

envelope he had, which was mailed from Whycocomagh, C. B., February 29th, 1860, with a pair of 3d. stamps with the figure 10 surcharged on each, but as in my own case there was no other cancellation on them. This envelope is illustrated in number one of plate. Mr. Crane's theory is, that as the currency was changed to \$ and cts. in the beginning of 1860, and that as 6d. was then worth only 10c., that the postmaster at Whycocomagh put it on the 6d. stamps to shew that he sold them for that price. If this was the case I should think more would be found, and until then I will continue to believe that this surcharge was only an accidental cancellation, although in support of Mr. Crane's argument there is a figure five alongside of my own 3d. stamp, illustrated. It seems, however, a singular coincidence that his and mine should be mailed at almost the same dates, Mr. Crane's being mailed at Whycocomagh, 1860. Another manner in which those stamps are likely to be thus overprinted is this, in 1854 there was a new postal treaty arranged between the United States and Nova Scotia, one of the agreements of which was that the rate should be 3d. per $\frac{1}{2}$ ounce and that all prepaid letters sent by Nova Scotia to the United States should be stamped on the face of them, "paid 5 cents," the equal in U. S. currency to 3d., or 10 cents if it was a double rate. This may have been occasionally struck on the stamp accidentally and would thus make a surcharge, I have myself seen an envelope in which the edge of the paid stamp has missed the 3d. stamp by only a hairsbreadth. Some of the surcharges have no doubt originated in this manner.

The provisional stamps of Nova Scotia are the split ones, of which only one value the 3d. was authorized to be so used, and that for a specific purpose, viz. to allow the rate of postage to Great Britain, $7\frac{1}{2}$ d., to be made up. This cutting of the 3d. was authorized by the Post Master General, as in his report for 1853 he says, "To remedy to some extent the serious inconvenience said to be experienced by merchants and others in consequence of there being no seven and one half-penny currency postage stamps, by which parties who feel desirous could thus prepay their letters to England, and not wishing to put the province to any further expense in having another "*die*" prepared, I considered it expedient to allow *half* stamps to be used with those now in use, to obviate the want of accommodation complained of, and a circular was accordingly forwarded to my deputies, and a notice issued to the public to the effect that letters could be prepaid to England by stamps, by parties using a six pence or two three penny stamps together with *half a three penny stamp*. The three penny stamp to be cut diagonally, and the half to be equivalent to $1\frac{1}{2}$ d. The three penny stamp alone to be used for that purpose." Both types of those provisionals are illustrated on the plate. Number five is from my own collection and shews the $7\frac{1}{2}$ d. composed of two three penny and a cut one, number seven is in Mr. F. C. Kaye's collection and though it has unfortunately been cut from the envelope, it has a good margin and shews the 3d. in combination with the cut 3d.

Of the unauthorized split stamps, I have met with five varieties, number three of plate is the 6d. cut diagonally and used as three pence, number four is also 6d. but cut perpendicularly, an extremely rare