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## NATIONAL CHARACTERISTICS DISPLAYED IN POSTAGE STAMPS.

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Of 1888, all of Britain's stamps are simple, almost homely, in design and colors. They are indictive of British solidity and substantiability. They, like the dress of the average Britisher, not Anglo-maniacs, represent British character—a quiet, but good apparel, no gaudy blaze of colors and designs. English stamps are like English newspapers, no ostentation, no display, the outside page is covered with advertisements, the reading matter is concealed within. No sensational headlines occupying half a column, followed by a paragraph of three or four lines in description of some every-day event. The intense loyalty to the Queen is also shown in every British stamp. Of course, the English are not without their faults. They have a hobby—it is Loyalty. If Americans are hero worshippers, the British are certainly Sovereign worshippers. The average man could stand to see the stamps of Great Britain adorned, if but for a short time, with the striking countenance of that "grand old man," William E. Gladstone.

Turning from a review of the national characteristics as shown in their postage stamps, of two such great countries as the United States and Great Britain, to some of the South American republics, one could almost be sure from the

gaudy dress in which we find these stamps attired, that the nations were small and insignificant. The shallower brained and more insignificant a man or nation, the more the ostentation and display. It is not necessary for a great man or a great nation to dress flashily in order to occupy a place of distinction in the world. Take the stamps of Costa Rica, Guatamala or Honduras. The colors of their stamps are perfectly striking. They remind us of the be-collared, be-cuffed, be-glassed, be-caned, be-crysanthinumed young dandy, from whose very appearance it is easily discernable there is no depth of character behind all this display. But when one comes to understand the term "Seebecked," and discovers that these nations have fallen so low as to humiliate themselves by trying to increase their finances by a few thousand dollars, by pandering to the tastes of stamp collectors, my contention is proved, and one feels like crying "What else could be expected from so much show?"

Then turn to Chili, a country whose stamps are not of the flaming order. Printed in quiet colors, very much like those of European countries, contrast her stamps with those of Brazil a country which has issued five times as many stamps as her smaller southern neighbor. Brazil is eternally getting out something new in stamps, something entirely new in design and color. There seems to be no order or consistency—now an Emperor, then a President, then some symbolic design adorns her stamps. Upon inquiry, we find that Brazil is a nation of revolutions and