

Clippings.

All Clippings from newspapers thought by the Editor to be of interest to Collectors will be published in this column. Subscribers are invited to send clippings, which always prove acceptable.

The world now uses 13,000 kinds of postage stamps.

The postoffice and telegraph office at Lexington, Miss., are in charge of a woman.

The Columbian stamp was designed in compliment to a Chicago girl's foot.

The Chinese postal service, which is slow and crude, is controlled by many private companies.

The new Columbian stamps are very popular in Japan. They build houses of paper over in Japan, you know.

During the complicated process of manufacturing stamps they are counted 11 times in order to guard against pilfering.

The postoffice at Mott, Ind., pays the smallest salary of any office in the state—51 cents annually. Don't all speak for it at once.

In addition to the 10 World's Fair cards first issued, two more were issued, towards the close of the exposition. You now have to buy several sets, and run your chance of getting these two.

An international postage stamp is suggested by Swiss journals. It would be convenient in making small remittances to foreign countries, and it would give the stamp collectors something more to do. Have any objections, anything to say?

The postoffice department is making efforts to work off its stock of Columbian stamps, of which none will be sold after Jan 1, 1894. Mr. Wanamaker's issue was a failure chiefly because he gave people too much paper for their money.

Postoffice officials in Portland, Me., were surprised to have among the mail deposited there a day or two ago, a registered letter that would have gone for the usual 10 cents fee and postage, but bore a stamp of the \$4 denomination. The stamp collecting had been suggested as an explanation, the stamp that had been used being regarded by its enthusiasts as more valuable than an uncanceled one.

A good story concerning Gladstone as a book hunter was told to-day. Some time ago one of his marked catalogues, ordering a batch of books, was surcharged by the postoffice as being in the nature of a letter. It was enclosed in a half penny wrapper and bore Gladstone's customary scrap of writing to forward the volumes checked. The bookseller added the extra postage of two pence to the account, and Gladstone paid up; but he relieved his feelings by having a merry hit at the postoffice for its marvellous red tape.

There are 68,000 postmasters in this country. Only sixty-five of them were charged with criminal offenses during the past year.

He was lean and dyspeptic, and over his face had settled the gloom of despair, as he wildly wandered along the dark street, chilled through by the quivering air. He sought a physician, and when at last he confronted a dealer of men he fainted, and fell on the cold pavement stone, and hasn't been living since then. The coroner's jury empaneled to search the cause of his death, found that the immediate trouble arose from having exhausted his breath; and further, 'twas stated, "dyspepsia he had, and colic and all sorts of cramps, induced by the drain of his fluids entailed in licking Columbian stamps."

The largest postage stamp ever issued measured 4 inches by 2—the size of the old United States 5 cent stamp, restricted to packages of newspapers and periodicals, posted in bulk and never intended for letters. The penny Madagascar stamp second in regard to size, 3 inches by 1½ inches, was used to prepay postage on letters posted at the British consulate at Antananarivo, where there was no other postoffice in 1886. The private postage stamp of Robinson & Co.'s express, with its figure of a bear, is 2¾ by 1½ inches. The stamp entitled "California penny postage from the postoffice, care of Penny Post Co." for 1885 is in size 2½ by 1¼ inches. The quarter schilling stamp of Mecklenburg-Schwerin which was issued in 1880 is the smallest ever issued—less than one-fourth the size of the current penny English stamp—and it would take about fifty of them to cover the surface of the largest issued by the United States.—Collector.

A discussion regarding the advantages of the postal card in a recent gathering brought up the question as to the proper use of that convenient piece of pasteboard.

One woman, not quite so young as she once was, complained bitterly of the habit a friend of hers had of always sending her the most affectionate messages in this open way.

"The worst of it is she writes just like a man," said the afflicted one, "and signs herself 'yours with undying love, K. M.'"

Another said she could not explain the coolness of a certain fastidious young man, except that perhaps he was displeased with her for sending a postal to his club asking something about a book.

Besides those who merely dislike receiving postal cards there are some who would be seriously offended at being addressed in that manner, so it is best always to avoid their use as far as possible.

Appointments with the dressmaker, orders to the grocer and like business may with all propriety be conducted by means of cards, but for friends and acquaintances a sheet of note paper and envelope are what etiquette requires, says the *St. Louis Republic*.

Are your Files

Of THE CANADIAN PHILATELIST complete? If not, now is the time to complete them. The supply of back numbers is small. While they last they can be had at the following prices: Nos. 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23 and 24 at 10c. each. Nos. 7, 16, 25 and 26 are 25c. each. Complete your files before it is too late.