

THE CANADIAN PHILATELIST.

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PHILATELY IN CANADA.

The collection of postage stamps, although once much despised and ridiculed, has risen far higher than its earlier votaries ever dreamt of, and has now become a science equal in importance, to the kindred study of coins. In Europe, and more especially in France and Germany, stamps have been more studied than in any other quarter of the globe; in the United States, although there are a great number of collectors, yet but little has been done for the benefit of Philately, for there, when a person has bought his stamps at a high price, and stuck them into a printed album, he thinks he has gone to quite enough trouble, but never thinks of examining them further than to see whether they are genuine or forged.

But in Canada matters are even worse, and the whole body of collectors are boys; in fact we do not know of more than half a dozen adults who collect stamps, and are acquainted with but one *philatelist*. There are in this city a large number of excellent collections of the rare old issues, but the owners have long since left off collecting and although they never look at their albums, would not part with them at any price. These collections were made up when the stamp mania first began in 1861, and we have seen a collection in this city which contains upwards of two thousand stamps all issued before 1866, and includes complete sets of Spain, Luzon, and Cuba, also many old British Guiana, used U. S. locals, Granada Confederation etc. The owner has now left Quebec and probably the collection, which is worth hundreds of dollars, will never be seen again. As it is in Quebec, so in all the cities of Canada, gentlemen who when school boys were ardent collectors, now leave their albums to moulder away in some garret, little dreaming how

much they are worth. One of the causes of this deplorable condition of things, is the want of a good stamp journal, or at any rate, a really conscientious dealer, who would not only sell stamps, but sell them cheap and thus encourage new beginners not only to fill up the spaces in their Oppens or Lallier, but to *study* the variations in shade, perforation and watermark, which have been so carefully examined by European collectors. Speaking of watermark reminds us of the fact, that the most of our Canadian collectors do not even know the meaning of the word. If any of our readers, who are enjoying this blissful ignorance, will take the commonest stamp there is, namely the 1d Great Britain, and hold it up to the light, they will see distinctly traced in the paper a small crown, this is called a "*watermark*."

We would recommend, to our readers, the perusal of a series of papers in "*The Stamp Collectors Magazine*" called "*Papers for Beginners*," this would afford an immense amount of knowledge at a small cost; and at any rate any one who wishes to know anything about stamps, should subscribe to the above mentioned journal, as it is the acknowledged authority on any philatelic question.

Although the picture we have drawn of stamp collecting in "*This Canada of ours*" is most lamentably dark, yet a new era is dawning, we find that collectors are springing up in every town and village, and that we may not only increase the number, but also increase the knowledge of philatelists, is the sincere desire of the editor, in presenting this, the first number of the first Canadian stamp journal, for the approval of our readers, to each of whom we wish a very
"HAPPY NEW YEAR."