

tely has become a pastime, study, investment, and in some cases a science. With this record behind us, it is hard to say what time may develop as an object for our hobby. That it has infinitely greater possibilities of development within the next fifty years, compared with the last, is very evident, and twenty or thirty years from now we may wonder how it was we saw comparatively so little in it to-day.

I met a gentleman the other day who was the possessor of a collection of stamps that had been handed down, and added to by each, for three generations. His grandfather had started it and given it to his father and in turn it had come down my friend, whom you might be sure prized it highly. It has become an heirloom in the family, and there are many less useful or valuable ones that are being treasured as almost priceless relics of past generations.

### Shutting Down on Fake Publications.

The United States Postmaster-General is about to introduce a reform in regard to what is known as second-class mail matter. It was originally intended that this class of matter should include only legitimate newspapers and periodical magazines. The law, however, has been circumvented by publishers so that the mails have been used for the purpose of distributing novels, fireside stories, detective libraries, and other ventures of a like character. These have none of the characteristics of newspapers, but are books pure and simple, and many of them are of a very trashy kind. Another class of publication that it was not intended should have the privileges of the post office is what is known as the "house organ," being a paper or pamphlet got up more or less elaborately for the purpose of advertising the goods of some mercan-

tile establishment. These journals pretend to have a bona fide list of subscribers; but, as a rule, the names are taken from list furnished by concerns that supply them for this very purpose. The United States Government loses many million dollars by affording these free privileges to these fake publications. It is intended to shut down upon them in future and confine the second-class mail matter to legitimate publications. There is a good deal of the same kind of thing done in Canada, and our own Postmaster-General has already looked into the matter, and he has on more than one occasion stated that some method would be adopted for abating the nuisance.—*Onto World*.

In reference to the above we most sincerely hope that the sickle of reform will not mow down any of our esteemed contemporaries.

A postal card recently received by a Cincinnati paper contained 3,203 words.

The rate on parcels between Canada and Japan by post will be reduced to 20 cents per pound on and after January 1, 1897.

The postal appliances exhibited by Canada at Milan took first prize against all Europe.

W. Grey-Wilson, governor of the island of St. Helena, attempted to corner the postage stamp market in the island, but his scheme became known to the colonial secretary in London, and it was frustrated by an issue of a large quantity of stamps of the denominations which the governor had taken out of circulation.