

thority. Eureka! He uses the big P's. With a grateful sigh we murmur, "at last!" "Example is better than precept;" we too will be classical. But alas! only a week elapses before to our amazed and faltering vision our learned friend appears denuded of his capitals and wearing the robe of small letters. It is then with a feeling of melancholy we remember that the *editor* has asserted himself. And so betwixt upstarts, printers, editors and scholars, driven here and there, and upset generally, we give up the struggle and await the advent of the philatelic Webster.

The saying "ill blows the wind that profits nobody" is true, from the stamp collector's standpoint, regarding the Spanish-American war. While the postal issues of Cuba, Porto Rico and the Philippines have always been regarded as first class, yet their popularity at the present time is largely increased, and is likely to be of a lasting character. The writer has always had a fondness for the stamps of Spain and Cuba, and it is certainly a fact that in an unused state they form a pretty and historic portrait gallery, although there is quite a similarity in the features and the babies of the family are numerous. Mr. Stevens, an enterprising young Bostonian, has written a timely book on "The Philippines," which graphically describes the conditions of life in these eastern islands. It would not be a bad idea if one of our own pencil pushers should favour the collecting public with an exhaustive philatelic treatise on the subject. Collectors who have large

collections of these three countries can congratulate themselves, while those who have only a few varieties have the opportunity of largely increasing the number as the low prices of these stamps place them within the reach of all. The early issues of the Philippines are of course expensive, several varieties listing from \$20 to \$50. The stamps of Cuba and Porto Rico however are comparatively cheap as both countries have only one specimen each cataloguing as high as \$12. As a specialty these three Spanish colonies almost stand supreme. Approximately Cuba has 135 varieties, Porto Rico the same number, and the Philippines 200, making with the aid of the specialist a collection of 500.

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