

nearer. He says that the official stamps (surcharged "service") were ordered, printed and forwarded to Ceylon, but they did not come into use because, in the meantime, a change in the currency had taken place. He goes on to say, "as used specimens have never been seen, it is questionable if they ever were employed for the purpose intended." The notice in Lindenberg's handbook gives it as a late rumor that such stamps were in existence, and adds that "what was printed in 1878 is not new to-day." It may be possible that the author offers this as an excuse for his want of knowledge. Perhaps it may be accepted as such. The note in Evans' latest catalogue states that issue of 1869 was surcharged service, but it appears that they never were used for their intended purpose.

The evidence is quite conclusive, and I was pleased to read the notice in Pemberton, which entirely concurs with my own views, based on information received through my friend from direct sources, as related above.

Except Pemberton, all others differ, as to the year of emission, from me. They give the year as 1869. The question, therefore, is: if the stamps had been in Ceylon in 1869, why did they not come into use? On the hand, if the stamps arrived there at or before the beginning of 1871, what then? The change in the currency from pounds, shillings and pence to rupees and cents occurred in 1871. It is certain from this that they, being of the old values, must have arrived too late to be of service. Had, however, it been determined to use them after the change it would have been necessary to surcharge them with the new values. It is rather surprising that this has never been done, as Ceylon has surprised the world by the variety of its surcharges of late years.

(To be continued.)

AMERICAN TELEGRAPH STAMPS.

A. PALETTE.

NORTHERN MUTUAL UNION OSWEGO, N. Y. S.

THESE were issued for the convenience of the patrons of the company, but were evidently never used for that purpose, the company having gone under, they were sold to the public. To Mr. W. P. Brown, of New York City, belongs the honor of having brought them to light in the early part of 1887.

In the centre is the numeral value in white, shaded dexter, $7\frac{1}{2}$ m.'s high, on a ground of rayed *luth-work*, framed by three colored lines in the form of an indented octagon, in a solid square. At the top of the square is a white line, and at the side a white vertical line; next to it, on each side, a band of 19 white pearls on a solid ground (*vertical*), and outside of these a band of cross colored oblique lines. Over the square, in a solid oblong, is "NORTHFRN," and scrolls to dexter; at top, in white letters, decreasing in height to dexter, and below it "scrolls and MUTUAL" in white letters, increasing in height to dexter. At the base, on a curved solid tablet, is