

# NIAGARA FALLS PHILATELIST.

A MONTHLY MAGAZINE FOR STAMP COLLECTORS.

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## OUR HOBBY.

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Many well meaning, sensible people smile and scoff at the idea of persons, who are perhaps as sensible as themselves, collecting what they profanely term "Dirty little bits of paper." Yet perhaps these very individuals are accumulating at home, and guarding with the tenderest care and solicitude, a heap of dirty coppers in the shape of pennies; paying fabulous prices for some, because our wise and beneficent Uncle Samuel does not see fit to issue but a limited number. Or others whose sole object in life is to possess a certain Beetle, or Butterfly; others to whom an old black letter worm-eaten tome is a mine of wealth. In short all men have their hobbies, just as little girls used to have their dolls some few years ago, before they became ready-made women. Now, brother collectors of minerals, prints, coins, plants, engravings, buttons, books, &c., why should I not have my hobby, and follow it out instead of being ridiculed? My friend of the button-mania, what interest is it to me that you possess a collection of 15,000 different buttons. All I care about them is that my "*Cara Sposa*" supplies them to my clothes when needed. The idea of collecting buttons, ha! ha! I have just as good a right to laugh at you as you to sneer at me for being a philatelist. My friend the herpetologist, I don't care for your fine specimen of "*Isthmognathus DeKagir*," or "*Phrynosonans Donglasie*." What to me are birds, serpents, coins, books, ferns etc., when I can

revel in the beauties of a rare and valuable postage stamp. Let us then, as we all require a certain degree of forbearance from the eminently practical people of our country, for our little foibles, cling to each other, and bringing to our minds the old adage: "One man's meat is another man's poison." cease to ridicule each other's fancies. Let us take a view of the few benefits to be derived from the study of philately, and ask ourselves why it is preferable as an amusement and occupation to the thousand and one other subjects for collectors to expend their mental energies upon. A person collecting minerals, or other objects of like nature, can never expect to make his collection complete; besides even to possess a respectable collection of books, coins etc., requires a very large expenditure of time and money, much more than many collectors could afford, even were they willing to give. These collections are bulky, require great care for their proper preservation, and much study, to be properly posted up as to their history. To none of these objections is philately liable. For a very moderate expense an excellent collection of stamps can be procured, a collection can be made complete, at least, during the lifetime of a collector. It requires very little trouble to keep it in complete order and can be carried about in a small parcel. To the young school boy, who is supplied by his doting parents with a sufficiency of spending money for his little wants, apples,