

The Useful Instructor.

VOL. I.

HALIFAX, APRIL, 1887.

NO. 1.

The Useful Instructor.

PUBLISHED MONTHLY.

OFFICE: 104 GOTTINGEN ST., HALIFAX, N. S.

Subscription Rates.

Per annum.....50 cents) Post free to
 " 6 months.....25 ") all parts
 " 3 ".....12 ") of the world.
 PAYABLE IN ADVANCE.

Advertising Rates.

Our next issue will have a circulation of 500,000 copies. We propose to keep the circulation of the Useful Instructor up to at least 5,000 per month, with a large issue about every three months of ten thousand or more. Advertisers making contracts will get the benefit of these special editions—transient advertisers will be charged double. It is therefore to the advantage of every advertiser to contract for at least three insertions of his advertisement, so that at least one special edition may be included in the contract. Our rates for advertising are, until further notice, as follows:

Per line, Nonpareil type.....\$0.05.
 " inch, 12 lines.....0.50.
 " three inches, 36 lines.....1.25.
 " column, 10 inches.....3.75.
 " page, three columns.....10.00.

A discount of twenty per cent. when continued for three months or more, without change. Cash must accompany all advertisements amounting to less than one dollar. Remitt. in stamps for sums less than one dollar; larger sums should be sent by money order, or currency in a registered letter. Canadian, United States and Great Britain postage stamps (in small sums) will be received at face value. Stamps from other countries at twenty per cent. discount.

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:—This is to certify that we have printed ten thousand copies of the initial number of the Useful Instructor, and have orders from the publisher to issue five thousand of number two.
 NOVA SCOTIA PRINTING CO., HALIFAX, N. S.

All communications, subscriptions, advertisements, etc., must be addressed to
 PUBLISHER OF
 THE USEFUL INSTRUCTOR,
 BOX 185, HALIFAX, N. S.

THE LONDON
 RUBBER STAMP CO.
 217 HOLLIS ST., HALIFAX, N. S.
 MANUFACTURERS OF ALL KINDS OF
RUBBER STAMPS.
 Write for circulars, naming this paper.

MACGREGOR & KNIGHT,
 MANUFACTURERS OF
 BLANK BOOKS,
 IMPORTERS OF
 GENERAL STATIONERY,
 Paper Hangings,
 ARTISTS' MATERIALS, &c., &c.
125 Granville St.
 Halifax, Nova Scotia.

Name this paper when you write for Catalogues.

THIS PAPER is sold in Philadelphia at the Newsagent Advertising Agency of Messrs. N. W. AYER & SON, our authorized agents.

PHONETICS.

If people were to write our language as carelessly as many speak it, the result would be something strange. The clipping of familiar words, and particularly the huddling of as many together in a bunch as we can find breath to speak, make a curious language, as this will show!

Specimens of boys' conversation like the following may be called short-hand talking:

"Warejego lasnight"
 "Hadder skate."
 "Jerfind the toe hard'ngood"
 "Yes; hard'nough."
 "Jer goerlone"
 "No; Bill'n Joe wenterlong."
 "Howlate jerslay"
 "Pastate."
 "Lemmeknow wenyergoin', woncher? I wanter go'nshower howto skate."
 "H—n! Ficoodnt skate better'n you, I'd sel out'n-quit."
 "Well, we'll tryerace 'nsofyercan."

WRITTEN ALMANACS.

The history of written almanacs dates back to the second century of the Christian era. The Greeks at Alexandria, in the time of Ptolemy (100—130 A. D.), constructed almanacs. Prior to the written almanacs of the Greeks there were calendars or primitive almanacs. One of them was found at Pompeii cut upon a square block of marble, upon each side of which three months were registered in perpendicular columns, each headed by the proper sign of the zodiac. There is in the Savilian Library at Oxford, England, a manuscript copy of an almanac published in the year 1300 A. D., but the first almanac positively known to have been published in England was "Shepheards Kalendar," translated from the French and printed by Richard Payson, in 1495.

HE—"I was discussing tobogganing with your friend Miss Smith, last evening, and I was surprised to learn, Miss Ethel, that she considers the sport silly." She—"Yes, dear Clara's nose turns red upon the slightest exposure to cold."—*New York Sun.*

"Look here," said a man this morning, going into his grocer's, "those eggs you sold me New Year's were bad." "Well, that wasn't my fault." "Whose was it then?" "Blamed if I know. How should I tell what was inside of them? I'm a groceryman, I'm no mind-reader."—*Washington Critic.*

NEWFOUNDLAND STAMPS.

1857—3d. triangular, 10c. 5d. 20c. 1858—4d. 15c.; 6d. 20c.; 6d. 25c.; 8d. 25c.; 1s. 40c. The seven for 21.50. 4 varieties present issue, 12c. 6 varieties P. E. Island unused, 30c. 6 var. Nova Scotia, 81.80. 6 var. New Brunswick, \$1.00, all unused.

HARRISON L. HART,
 71 Gottingen St., Halifax, Nova Scotia.

COINS! STAMPS!

24 pp. Catalogue, 10c. Birds' Egg List, 3c. Agents wanted to sell scarce stamps from sheets on liberal terms. NOVA SCOTIA STAMPS WANTED.

W. F. GREAVY,
 827 BRANSHAN STREET, San Francisco, Cal.
 *Mention "Useful Instructor."

J. A. PIERCE,

DEALER IN POSTAGE AND REVENUE STAMPS,
 ROOM 8, NO. 70 STATE ST., CHICAGO, ILL.
 New Lists, just issued, sent Free. Approval \$ sent to responsible parties. Stamps for exchange. NOVA SCOTIA STAMPS WANTED.
 *Mention "Useful Instructor."

THE STAMP COLLECTOR'S JOURNAL.

(Published punctually the 15th of every month.)
 36 cents per annum, post free to any part of Great Britain, Europe, Canada, Egypt, United States, Persia, Algeria, and India. 75 cents per annum, post free, to Australia, Cape Colonies, etc. All other countries, 25c. per annum. C. H. WILSON, Bury St. Edmund's, Eng. *Mention "Useful Instructor."

JOHN R. FINDLAY,

BOX 185, HALIFAX, NOVA SCOTIA,
 DESIRES TO PURCHASE
 Stamps, Entire Post Cards and
 Envelopes, etc.
 The highest price paid for above in good condition.
 CONSIGNMENTS SOLICITED.

*ALWAYS MENTION "USEFUL INSTRUCTOR."

STANLEY, GIBBONS & CO.,

8 Gower Street,
 London, W. C., - England.

WHOLESALE AND RETAIL

Dealers in Foreign Stamps.

ILLUSTRATED PROSPECTUS FREE.

The Imperial Stamp Album

AND THE

Imperial Postcard Album

ARE THE BEST

Description and prices post free.

VARIETIES IN CANADA NEWSBANDS may be had on approval, 1875, one cent blue, 1c. 1882, one cent blue on yellow paper (very scarce), 15c.

JOHN R. FINDLAY,
 Halifax, N. S.