

# The Nova Scotian Philatelist.

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## EVOLUTION OF A COLLECTION.

Many are the articles that have been written on "The Proper Way to Collect," "Advice to Beginners," etc., etc., but nearly all of these have been advice to the older, and perhaps wealthier collector, as only a person with a strong mind and a full pocket book could meet the requirements set forth.

The majority of beginners in the United States are the "Young America," many just entering their teens and many others still in their boyhood. To tell these collectors that they must have a standard album, complete catalogue, color chart, metric-rule, perforation gauge and numberless other articles used by the elder members of the Philatelic family, is like putting the last straw on the camel's back. Magnitude of the great beyond, the intricacies of watermarks, perforations, roulettings, engravings, lithographs and surcharges, still staggers the older Philatelist; but what are they to the beginner, when complicated with the dastardly dealings of the counterfeiter. How he longs to have a collection numbering in the thousands; how happy would he be, if he could distinguish, the watermarks, prints, and the many kinds of paper; but his hopes and ambitions are all dashed to the ground by the kind, but hasty advice of friends, and the endless varieties of stamps set forth in his newly purchased catalogue. If it is impossible for him to have a complete collection, he will give up all hope and not have any. Thus the hope of be-

ginner is dashed away in Philatelia's flood of discouragements; and many overburdened by the weight of catalogues, metric-rules, watermarks, etc., sink in the Ocean of Bewilderment to rise no more.

As nature requires the infant to pass through boyhood and youthhood before he can become a man, so, also, it is generally necessary for the collection to first pass through a scrap-album, and then a stamp album, before finally it finds its resting-place in an original self-prepared album, or on sheets of card-board made to suit the collector's taste.

When the collection is transferred to the publisher's album, the desire for metric-rules, chartes, etc., will come as naturally as did his first desire to found a collection. There is no need to press all these things upon the youthful collector, and force him under. First let him try his mettle on packets and sets, and then if he is still in the field, he will favor some dealer with an order for an album, and after this all the other things will be added in due time.

## THREE POSTAL NEEDS.

Our Canadian postal service is one of which the country may well be proud, yet there are some improvements still to be made before the service can be considered wholly satisfactory. It may as well be admitted that for many years to come there is little probability that the postal revenue will equal the postal expenditures, and a self-supporting service is not even to be aimed at at present. It is, however, possible to