

in default of this, let us depend upon the circumstances described above, and others that can be found, in order to prove or disprove their authenticity.

How the desire to have in our collections UNIQUE stamps, drives us to admit without question what is offered to us, whatever may be the price, and under the fallacious pretext that no one possesses the like of it.

To facilitate this study of surcharges, it appears to us necessary to prepare a list of those of all countries to point out the proofs of their genuineness, to express the doubts which they inspire. The researches that this work will demand from collectors, will throw light gradually upon their authenticity. We shall receive the good, we shall reject the bad, which, in our opinion, will be better than a wholesale proscription or one by categories, as the German Society proposes.

We shall not pretend to do this work ; our occupation does not permit it, but here is something to tempt the activity of the collector.

We may say, in closing, that surcharges have been employed for the same uses on telegraph and fiscal stamps.

As for these last, there exists a very great number of them, and the interest attached to an inquiry concerning their authenticity, is not less than that with reference to postage stamps. We ought to say, however, the expertness of the forgers has neglected this subject, because of the small number of collectors who collect fiscal stamps.—*La Livre D'Or de la Timbrologie*.

THE ADHESIVE STAMPS OF CEYLON TO THE END OF 1870.

A Paper read before the Philatelic Society, London, on Friday, 5th March, 1880.

BY W. B. THORNHILL.

THE stamps of Ceylon, so far as I can ascertain, have not been under the Society's notice since December, 1874, when they were the subject of study, and you will find the reference list coupled then in vol. ix. of the *Philatelist*. As I am much interested in Ceylon stamps myself, and as our Vice-President wrote on the subject in the jubilee number of the *Timbre-Poste*, and was answered by Major Evans, about a point in connection with these stamps hitherto practically not discussed, it struck me a paper on the subject, together with a reference list (pending the further study of these stamps by the Society), might be of interest to you, dealing with the point above alluded to ; viz., the reason for the existence of long and short Ceylon stamps of same origin and value of the Perkins, Bacon, and Co. type.

I have been as careful as possible in my facts, and shall be much obliged to anyone who will correct any faults.

You probably all remember that Major Evans, in his catalogue, appends a note on the unwatermarked stamps of 1863 as follows : " These stamps are apparently (indeed, we may say certainly) from the same plates as the other issues ; but at the same time, the impressions on this paper are about $\frac{1}{16}$ inch shorter than those on other papers. This can only have been