

iation from the regular picture detected without conscious thought. And a variety hunter doesn't necessarily imply a variety collector. The pleasure is largely in hunting and finding (anticipation exceeds realization) and anything found can be readily disposed of if not wanted for yourself. Even on dealers approval sheets, finds may sometimes be made, unless philatelic writers prevaricate. Some varieties are glaringly apparent, as for instance the Die A of the present 2 cent envelope; others again are hard to describe even with a specimen in hand. The American, National and Continental Prints of the 1870-79 stamps are regular cryptograms, and the penalty attached to publishing cuts, combined with the studious avoidance of lucid description on the part of cataloguers, renders it next to impossible for the average collector to identify each print. But some one finds out these sub-varieties, and usually with profit to himself, and every collector when turning away from a batch of common stamps should feel sure that he hasn't left anything good therein, to be found by some more painstaking observer. The above has been in my mind since hearing of a succession of finds by a collector-dealer in Washington while looking over what were supposed to be the veriest of trash. The 3 cent of 1861 in rose is worth about 1c, the 3c "premier gravure" of the same year is worth \$60; this collector found one of these latter in a search for shade varieties of the common stamp, and many more may be drifting around in 100 bunches of the one cent type. He also unearthed (so to speak) some of the "double paper" stamps of the 1882 1 and 3 cent values. These were devised to prevent washing, and consisted of an upper thinner layer

of paper upon a thicker, the thin layer having for each stamp a circle of small perforations, through which the ink would pass to the layer beneath. A considerable number of these were issued, but they are rare. Ribbed paper specimens are also worth looking out for. So the collector should always have his eyes open, and never become set in the idea that because a stamp is common, there may not be undiscovered rare variations from one general type.

## Argentine Republic.

Its Rule and Rulers, 1860-1880.

BY APEMANTUS.

Bartolome Mitre was born in Buenos Ayres June 26th 1821. He was banished by Rosas, but took part in the overthrow of Rosas in 1852. He held several important offices until in 1861 his army defeated Urquiza's, which put an end to the Federalist System. In 1862, Mitre was elected to the presidency of the Argentine Confederation. In 1865, a few months after the breaking out of war between Brazil and Paraguay, Mitre refused the request of President Lopez to permit the Paraguayan army passing through one of the Argentine Provinces, neutrality having been previously declared. Upon this refusal, Lopez captured two vessels of the Argentine Navy and took possession of one of the ports, afterward marching his army across Argentine territory. The Argentines were so indignant at this proceeding on the part of the Paraguayans that on May 1st the Triple Alliance was formed. Mitre took the field at the head of the Argentine troops (afterwards made commander-in-chief of the allied forces) through this cam-