

has him advertised. The fraud in a very human manner, considering himself unfairly treated, endeavors to "get even" with that dealer by any means in his power. Having begun his depredations, it is a very easy thing to continue them, and, not only does the dealer first concerned suffer, but also the other dealers. The occasional fraud thus becomes habitual, and only stops his career when the firm arm of the law casts him behind prison bars.

The fact that an habitual fraud may become so from an occasional fraud, does not infer that every habitual fraud was originally an occasional. There are in Philately, as everywhere else, unfortunates who appear to be almost wholly wanting in that moral sense of right and wrong which governs most men. This class forms the habitual criminal, who feels no compunction whatever in appropriating the things of others. So much for the theoretical aspect of the fraud, let us now consider the practical side.

How shall we treat a fraud? Shall we endeavor to drive him beyond the pale of stamp collecting, or, shall we make an effort to reform him? Is it possible to reclaim him? To this last question we answer yes or no according as the query relates to an occasional or habitual fraud. To the question preceding we would answer, that for the habitual fraud, the only proper method is prompt and complete separation from the ranks of collectors. For the occasional, we would say in answer that it is our duty to endeavor to reform, for, if not treated with great care, he is liable to become an habitual, and therefore dangerous fraud. By all means let us endeavor to reclaim this fraud.

To speak more particularly of the methods to be followed in dealing with frauds of both classes will now be our subject. If a fraud is advertised extensively through the country, he is probably an habitual fraud. To deal with him is comparatively simple. The dealer, if wise, retains all correspondence in relation to sheets so he will have the application of the fraud filed. The dealer should write him a letter in a plain envelope, demanding a return of his property. In this letter the dealer should state that he will use every endeavor to secure his stamps, and if no return be made at an early date, measures of an unpleasant nature will be adopted. If no answer be forthcoming, the dealer should write to the local postmaster if it be a town, or to some honest collector residing in the portion of the city from which the fraud writes. Maps of the larger cities may easily be procured by the dealer. In writing to the collector, the dealer should try and learn (1) if the fraud is under age, (2) if so, who is his guardian, (3) if he works on a salary. (4) If he writes under an alias? Armed with this information, the dealer should address the fraud's guardian or his employer, state the case, and request assistance or returns. Should these letters effect nothing, the next step on the dealer's part would be to write the post office inspector of the district, placing all correspondence in his hands, and charging the delinquent with "use of the mails with intent to defraud." This may effect a settlement of some kind. The dealer can also make use of collection agencies, or local lawyers on commission, if he desires it, but we should not advise that plan as other than a last resort. The dealer ought meanwhile to advertise the delinquent as extensively as possible as an habitual fraud. If these steps are taken, two good results will be brought about, the hobby will be rid of one criminal, and the dealer will not lose his stamps or their value.

In the treatment of the occasional fraud, or one who has not been previously advertised, the dealer should write him, telling him the gravity as well as the necessary consequences of his act if persisted in, for, in ten cases to one, the occasional fraud does not think seriously before committing the deed. The dealer should speak of the disgrace following the act of being advertised as a fraud. In his letter he should also mention that, if the stamps have been lost or stolen, he is open to offers of reparation, either in money or in other stamps.