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WHAT BECOMES OF OLD POSTAGE STAMPS?

A Parisian paper has set itself to discover what becomes of the old postage stamps—a question which has vexed the souls of many curious persons on this side of the Atlantic. It was alleged that they were collected for the defrauding of the revenue, the post-marks being obliterated, and the stamps re-used. Obviously however the small scale upon which such a fraud could be conducted would not account for the millions of used stamps which were known to be collected by the convents. It appears that the convents convert their pupils and their pupils' parents into collectors, and, when a million stamps have been amassed and sorted as to countries and values, they are sold to the dealers in foreign stamps, who pay from fourteen pounds to sixteen pounds per million for them. It is calculated that their retail sale and export to other countries leaves the dealer an average profit of eighty-four pounds per million. Philatelists will be interesting in knowing, on the authority of our contemporary, that the one-franc stamps of the Republic of 1849 are now so scarce that they command about eight pounds each.

A French colonial fourth of crown, 1670, limited at \$325; only two of these pieces are known on this continent, one is in the Dominion Government collection at Ottawa. The only two others known are in the cabinets of wealthy Frenchmen, who estimate their value at 5,000 francs each, and who, under no circumstances, would part with pieces which they consider to be the very gems of their cabinets.

To the Editor of the T. P. Journal:

SIR—The October No. of your interesting paper is to hand, and I am glad to see it again under the old management. I note in your columns a letter from W. E. Skinner, of Lynn, Mass., containing some statements which are calculated to mislead, as they are utterly without foundation and made with malicious intent. This party states that he had Mr. Emory, of this city, arrested for libel. It gives me great pleasure to be able to nail this as a deliberate falsehood as I am fully acquainted with all the facts of the case. Mr. Emory, in his paper, the *New England Philatelist*, exposed Skinner as a dealer in counterfeit stamps. Not long afterward a letter arrived from Skinner in which he threatened, unless a public retraction of the charges was made, to sue Mr. Emory for \$1,000 damages in the Superior Court of Massachusetts. Also some bluster about "my attorneys" was included in this amiable epistle. Far from being terrified, Mr. Emory replied backing up his statements and defying Skinner to bring the case into court. About this time I saw Skinner in Boston, and he assured me that he bore no ill-will. He backed right down and wrote Mr. Emory in a most peaceable and wanted him to exchange an advertisement with his paper. Now Skinner tells behind his back how he "shut up Emory, of Fitchburg," or how he had him arrested. Skinner is a contemptible slanderer, and his statements in this connection are black lies. One word as to the clause that Mr. Emory has left the business in disgust. The gentleman has retired from the stamp trade for the time being, as he is away

at present engaged in the prosecution of his studies. Skinner is hardly likely to arrest you as he is only a boy.

W. K. JEWETT.

Fitchburg, Mass., Oct. 24.

NEW ISSUES

That have appeared, or are about to appear:

Argentine Republic.—We have seen the 2, 4 and 8 cent stamps surcharged "official."

British Honduras.—The 6 penny is now green.

French Colonies.—Will issue hereafter and receive double or reply post cards. They will be impressed on each half with a stamp of the value of 1d., 1½d., or 2d., according to their destination.

Labuan.—Has issued a provisional stamp, 2 cents on the 16c.

Mauritius.—Has issued a new 16c. stamp; color, brown.

Mexico.—The "Ph. W." announce that the present set will be changed as follows: 1c. pale-green; 2c. carmine; 3c. ochre; 4c. red; 5c. blue; 6c. brown; 10c. orange; 12c. brown; 25c. blue.

Natal.—Half-penny is now yellow.

Norway.—The color of the 12 ore is now brown.

Transvaal.—The "Ph. M." chronicles the 3 penny, orange, surcharged "Halve Penny."

Austria employs 14,450 officials in her postal service, England 91,000, Germany 79,884, France 53,299, Italy 18,790, and Russia 15,557. During 1888 Germany showed the largest amount of business and England the largest surplus over expenses.