

was told that such an application involved much trouble, and a great departure from the ordinary rules; but that, under the special circumstances, it would be granted on his paying the clerk who would have to make the examination a gratuity of five shillings. No sooner, however, was this condition named, than the "vital importance," and the applicant at once disappeared.

From the Report of the U. S. P. O. Department we learn that the following Stamps were issued during the past year :

DENOMINATION.	NUMBER ISSUED.	VALUE.
1 cent Stamps	7,450,600	\$ 74,506.00
2 " "	47,554,600	951,092.00
3 " "	283,762,300	8,512,869.00
5 " "	1,204,480	60,224.00
10 " "	4,055,940	405,594.00
12 " "	994,000	119,280.00
15 " "	166,000	24,900.00
24 " "	1,911,825	458,838.00
30 " "	515,320	154,596.00
90 " "	53,840	48,456.00

Newspaper & Periodical 5, 10, & 25 cent Stamps, } 65,420 6,306.00

Total value of Stamps \$ 10,816,661.00.

2 cent Envelopes	3,514,250
3 " "	26,267,900
6 " "	348.00
9 " "	27,950
18 " "	23,750
20 " "	3,000
24 " "	27,950
30 " "	22,350
40 " "	17050
2 cent Request Envelopes	121,000
3 " "	7,538,825
6 " "	23,700
2 cent Newspaper wrappers	1,025,000
Total value	\$ 1,172,007.20
" Stamps issued	347,734,325
" Value	\$ 10,816,661.00
" Envelopes issued	38,069,725
" Value	\$ 1,151,507.25
" Wrappers issued	1,025,000
" Value	\$ 20,500.00
	336,829,050 \$ 11,987,668.25

WHY LETTERS SOMETIMES MISCARRY.—The following is taken from one of the Annual Reports of the Post-master General: "A Postmaster in Scotland accidentally discovered a boy opening a letter which he had been sent to post, and taking from it a draft. It did not however appear that the boy had any dishonest intention; but his fancy had been attracted by an engraving on the draft, which he thought would be a pretty book-mark for one of his school-books."

New York employs 166 Letter carriers, Philadelphia, 133; Boston, 50, Chicago, 45; St. Louis 86, Baltimore, 43, Brooklyn, 33, Washington, 25; Cleveland, 21; and Cincinnati, 30.

Twenty tons, or forty eight and a half square miles of Postage Stamps are consumed annually in the United States, enough to roof a large town-ship, with all its houses, churches, barns, gardens, forests, and farms; or if you choose to make a ribbon of them, enough to reach nearly from the equator to either poles, or twice the length of the Mississippi river. So that if everybody would be obliging enough to use the government stamp on the envelope itself, the mere omission of these little extra bits of paper would lighten the mail-bags by more than forty thousand pounds, and save in paper fifteen or twenty thousand dollars. The Postmaster General does not impart that information in so many words, but he assures us that nearly 350 millions of Stamps have been sold in the past year, besides nearly forty millions of stamped envelopes and a simple calculation reduces the story to the more tangible form we have given it.—*Scientific American.*

BLACK MAILING: A coloured individual mailing a letter.

PRIZE ENIGMA.

I consist of 75 letters.

My 69, 52, 29, 2, 31, 56, 72, 55, 27, 54, 32, 11, 13, 75, inscription on a Postage Stamp.
 " 61, 19, 25, 71, 15, 10, 33, 12, 1, 49, 34, 48, 42, 62, 13, 60, 36, 43, 20, 22, 65, 53, 9, 26, 6, inscription on a Stamp.
 " 52, 63, 8, 4, 63, 56, 23, 66, 42, 17, 5, 33, 51, 10, is useful to collectors.
 " 32, 63, 47, 42, 72, 23, 30, 50, 70, 13, 27, 29, 16, 11, 35, 24, 52, 68, 73, 51, 57, 5, is very popular.
 " 45, 50, 28, 23, 34, 40, 64, 29, 5, 19, 3, 59, 69, 32, 11, 73, 72, 49, 27, 5, 37, 10, 62, 36, 19, inscription on a Stamp.
 " 43, 10, 72, 44, 4, 62, 67, 13, 21 54, 66, 20, 40, 74, 50, 28, 5, 41, 26, 32, 34, 58, 69, 13, 14, 43, 24, 53, are defunct papers.
 " 45, 57, 46, 18, 38, 40, 72, has only four Stamps.
 " 45, 39, 41, 7, 22, 73, is a country whose first Stamp appeared 1855
 " 55, 60, 59, 14, is a country in America employing Stamps.

My whole is a Philatelic publication.

SKEUVIE.

(Answer next month).

Answer to Enigma in our last: "*How to detect forged Stamps by Thomas Dalston, and H Stafford Smith's Illustrated Postage Stamp Album and Catalogue.*"

No answers received!!!

We offer but one prize this month for correct answer to Enigma above. It is one of our 50 packets of *unused Stamps warranted genuine.*