

THE STAMP COLLECTOR'S

Monthly Gazette.

ST. JOHN, N. B., SEPTEMBER, 1866.

Montreal like other great commercial cities can boast of many fine public buildings not the least handsome of which is her Post Office, situated on the corner of St. Francois Xavier and St James' streets. It has, however, but one entrance, and that by the last named street. Before entering the building the first object of attraction is a large signboard, directly over the central delivery window, on one side of which is painted in large legible letters "SORTED" and on the other "ARRIVED"; underneath the latter the name of the mail which has just come to hand is inserted, where it remains until the whole has been sorted—which generally occupies about half an hour,—when it is removed and placed below the former. This, we think, is a good arrangement, the general adoption of which would save much time, and trouble to Post Office clerks, and be quite a convenience to the public. On the right side of the entrance is the "Registry Office" and on the left the "Money Order" Department. Connected with the office are 2000 drawers and boxes; the holders of the former having keys which they can use at pleasure; and for the accommodation of the latter there are several windows all marked "BOX DELIVERY." Parties who do not rent boxes (which by the way cost but \$1.50 per annum) get their letters at the "General Delivery" window. When a "registered" letter arrives, the person to whom it is addressed, or whoever may be acting for him, gets a red card on which is printed the word "Registered," this he takes to the Registry Office and then after signing the receipt book gets his letter. At each of the "delivery" windows a clerk is constantly stationed, ready from 7 A. M. to 7 P. M., to answer all enquiries. As in other large offices the sorters are a distinct class from the others, and attend to this duty only. Boxes for the reception of letters, are placed in various parts of the city which are regularly visited at stated times by carriers and relieved of their contents. The amount of business done in this office is immense and far exceeds that of any other city in British America.

There is no department for general supply of Stamps in connection with this office; but near to the building at the General Stamp and Newspaper Depot of E. Pickup these can be had in any quantity.

NEW PUBLICATIONS.

Messrs. Alfred Smith & Co., of Bath, England, have published a fourth edition of Dr. Gray's celebrated Catalogue of Postage Stamps, which we have perused with much interest and

pleasure. The author is well known as a gentleman of education and ability, and generally regarded by Stamp Collectors as an authority on all timbrophilic matters. This last edition of the Doctor's Illustrated Catalogue is worthy in every way of its author, and should be in the possession of every collector. It is much larger and fuller than its predecessor, and contains in an easy and readable form a vast amount of information on almost every topic connected with Stamp Collecting. The introduction is an able chronological resume of the history of Penny Postage from its first inception till the present period; and cannot fail to interest others besides collectors. Following this, is a table or glossary, giving the English translation of foreign postage inscriptions,—showing, also, the nationality from the coin or device used. The Catalogue, itself, contains a full and finely illustrated account of the past and present stamps of about one hundred and fifty countries, besides this, there are short papers on "Locals" and "Essays," which to the young philatelist will prove of great value; among the latter, we were, however, rather surprised to find a place given to the Fenian "Essay" which every intelligent collector on this side of the Atlantic knows was made "to sell" only. The Dr. appears to have had some misgivings about inserting this in his catalogue for in his introduction he remarks that "not improbably it is the work of some speculative engraver," which is the truth.

However, we cordially commend to our readers this new edition of the Dr.'s catalogue and bespeak for it a large circulation.

Newly Issued Stamps.

We expected to have had in time for this issue of the *Gazette*, cuts illustrative of the 200 and 500 reis described below, but have been disappointed by our engravers. We are sorry for this; but, if our readers excuse us this time, we will try and make ample amends in future numbers.

The expected new Brazilian sets have come at last, and rather a handsome set they make. There are seven of them as follows: 10 reis—vermillion, 20 reis brown lilac, 50r deep blue 80r lilac, 100r green 200r black, and 500r orange. The 10, 20, 80, 100, and 500 reis—all have in the centre a portrait of the Kings full face slightly turned towards the right. Brazil at top value in words, 8 figures at bottom (the 50 reis has figures in four corners); each differ in design. The 20 reis and 200 reis have head in profile to the left, BRAZIL at top, value in letters below, figures denoting value at sides. They are all perforated, rectangular, and present a fine appearance, as they were engraved by the American Bank Note Company New York.

PORTUGAL.—A new Stamp for this country has come forth in the shape of a 120 reis; head