

mation, their true character may never be proved; most of the American collectors believe in them, while in Europe the majority are looked upon with much distrust. In the November number of the *Stamp Collector's Monthly*, a little sheet published by F. H. Plinkham, in New Market, N. H. we find the following information.

"We have it on very good authority, that Confederate stamped envelopes will be exceedingly plenty. The Philatelic Barometer indicates that somebody is going to find a lot in some out of the way place, and they will be offered to our English cousins soon. Somebody has got the dies or counterfeits, and the rest is cooking. We know the parties' names and are almost certain of the programme, and if any of our readers are inclined to be incredulous, we would say to them, watch events. There are many new and unheard of Confederate stamps now in the process of being "exhumed," and the plot is nearly ready. We have all this on good authority, but will not give any names at present, but advise all our readers, to "watch and wait," and they will see some fun on the other side of the water."

Should these counterfeits appear, we hardly think our European confreres will be caught so easily as the *Monthly* imagines; it certainly does not show good taste for the editor of a usually respectable journal to connive at such a rascally deception, it would almost seem from the extract we have given that the writers were in league with the forgers.

In the year 1861, upon the breaking out of the war, and before the issue of the government stamps, the post masters in the South, finding it impossible to continue their offices, if they took money for the postage on every letter, especially as there was no small change in circulation, had to devise for themselves some kind of stamps. Many merely issued envelopes with the value impressed, by means of a handstamp, and authenticated by their initials, but the majority resorted to the engraver's art, and in some instances to the lithographer's; these labels having to be prepared at a very short notice, were generally roughly designed and executed, and as they were in use for only a few months, are of extreme rarity, and bring almost fabulous prices whenever offered for sale, which is not often, as of most of them but one or two specimens are known to exist. Describing these stamps in

alphabetical order, we begin with that issued at—

ATHENS, GA.—But one stamp was issued by the post master at Athens, value 5 cents. It was discovered by J. W. Scott in 1870, in the collection of a Southern school boy, very little has ever been found out about its history, as the post master who still lives at Athens refuses to answer any enquiries on the subject. It is one of the rarest of the provisional stamps but as so little is known about it, it does not sell for as high a price as many of the others; a specimen was sold at Scott's auction sale in London last March for 30s. sterling, but its market value is set down by W. P. Brown as \$20.

Figure of value and the word Paid, underlined in the centre of twelve stars; surrounded by an oval band inscribed T. Crawford, P. M., Athens Ga. Spandrels of ornamental scroll work; enclosed in a single line frame, Col. imp. Rect. 5 cents, purple; 5 cents brick red.

Newly Issued Stamps.

SPAIN.—At last! On October 1st the new set of Spain came into circulation. There are four designs employed, which are distributed as follows:—

Oblong oval in centre containing the value $\frac{1}{4}$; above this is a crown; below DE CENTS DE PESETA, enclosed in a square frame outside of which is CORREOS ESPAÑA above and below; $\frac{1}{4}$ CENTS. DE PESETA at either side. This is printed in sheets of four like the Brunswick quartette, from which it is evidently copied, and is unperforated.

4-4 cent. de peseta, pale blue.

The second design is merely a reproduction of the old type used for the 5 and 10 mil. of 1867, with the exceptions that the word CORREOS is changed to COMUNICA. and instead of MILS. DE ESCUDO, the words CENTS DE PESETA are used.

2 cent. de peseta, violet.

5 " " green.

Portrait of King Amadeus in oval; above COMUNICACIONES; below ESPAÑA; numeral of value and letter C at lower angles.