

BENEFITS OF STAMP COLLECTING.

BY P. T. C.

There is possibly no subject which absorbs the attention of the intelligent public, more to day and no subject which has involved itself and forced its consideration upon thinking minds to a greater extent— than philately. Worcester, a few years ago, defined it as the man's for collecting stamps. To-day it is classified as a science, and occupies a column in some of the leading newspapers of Canada, it also has been admitted into the Brooklyn Institution of Arts and Sciences as a science.

A person once said to me that the government would soon be inflicting a tax on collectors, but I referred him to the derivation of the word philatelist (from Gr. philos, a friend and atelē, exemption from taxation). Putting a tax on collectors would be like taxing education, as a collection of stamps is equal to a book on geography and history. For instance a person starting to collect stamps gets one he has never seen before, he looks it up in his catalogue, finds the price and sees the coin table of that country, then he takes his geography and finds the location of it, and lastly he puts the stamp in his album, looks at the top of the page and sees whether the country is a kingdom, an empire or a republic; he also finds there the area, the number of inhabitants, the capital, the number of inhabitants of capital and the coat of arms of that country. What more would you want? On some stamps there is pictured to you

the industries of the people, as in the Newfoundland Jubilee and on others you can obtain a knowledge of the history of a country, as on the United States Columbian.

As another instance of the educating influence of philately, in a certain school lately when a question was asked the class in Latin what part of Europe was now occupied by the Helvetians, it seemed to stagger almost all the class when one of the students who had taken considerable interest in things philatelic, promptly answered "In Switzerland" and then told them that he saw Helvetia on the stamps of Switzerland.

It would astonish many of those who look upon a collection of stamps or the desire to get a collection as a foolish fad or mania but if you will show me a young man or woman who has got even a reasonable fair collection I will show you a bright well informed person especially in the geographical and political standing of the whole civilized world.

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