of wild beasts.

We shall be glad to send Illustrated Announcement of the volume for 1901 with sample copies of the paper free to any address.

YOUTH'S COMPANION, Boston, Mass