

Detroit Notes.

The article on "Entire or Cut Square Envelopes," by S. A. D. Cox, in the last number of the *Columbian Philatelist* was the best article of the kind that we have ever read. The point made by Mr. Cox that a cut square specimen is not available for postal duty is a good one. We cry about collecting labels not good for actual postal use and at the same time calmly collect cut square envelopes. Is this consistent? Not at all, and the fact is becoming more apparent every day. A cut square envelope is of as much philatelic value, or should be, as an adhesive with all but the main design cut away. One is of as much intrinsic value as the other. In envelope stamps cutting a stamp square mars the beauty of it, as an envelope stamp always looks best when entire as it was intended to be. The cut round envelopes have given way to the cut square specimens and these are slowly retiring in favor of the entire envelopes.

We are glad to see the *Messenger* so favorably commented on by papers on this side of the line. It shows that quality and not quantity counts.

Being so near the Dominion we have naturally received the new Canadian issue nearly as soon as sent out and it seems to be the general trend of opinion here that, with the exception of the half cent, the issue is remarkably pretty.

Quite a number of the Newfoundland surcharges have been offered for sale here of late, and the majority of collectors are extremely wary about purchasing.

Mr. T. L. W. Porte has one of the first collections of Philatelic literature in the western states. His library is nearly complete and by a system of filing and indexing that is entirely his own he can refer in a moment's notice to almost any article wanted.

Mr. I. E. Paterson has just returned from a month's trip through Canada. Mr. Patterson reports business there as being fairly good.

Detroit has been very dull philatelically for the past two months. We hope to chronicle an improvement next month.

AMERICAN.

Toronto Notes.

Chas. A. Needham of Hamilton and H. C. Stork of Brampton have been in town during the past month. Both report business prospects as very good in their respective towns.

All the values of the new issue are now for sale at the Toronto general post-office, post cards and letter cards included. A very poor specimen of the printer's art is the new one-cent post card. It is a disgrace to the country.

Canada is to have a new money order system. Postal notes will shortly be issued for amounts under \$5, payable to bearer without identification. This will be much more convenient and less expensive than the present system.

Business has been fair during the past month, considering the holiday season, and it continues to increase. Canadian revenues are in great demand at present and bid fair to continue so.

The Canadian Philatelic Advertiser is announced to appear from this city about the 1st March as an advertiser of philatelic publications and supplies.

Some of the values of the old issue (1869) promise to be scarce. Collectors having any of the $\frac{1}{2}$, 6, 10, 15, 20, 50c., should keep them for future use.

Right Hon. Joseph Chamberlain has remonstrated with the Canadian government for infringing the laws of the Universal Postal Union by undertaking to reduce the postage on letters from Canada to the United Kingdom without consulting the other members of the Union. As I intimated in my notes last month the announcement had been made that after January 1st the letter rate to Foreign countries would be three cents per ounce instead of five cents per half ounce as before. This announcement (made no doubt as a political "bluff") has caused considerable difficulty in the post office department. When the new year came parties writing to England took advantage of the reduced rate and only put on three cents postage. Orders were then given the postmasters to supply the extra postage and notices have been posted in the general post office to the effect that the postage is five cents per ounce instead of three cents as announced.

WALDO.