

stamps of this country.

About 1881 or a year later a boom for the labels of South America got up which continued for some years, more or less in strength.

From that time (say 1883-4) there has been a boom on the move which has struck a different spot every year, sometimes the force of the strike is not very strong, but just enough to raise the price of paper a couple of times its former value.—But did I not say I was going to tell you how I would collect if I were to start again?

If I were to start a collection to-morrow, I would commence with buying the stamps which everybody, or very few in fact, were not very particular about as they were priced low and had very little show to get up in the world as it were; I would select countries which had always been too common even to look at, they and not the high priced stamp of the present day, will be the varieties of say 19 to A.D.

FRANK H. BEST.



STRAITS SETTLEMENTS—Comprising Singapore, Penang and Malacca, are situated on the west coast of the Malay Peninsula, of which the whole southern portion, comprising about 25,000 square miles, is now under the control of the British Government; the total area of the colony proper is 1,542 square miles; population, 512,342; capital, Singapore,

imports, \$141,427,952; exports, \$134,637,707.

TASMANIA.—Is an island at the southern extremity of the continent of Australia, from which it is divided by Bass' Straits 120 miles wide; the area of the colony is 26,215 square miles, and its population, 153,144; capital, Hobart; imports, £1,497,161; exports, £1,346,965, public debt, £7,399,000.

TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO.—The island of Trinidad lies about 16 miles east of Venezuela, and has an area of 1,754 square miles; the colony now includes the Island of Tobago which is the most southerly of the Windward group of the West Indies; the population of Trinidad is 200,000 and of Tobago 18,353; capital, Port of Spain; imports (Trinidad), £2,086,380; exports, £2,258,063; imports, (Tobago), £15,888; exports, £13,744; public debt (Trinidad), £608,820; public debt (Tobago) \$5,000

TURKS AND CAICOS ISLANDS.—These islands lie between 21 and 22 deg. north latitude and 71 and 72 deg 37 min west longitude; their area is 169 square miles, and population 4,744; imports, \$25,388; exports, \$27,336.

VICTORIA.—Is situated at the south-east of the continent of Australia; its extreme length from east to west is about 490 miles, and its greatest breadth 300 miles; the area of Victoria is 87,884 square miles, nearly equal to Great Britain; population, 1,167,373; capital, Melbourne; imports, \$17,174,545; exports, \$14,214,546; public debt, \$46,711,287.

WESTERN AUSTRALIA.—Comprises nearly one-third of the Australian continent, namely, all that portion west of 129th degree of east longitude; the total area is 75,920 square miles; population, 58,674; capital Perth; imports \$1,391,109; exports, \$882,148; public debt, \$1,261,864.

WINDWARD ISLANDS.—The Windward or southern group of the West India Islands includes the following islands; St. Lucia, St. Vincent, Barbadoes, the Grenadiues and Grenada;