

ANTI-AMALGAMATION.

BY A DISSENTER.

Amalgamation! The foregoing topic has been the heading of various articles, published in the Philatelic Press, during the past few months. I, myself, am far from being in favor of the movement so advocated, for it is my strong belief that our various Philatelic Associations, at present in active operation, are doing far more good in their present separated form than could be accomplished as an amalgamated national body. Let us look to the cause of this agitation. We find that it originated during the decline of the American Philatelic Association, and that the agitators were in the greater part composed of the members of the said Association, who considered it a suitable plan of bolstering up their somewhat shattered finances, and rapidly declining membership. The agitation was promptly taken hold of by the leading American journals, probably as a good subject to fill up space, for I am personally aware that some of the editors who devoted their space to this *hue and cry* were themselves against amalgamation. I fail to see the advantages the smaller societies would obtain by consolidation with the greater, unless it be the latter's incorporation. If such be the *only* desired end, is it not feasible for the said smaller organizations to take out incorporations. As a member of *all* of the five organizations who would be most likely to be affected by amalgamation, I may say that in *four* of the *five* associations I find that the majority of my fellow-members disfavor the idea of having their identity lost by the union under one amalgamated head. Among the many objections which could be brought forward, did space permit, might mention that the classes of collectors for which some of these organizations were formed differ materially. Take *The Sons of Philately*, a representative society for the younger and, I might say, non-scientific class of collectors, would by amalgamation with the A. P. A., which latter is an association for the advanced or scientific class of collectors, both lose their identity as supporters of their respective classes of members. I do not wish to reflect on any of the societies, as I have an interest in all, but I am persuaded that their benefits would be more widespread than they would be in the case that amalgamation became a fact. Another part of the topic refers to the amalgamation of the *State Societies*. I disfavor this last, even more so than I do the first. One of the main objects of the *State Societies* is to bring about personal intercourse between philatelists, which is so little done by *national societies*, owing to the scattered area over which their membership extends. The state societies are doing a deal of good in various ways, and I hope the time is not far distant when *every* state will have a large and powerful organization within its borders. Let all our societies retain their identity, exist as separate bodies, and the more numerous and widespread our societies, national, local, and state, become, in like proportion will their assistance to the general growth of Philately be felt. The conventions which have recently been held, on the whole made but little progress toward amalgamation, which I am pleased to note. Our associations are our backbone; let them have all of your support, time and influence you possibly can and so increase their power.

The Post-Office Department has been notified of the admission, on the 1st of July, of the Transvaal, Natal, Bosnia and Herzegovina into the postal union.

JUST SOMETHING MORE.

BY EKS. PLUSTOO.

A well-known English poet has chosen as the subject of a poem, one of a large class of persons, whom he thus very vividly and correctly describes; or rather he pictures to us the faint impressions left upon some minds by subjects that in other minds create unbounded enthusiasm.

"A primrose by the river's brim,
A *yellow* primrose it was to him,
And it was nothing more."

So as I thought over the matter a little, it seemed to me that with a somewhat different wording it would be a very realistic presentation of a great majority of us stamp collectors. Our *roc* U. S. is a blue, or a carmine, or a purple stamp. Our *6d*. Canada is a purple or a lilac. Our shilling New Brunswick is a violet stamp, and these are nothing more. And yet from before the die is cut which leaves its impression to become the talisman by which our thoughts find access to every part of 'the civilized world, until ceasing from its wandering, that same impression adorns the pages of our albums with beauty and with grace, there is a wide extending field of nobler purpose and loftier inspiration than so many of us are satisfied to enjoy in our little area of stamp color, make of paper, perforation, watermark, etc.

Man is said to be an imitative being, he learns to walk, and talk, and act by imitation; he gathers, buys, and sells, and exchanges stamps by that same innate faculty. To that same innate faculty must we ascribe the almost endless panorama of heads of kings, and queens, and emperors; presidents, and priests, and statesmen, that bedeck our philatelic treasures, and the few innovations that have been made to the time-honored penny of 1840. But the fact that a few variations have been made is cause for satisfaction, and every collector should use every effort in his power to induce the designers of the world's postage stamps to step out into the circle of nature and materially increase our hill, and dale, and mountain; our stars, and tree, and flower, and full-blown landscape upon their stamp designs. What oasis amid the deserts of heads are the beaver of Canada, the quetzal of Guatemala, the lyrebird, the kangaroo, and the cassowary of New South Wales; add to these the Tasmanian platypus, the black swan of Western Australia, the peruvian llamas, the dog, seal and cod-fish of Newfoundland, and the mountains of Bolivia, Nicaragua and Sa'vador and our picture gallery of natural objects, if we except newer issues, is almost exhausted. And what landscapes have we? If we omit historical representations we have scarcely an example outside the lofty, towering summits of Costa Rica, the rolling meadows of Liberia, and the light on land and sea displayed upon the Hawaiian envelopes.

Again, man is an imaginative being, by the exercise of this faculty a broomstick becomes a charger, his tin sword a Damascus blade; his first collection a priceless treasure, and his rarities without a parallel. With such an attribute, and a suggestive design what visions might we have of nature's wide and varied productions, visions of fruit, and flowers, and field of golden grain; and palm, and plant, and picture; bird, and beast, and scenes innumerable. And what an added beauty these would scatter through our collections, in addition to the higher culture, the wider knowledge, the deeper interest evolved thereby.