

Stamp Frauds.

FROM FAMILY HERALD.

Here is a specimen taken from a Swiss paper. The postal authorities of Switzerland have to thank the Lausanne Philatelic Society for the stoppage of a serious misappropriation of its revenue. In 1890 a member of the society sent several large packages to the same destination, with the request that the stamps on the cover might be returned. When these arrived he discovered that the stamps were all in pieces, but joined together; he showed them to the head of the parcel's office, who could find no clue to the torn stamps. A considerable time after he sent several packages to his son, who wanted to keep the stamps, but when taking them off the wrappers found them all in small pieces, joined together and stuck to the parcels. This he reported to his father, who, after his first experience, had kept a lookout, and, on reporting the matter again, a suspected postal clerk was watched for eight days, during which time the addresses on the fifty packages were kept, and the recipient requested to return the covers, which, on examination, were found to have been treated in a similar manner to the others.

The man had collected a quantity of cancelled stamps, of all values, and by cutting off those portions which had escaped cancellation, he was enabled to make apparently perfect specimens, which he heavily cancelled, and appropriated the postage paid to his own use. He had been in the service twenty-three

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years at a salary of three thousand and three hundred francs, and denied the charges laid against him. He had bought the estates for seventy-one thousand francs, upon which he had borrowed sixty-five thousand francs, of which he had repaid five thousand, so that these estates brought him in an additional income of sixteen hundred francs, after payment of interest. The report of the police tribunal proved conclusively the exact mode of operation of the thief, and a sentence of six months' imprisonment, four hundred francs due, and twenty years' deprivation of civil rights, was passed. This is one good point in favor of stamp collecting, and many more instances could be given if space permitted.

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