

Written for THE CANADIAN PHILATELIST.

PHILATELIC SOCIETIES.

BY W. CULLEN BROWN.



OUR philatelic societies are by no means a totally neglected part of philately; still we have as yet tasted but little of their possible benefits, experienced little of their possible power, owing to the widely scattered condition of both societies and adherents.

Concentration of force is power. Now one of the first requisites necessary to make our societies a paying investment to ourselves is a little more *United Effort*. I will explain what I would have you infer from the above: First, do not allow your energies to run to waste by being a member of a dozen and one different societies, each of which must necessarily occupy a portion of your attention, and, as a result, no great benefit is derived from any of them. I know many collectors who boast of being a member of every society, small and great, in existence, yet when approached as to the benefits of their wide connection their tongue failed them. Now to the collector who desires to profit by his membership I would advise to join not more than one or two societies. Join only the best, those firmly established, those whose departments (especially the exchange department) are in working order, and those whose officers are earnest, painstaking and efficient. Such a society is the American Philatelic Association. The Sons of Philately and Western Philatelic Union are also good Societies, but their benefits are not to be compared with those of the A. P. A. Whatever society you belong to do not remain idle; use every opportunity that offers a chance to secure a new member; correspond with all you can with fellow members; awaken them to the fact that they are a part of the association, that their help is needed in increasing the membership, influence and usefulness of the society; express your views clearly through the pages of the official organ, hints as to improvements, and facts regarding faults in the management of the society's affairs. Let every member put his or her hand to the wheel and assist; do not consider yourself an exception to the rule; do not think there are enough workers without you! there are not. Work.

It is not improbable that some of my readers are not society members. To the honest and earnest collector the society is an inseparable part. As an accepted member of a leading society, dealers and collectors will put more trust in you than they would otherwise do. The exchange department is unexcelled, both for disposing of and securing the better class of duplicates. Become a member of the leading society, and I can safely say you will be more than satisfied with the result.

A POST OFFICE VACANCY.

THE P. M. GOT TIRED SO HE LOCKED THE OFFICE UP.

Uncle Sam's postal service is so universal that when it is not slipping a cog in one place it is in another, but it seldom happens that a postmaster will wilfully close his office and let things smash. At Price, U., a postmaster who had tendered his resignation repeatedly, being unable to get a relief, purposely closed his office.

No doubt the department could not conceive the possibility of a government employe struggling to get

out of a position that paid \$600 a year. But this postmaster paid his clerk \$75 a month and then had to give all his own time to the work, and having a fine trade to lock after he got out of patience, and swore a great oath that the office could go to — (a place where one would be unnecessary), and locked its doors against all comers.

Then went up a howl of rage and anguish. The office separated mail for a large military post some miles away, and telegrams were showered upon the War Department asking for authority to kill this civilian who had cut off their communication by mail.

When I reached Price 159 large sacks of mail were piled up in the depot, and the maddest men I ever faced were the soldier boys who were looking at them wistfully, but unable to open them and get at their long expected letters from the East.

I swore in a number of assistants, and we worked day and night upon the pile, and finally got the letters into their proper channels. Declining to help to hang the postmaster, as most of the people wanted to do, I laid the facts before the United States attorney, but there they rested.

Strangely enough, there is no law to punish the abandoning of a post-office, our legislatures having apparently thought such a contingency impossible.

Before I left town the postmaster came up to me, a shrewd, bright young Swede.

"What is this going to cost me, Mr. Inspector?" he said.

Having just finished the 159th sack of mail I said, "Fifty thousand dollars if I have the fixing of the sum, my friend."

He said that sum was too steep, but if it wasn't more than \$500 or \$1,000 he would rather pay it than neglect his trade any longer. It never did cost him a cent so far as I know in the way of penalties.

—New York Herald.

WRITER'S PRIZE COMPETITION.

CONDITIONS:

1. All manuscript must be written on one side of the paper only; and must be accompanied by the full name and address of the sender.
2. The competition closes February the 28th, 1893. Results of the competition will be made known in our January issue, and awards forwarded winners immediately on the close of the competition.
3. Articles must be addressed to Editor CANADIAN PHILATELIST, 185½ Dundas Street, London, Canada, and must be marked "Writer's Prize Competition."
4. Every competitor must be a *paid-up subscriber* to the CANADIAN PHILATELIST.
5. In the awarding of the prizes, the originality of the subject will count much toward the awarding of the prizes.
6. All articles sent become the property of the CANADIAN PHILATELIST, with the right to publish the same if so desired.

PRIZES.

Four prizes will be offered:

FIRST—Stamps to the value of \$10.00, to be selected by the winner from our approval sheet.

SECOND—Our \$5.00 stock.

THIRD—A \$2.50 edition of Scott's International Album.

FOURTH—A \$1.50 edition of Scott's International Album.

Awards will be made by impartial and disinterested judges.