

# The Postman's Knock.

Gladstone's Government have carried their doctrine of Retrenchment to such an extent that they cannot afford to pay anybody to act as British Consul in that benighted clime; or perchance the yellow fever is so prevalent that they cannot find any one simpleton enough to go and die of it at the rate of remuneration they can feel safe in offering. Any of the above very remote probabilities may be the case, but we must say we doubt it; and doubting it we cannot see how it is that the market is well stocked with the so-called stamps of Honduras, and nobody seems to know or care where they came from or how they originated. However, we have "said our say," and if any person on our subscription list is insane enough to purchase them till something satisfactory is known touching their authenticity, then "on his head be it," say we.

## NEW STAMPS.

**ANGOLA.**—This Portuguese Colony has a new issue of stamps, unlike Madeira and the Azores, for which the altered postals of the mother country are used. The design is a crown in rectangle on a ground of waved lines, Grecian ornaments at each side, figure of value in each angle, name of Colony on upper margin, value in full on lower—*unperforated*.

**SERVIA.**—A complete new emission greets us here. The values and colors are 1 para, yellow, 10 p. light-brown, 15 p. orange, 20 p. blue, 25 p. carmine, 35 p. pale green, 40 p. mauve, 50 p. dark green. Each stamp bears the head of the young Prince Michael Obrenovich IV., and has the value in figures on each corner. It is printed in color on white paper and perforated. Prince Michael, as depicted on his stamps, is a very ordinary looking person, and to our mind has an extremely

plebeian cast of features; however, if his heart is in the right place, he is none the worse of that.

**UNITED STATES.**—From the neighboring republic comes rumors of change. It appears that the recent new set has not given satisfaction to the public; and we presume the engravers, designers, and stamp printers, are not at all averse to a job. There is some talk of retaining the 1c., 6c., 15c., and 90c., but the others are said to be doomed. We give the rumor as we hear it, but are very dubious about its truthfulness.

**SARAWAK.**—Over a year ago a postal was announced for this distant Asiatic colony. Authenticated specimens not coming to hand it was by many deemed to be an imposition. We rejoice to be able to inform our friends that it is now proved genuine beyond a doubt by the arrival of a postmarked specimen on a letter from its native home.

**RUSSIA.**—Local stamps for various towns and districts in Russia are becoming plentiful; in fact, so suddenly numerous have they grown to be, that we cannot, in the discharge of our duty as an honest stamp editor, say that we believe them to be genuine. We trust that we may be mistaken in our impressions, but we certainly cannot recommend them for adoption by American timbrophilists till something more is known of them than that they are on sale.

**MISCELLANEOUS.**—*Bergedorf* has a set of essays, for what purpose it would be hard to determine. *Canada.*—Our own 1 cent stamp is now printed in two or three colors, viz., orange, yellow, &c. *Guatemala* also has the credit of a lot of essays, but we fear they are only the work of some philanthropist who feels that our Central Ameri-