

The Philatelic Messenger

A Monthly Journal for Stamp Collectors.

VOL. II.

BOIESTOWN, N. B., JULY 15, 1898.

No. 8.

Written for the Messenger.

Summer Summaries.

By RAYMOND S. BAKER.

An ancient anomaly. — The collector who writes a flattering testimonial for a certain paper and then declares to an ephemeral rival, "It makes me sick." The reason—strong "drink."

There always has been a relaxation of stamp collecting during the summer months and there always will be. It is necessary for the existence of the hobby. While it is true that the last few years have seen a revival of interest in the hot season, yet this is probably only temporary, and at all events no radical changes will soon occur. There are good, substantial reasons for this fact. Collectors get tired of their stamps and require a philatelic vacation. We learn and appreciate the value of things oftentimes by their absence. After the holidays the collector who has been wholly engaged in boating, fishing, golf, bicycling and the like, will return to his album with renewed interest and increased stimulus.

Should the words "philately," "philatelist" and "philatelic" be spelled with capital letters? This is a problem we have been debating ever since it became necessary to make frequent use of the words. To

most persons an apparently easy solution might be found in the dictionary. Approaching that never failing source of information, we find that the term used to designate the study of postage stamps is, along with the rest of the sciences, denied the honour of a capital letter. This surely ought to settle the matter, and it does. But stamp collectors are only too familiar with the sight of hobbies, arts and sciences dressed out in full capitals, and, being exceedingly proud and jealous of their own pursuit, they very naturally write themselves "Philatelists," with a big P. Of similar nature is the fact that the upstart who declares himself interested in Numismatics will be met with the counter reply that there is no science to be compared with Philately or perhaps even Timbrology. Turning to our own peculiar scholars and writers, the affair assuredly gets very perplexing. This is due to the variety of renderings and the tremendous authority at the back of each. We have seen some writers, and we are unable to plead "not guilty," use the words in question both ways in one sentence. Here, however, the printer comes forward, a scapegoat, obliging to some, deserving of severe reproof—to others, albeit they are few. Some day we take up our favourite magazine and find therein an article by a classical writer, one learned and wielding au-