

formed the double journey of two hundred and ninety miles once a month and that, though he might have a mule, if he chose, he preferred travelling on foot, as he could thus save money. His pay was about ten dollars for the double journey, which usually occupied him about a fortnight. This journey was remarkable, not so loneliness, for along the whole route there were but three points where the man could sleep under shelter. Three nights at least had to be passed in the gloomy solitude of the forest, or upon the desolate prairie.

A FEW HINTS.

I have been a philatelist for a number of years, and during that time many thousand stamps have passed through my hands. I have had to learn a great many of the minor details of philately by experience and perhaps a few hints may help fellow collectors especially the young collector.

First; keep an account of all your philatelic business. Have a small diary, to note down in it all the letters you receive, when received and from whom, cash expended, philatelic papers received. If you do this you can know just how you stand at the end of the month or year.

File all your letters, make a note in one corner when received and when answered. Persevere all philatelic papers, price lists, catalogues etc. you never know when you may want to refer to something you have seen in some paper, and it is handy to have them just where you can find what you want in an instant. Subscribe for as many first class philatelic papers as you can afford. When you receive a large quantity of stamps no matter how common; always look over them carefully. Nothing is more

humiliating than to dispose of a lot of duplicates to somebody, and then learn that they have found some unknown variety, or watermark among them.

Always disinfect all the stamps you receive. Five cents expended in this way may save you, and perhaps a number of your friends from decease.

Keep an "Oddity Album" your album in which you put your collection is no place for freaks, and you can get enough of them to make an interesting collection by themselves.

Do not try to become a dealer before you are a collector. It does not fore you are a collector, IT does not pay. When you have a good collection together, plenty of time and at least \$50.00 that you don't want you may think about dealing, but until then do not attempt. Always encourage and help collectors younger than yourself and be willing to show them your collection.

R. T. F.

U. S. NOTES.

The Columbian 2c. is being chemically changed to blue.

Lewis Bishop of Denver, Colo. is 6 feet 1 inch in height and is still at large. Now the pen is said to be mightier than the sword, but in dealing with our festive friend the later seems infinitely preferable.

Chas. W. Greving is again editor of the "Stamp," already a number of improvements have been made in it.

The Weekly Philatelist of New Chester, Pa. has completed his first volume. It has never missed a number and is always on time. We expect to have another weekly about Jan 1st from Reading, Pa.

The Philatelic Era will issue a handsome Christmas number, the first thing of the kind Brother Jewett has ever attempted.