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Pithy Philatelic Points.

Sayings and Articles of Noted Writers
Carefully Condensed.

By GEO. W. STARNAMAN.

It is acknowledged that the prices realized at auction is the basis for the cataloguing of rare stamps, and this being a fact at the present day, it places stamp auctions as one of the foundation stones of the pursuit, and the manner of conducting them one of the greatest elements in the uplifting and spread of the fascinating hobby.—Alvah Davison.

I doubt if, strictly speaking, collecting of the same stamps on the different colors of paper is just in the stamp collecting line; however allowing that it is all right, certainly collecting the different sizes and shapes of envelopes is far beyond the mark.—D. Harlan King.

There is a feature overlooked by those calamity howlers and doubting Thomases who predict the passing into oblivion of philately. That interest in it may wax or wane, as interest in the more important affairs of life exert a more or less powerful influence upon us is certain, but that the love of stamp collecting will ever die out is doubtful and that it can pass into entire forgetfulness is impossible.—Chas. E. Jenney.

Perhaps buying stamps at auction is as good as any to secure good specimens cheap but I still buy from the bargain lists of the dealers who use the advertising columns of our magazines.—H. J. Bradt.

That there are no sales which result directly from the falling off of interest on the part of the persons owning the collections, I do not affirm. It would be a wonderful pastime indeed that no mortal would tire of when he had indulged himself without a curb. Selling out by auction or private sale is a legitimate phase of stamp collecting.—George T. Crowfoot.

We are told that the summer is a dull season; it may be for the dealer. For the true collector, the season commences January 1st. and ends December 31st. On the 4th of July, notwithstanding the great heat (98°) and a national holiday, I hinged a few stamps. The day before (Sunday) was the hottest day in Connecticut in 50 years, the thermometer 106° in the shade to my own personal knowledge.—Henry A. Chapman.

The progressive stamp collector takes no interest in a paper which mouths the good sayings of another. Improvement,—the order of the age—can never be accomplished without originality. Franklin never called down the lightnings by copying after someone else. Then too, this copying confines the genius of our writers and lessens the opportunity of the sale of their manuscript.—S. M. Hamilton.

The danger of loss by abstraction and theft ought not to be considered, but may bear upon the question with some collectors. All persons connected with our delightful study ought to be honest, but alas greed and covetousness crop out from unexpected sources.—Edward H. Hall.