

THE
Niagara Falls Philatelist,

Its not the size that makes the paper.
A JOURNAL FOR PHILATELISTS.
SUBSCRIPTION.

10 cents to U. S. and Canada. 12 Nos.
25 cents to Foreign countries.

ADVERTISING RATES.

80 cents per inch with discount.
All ads. without special instruction
will be inserted until ordered out.

NIAGARA FALLS PUBLISHING COMPANY,
Niagara Falls South, Ont.

IN MEMORY.

DIED:— At its place of business in
St Catharines, Ont., the *Canadian
Philatelic Journal* aged 7 months.

The deceased journal was in its short
career, one of the most miserable and
horribly printed journals of the host of
philatelic papers, published.

By its death it deprives its printer
the privilege of using his old type
and badly mixed pitch and mud (for ink).

The cause of its sudden collapse is
doubtful, but it is supposed that Mr.
French seeing the job his printer done,
sold it to C. B. Reece of St. Catharines,
in order to free himself of having the
thing dying on his hands. Mr. R.
has failed to connect and the subscrip-
tion list and advertising contracts will
be filed by us.

THE MAIL SYSTEM.

The earliest record that we have
of anything resembling our modern
mail system is the manner in which
the ancient Persian and Assyrian kings
transmitted their decrees of state—by
means of a regular line of messengers,
stationed at a distance of a days jour-
ney from each other, mounted on swift
horses, and prepared for the utmost ex-
pedition. Rome thundered her edicts

through the almost numberless Pro-
vinces that had acknowledged her
sway, in a somewhat similar
manner. But private messages were
generally sent by slaves, and as
only the higher order could afford that
luxury, it is plain that all communica-
tion with their absent friends was en-
tirely cut off from the lower classes.
This circumstance affords a striking
contrast between the mail system of
ancient times and the mail system of
the present day, by which a letter of
any length can be transmitted to any
point in the known world for a mere
trifle. The rude civilization of the
middle ages hardly improve upon the
system of Assyria, Persia and Rome
and it was not till the reign of James I.
that it began to be more fully develop-
ed in England. In 1644, a member of
the House of Commons was appointed
master of the Post, (an office corres-
ponding to that of Postmaster General,)
and he established a communication
by mail with every part of England.
Since the invention of the locomotive
and the introduction of railroads, the
facilities for correspondence, and in
consequence, correspondence itself, have
very greatly increased, until at the
present day the postage revenue forms
one of the chief revenues of nations. Of
late years, too, the efforts of pioneer
philatelists have given a deserved popu-
larity to the work of collecting the
different stamps issued by nations, as a
convenient means of prepaying to the
government the means of transmitting
messages.

The uninitiated are still inclined
to sneer at it as a useless folly, but it
SURELY is an absorbing and instructive
pursuit to the young, and an interest-
ing and scientific study to those of more
mature years; and if the history of the
powerful countries of to-day shall ever
bear the same relation to coming gener-
ations that the history of ancient Rome
and Greece bears to the present gener-
ation, the extensive collections of
modern *Philatelists* will be the key
with which the future historian shall
unlock to his readers the mine of the
history which otherwise would be lost.

Timbro.