

Correspondence.

Fredericton, N. B., Oct. 28th, 1865.

DEAR GAZETTE:—

Ever since the first appearance of this stamp monthly I have perused its columns with the greatest interest, and many a useful hint have I gleaned from them, some of which proved of great value in aiding me in the procuring and arranging of the stamps in my collection.

Now in return for this I would like to make a few remarks concerning the plan which I adopted in preparing my stamp album, which might prove interesting to young collectors, who may not be very well posted as to the best means of setting about the work which they have undertaken, so as to make their collection of stamps as interesting and useful as possible, without any unnecessary outlay of the *dimes*. I expect many of the readers of the *Gazette* will say when they read this "Pho! I knew all that before—and more too." But any such will please remember that it is not for those who are so thoroughly versed that this is written, but rather for the benefit of new beginners in the business.

I do not claim either vastly superior merits over other systems for my method, nor an altogether original principal as I am aware that some regular printed albums are got up in *something* the same style; but I do say that my plan possesses this advantage, that it does not cost one half nor quarter the amount necessary for the procuring of a good "Stamp Album," and is at least as good for all practical purposes.

The first thing needed is of course, the stamps, the next a book to put them in, this latter should be made of perfectly blank paper, and neatly got up, size of page from six to ten inches square. Such a one may be had in almost any of the stationary shops for about fifty or sixty cents. And now to the arranging of the album.

Leave the first page of the book for a fly-leaf, the second take for the title-page. This might be made to look very pretty by using differently coloured inks, for instance the first line might be written in red, the second in blue, &c., using then alternately or as fancy may suggest, three colours will be sufficient. Fancy letters as old English, German text, &c., produce a very pleasing effect, though they should only be used in connection with the plain Roman characters.

The two succeeding leaves are to be set aside for an index,—it would be better not to commence with that before you have got pretty well on with the rest of your book, but you had better at once commence the paging of the leaves beginning with the title page as number 1, the table of contents will occupy from page 3 to 6 inclusive, and your album proper will commence on page 8.

The next thing to decide upon is the order

in which you are to place the stamps in your book. That is whether you are to arrange them alphabetically or otherwise. I prefer the plan which has been adopted in "Oliphant's Album," which is arranged *geographically*, that is, by dividing the album into five or six departments, the first of which is devoted to the stamps of Europe, the second to those of Asia, and so on through Africa, North, Central, and South America, West Indies, Australia, &c. The minor divisions to run according to the letters of the Alphabet. So among European stamps the Austrian one come first and those of Wurtemberg last.

The stamps should be placed on one page of each leaf only, and those the pages bearing the odd numbers, as 9, 11, 13, &c., so that when the book is opened they will occupy the right hand side, leaving the left for the name of the country, a brief but comprehensive description, giving its area, population, boundaries, government, name of ruler, &c., and list of its stamps with the date of issue. A reliable stamp catalogue will be found very useful here, indeed such a work is almost indispensable to the young collector.

The coloured inks may be used throughout the book, as well as on the title page but by far the greater part of the writing should be done with black ink, otherwise it will have a kind of flimsy look.

EDDIE.

✓ Postal Chat-Chat.

WHY is a penny English stamp like a newspaper? Because it was first black printed on white and then red (read).

WHY is a good draught of ale like a British Postage Stamp? Because it always has a good head on it.

DURING the week ending 1st August, 1865, 18,248 letters and 34,519 newspapers passed through the Post Office in the City of Saint John New Brunswick.

THE *London Punch* of Oct 27 1849 has the following:—

"It has been suggested in the *Daily News* that Post Office clerks should be carried on board the foreign steamer, to sort and stamp the letters on the voyage. This would be all very well in smooth weather, but in a storm the clerk must of necessity be alternately on his heels and on his head, while endeavouring to gain the equilibrium necessary for his duties. The sorter would frequently be put terribly out of sorts by the discovery that, after all his trouble, a certain lurch might again shuffle the correspondence together in the most admirable disorder.

DURING the quarter ending Sept. 30, 1,985, 789 letters passed through the Boston Post Office. The receipts for letter and newspaper postage were \$116,492 02, and \$259 80 were