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As each number of our paper has appeared we have endeavoured to improve it, and if we can draw any conclusions from the numerous flattering epistles that we have received within the last month, we must say that our efforts have been appreciated. One thing you may always be sure of receiving at our hands, and that is, plenty of *original* reading matter, for we know that it is that collectors want. No one cares to subscribe to three or four journals and find a great many of the same articles in each. One of the chief reasons why collectors do not give their support to a great many of the philatelic papers published, is because they have to much reprinted matter in them. We always therefore intend to secure able writers, who can and will give us good original articles.

This will be a benefit to advertisers as

well as to collectors, for is it not better to have an advertisement in a paper that will be read all through, than in one that is merely opened, and when seen to contain a lot of reprinted news, is lain aside.

"Shall we collect used or unused stamps," is the question asked by a great many collectors of the present day, and it is by no means an easy one to answer. If however we were called upon to give our opinion we would say: Collect both so far as you are able, that is, obtain one of each if possible, then you will be better able to guard against fraud. We know some collectors who collect only unused specimens, and although their collections look very nice and clean, a great many forgeries could be pointed out to them, for as we all know the majority of bogus stamps are unused, and some are so cleverly executed, that if it were not for the watermarks or other fine points about the genuine that cannot be imitated, they would cheat even advanced philatelists. Now the only way to distinguish them is by putting them side by side and comparing them minutely, and if you only collect one kind, either used or unused, you will not likely do this, and numbers of the genuine ones may pass through your hands, while all the time you may have a forgery in your album.

Another thing we would like to impress on young collectors, is, never to discard a used specimen for an unused one, as by so doing, in a great many instances, a good genuine used one will be taken out of an album to make room for a fraud, which only looks the better on account of being unused.

Study your stamps and you will daily