

The U. S. is sure to have some new stamps for 1894, if not a new series, at least same dollar values to correspond with the 1890 issue.

Certain dealers are advertising the used Columbian dollar values at ten and twenty cents over face value.

One third of the original contract for the Columbians has been canceled.

Scotts 54th catalogue is still being eagerly looked for by the collectors.

It is pretty certain that at least one U. S. stamp will be lower in the 54th catalogue than the 53rd, that is the 3c. Newspaper.

Study your Columbian envelopes carefully, and you will be surprised at the number of varieties you will find, they appear with and without periods, with three bars on left side of shield, with large and small ornaments at side, with and without meridian back of Columbus head, with and without meridians between the neck of Columbus and eagle's wing, and sharp and blunt wings; about seventy varieties can be found of the two cent alone.

#### WHAT TO COLLECT.

The young Philatelist, as he starts out, generally imagines that it will be no very difficult matter to gradually fill his album and some day have a complete collection; but it does not take him very long to realize his error, for he finds that there are not a few countries whose stamps possess a present value far exceeding his limited means.

I remember when quite a boy, what pleasure it afforded me to complete any of my sets and how proud I was of my 2500 varieties, nicely mounted, but one day I had the good fortune to meet our late philatelic brother, A. Gerald Hull, and after looking over

his two magnificent volumes, filled with the rarest gems, I could not refrain from feeling that my hitherto precious album was a mere gaudy nothing.

Of late the tendency of most philatelists has been to forgo the idea of general collecting and to adhere to the stamps of a single country or government. This furnishes, in itself, quite a wide field in which to pursue our favorite study.

The choice of a specialty is governed of course, by the fancy of each individual, the favorites being the United States, Mexico, and the British Colonies. The first is to us, naturally the most interesting and popular. The stamps as a rule, are pretty and varied, and in addition to their pecuniary value, they cause us to become acquainted with the history of the great Republic. Many specimens are quite rare and difficult to obtain but money thus invested is not lost but well secured.

Mexican stamps are greatly sought after and to such an extent as to warrant the publication of an album for their special use. The government not to have picked out the handsome faces to adorn them with, but the colors are bright and make quite an attractive display. But beware of reprints.

The collector of British Colonials has a much larger sphere to move in. The old adage says, "the sun never sets on England" and truly, her provinces are scattered far and wide, each one furnishing to the philatelist an opportunity of increasing his store of treasures.

In addition to the above mentioned three, we might add, the German States, South America, France and Spain, besides many others; but let us as Americans, should we be in doubt as to what line to follow out, give the preference to our own country and take pride in preserving her stamps. —Detroit Phil.