

An American Philatelic Congress.

It is probably too late in the season to talk of a grand combined gathering of Philatelists on the North American continent for this year. One of the most desirable things to be looked forward to in the annals of philately will be a federation of all the stamp collectors societies at present existing in Canada, the United States and other American countries. That such a scheme is feasible, there is no doubt whatever. By federation, I do not mean amalgamation, but simply a combined union of the present existing societies with the present existing laws, all under one head centre, and all having combined action and influence in matters of paramount importance to stamp collectors.

One of the greatest drawbacks of the present day is the aimless existence of too many societies, some local and some national in their character. With a yearly congress, somewhat similar to that held by the various German societies, we should at once institute a means to check all the present evils. I do not prefer to give a scheme of how this federation should be done. It will receive plenty of criticism when the call is sounded. I think that had some responsible society issued an invitation to all other philatelic bodies to attend a congress of philatelists, at a certain time during the progress of the Worlds Fair, that a hearty response would have been the result. The stamp exhibit at the Worlds Fair will do our cause a great deal of good. The different conventions of philatelists to be held in Chicago will be of great benefit, but, above all, a congress of philatelists would do more to boom philately than anything heretofore attempted.

Here is an opportunity for some American society to show a lasting benefit to collectors, or for some of our philatelic lights to shine forth. Better late than never, and if this year is too far advanced for such a scheme, then by all means let 1894 be the year that will see the greatest combined gathering of philatelists that has ever taken place in the World. We may yet have such a congress, with sections for dealers, collectors, editors and publishers. From chaos we will have order and take for our motto "UNION FAIT LA FORCE".

[CANADENSIS]