

THIS is the last month of the Columbian stamps and hundreds of collectors will be purchasing unused sets. The 8c. stands a good chance of becoming valuable in the course of time. The higher values will no doubt be scarcer in a used than an unused condition. The question is now as we said last month, what is the government going to do with the remainder? We see only one reasonable method of disposing of such, namely, destroying them. The credit of the U. S. would, in a philatelic point of view, go way below par should the remainder be sold to dealers, and it would be showing scant courtesy to ex-P. M. G. Wannamaker should the series be continued, as he gave out in his report that they would be retired at the end of the year.

#### THE EVOLUTION OF PHILATELY.

BY "LYRAE."

The mutability of human affairs has been the theme of thought of many philosophers—the changeability of things pertaining to philately as evidenced by a comparison of the past and present, is the subject of this humble article.

The evolution of the album, alone, might well form the subject of a select essay. The first album, if album, it might be called, in use by the primitive philatelist was a plain blank book. Albums with blank spaces and albums with spaces so small as to necessitate clipping of the stamp to fit space, each formed steps in the gradation from the blank book to our present high class albums.

Hinges were at first unknown, and the stamps were, as some aspiring genius puts it, "nailed down with glue."

The early philatelist was not particular what he collected, revenues, locals and miscellaneous labels rested side by side with postage stamps.

Re-prints and counterfeits were among the first to disturb the equanimity of the stamp collector. Both now are pretty well done for although the former is collected by some.

Although Russian, German and Norwegian locals were eagerly sought for in former years they are now universally eschewed, with the possible exception of a few specialists. Of late years revenue collecting has gained many supporters, but this is probably due to "booming" of such stamps by interested parties—financially, of course.

The surcharge is the modern method of advertising the fact that the postmaster is short of a few thousand dollars, and did not trouble the early collector much.

Post-cards in former years were not considered collectable but now this branch of philately has a society and a paper devoted entirely to it

Having thus reviewed to some extent the past as compared with the present, it behoves us to look forward a little.

Of course, being optimistic, we can only look for improvements, especially in our literature, in which it must be acknowledged, there is a great room for innovation.

In our ranks there is a very poor show for the pessimist, and so overwhelmingly in the minority does he find himself that his voice is seldom heard.

There is plenty room for more papers, and deserving ones will surely find support; and some of our old established journals will have to brighten up or be left behind.

I'm done, let Shakespeare finish the article:

Time's glory is to calm contending kings,  
To unmask falsehood and bring truth to light,  
To seal the stamp of age in aged things;  
To wake the morn and sentinel the night,  
To wrong the wronger till he render right,  
To rinate proud buildings with thy hours,  
And smear with dust thy glittering golden towers.