

UNITED STATES
NOTES.

has any value.

The 2 cent State Department is a comparatively rare stamp and is more difficult to obtain than its catalogue valuation leads one to believe.

Of the Department Stamps only five are priced from one to three cents each. They are Interior, Post-Office Treasury and War.

It puzzles a good many collectors and dealers how the 1 cent varieties of the U. S. 1851 issues can be distinguished, also the 5 cent Beaver variety of Canada.*

A stamp that I do not see in the Catalogue is the United States Custom stamp. It is printed in carmine 1½ by 2 inches, with "U. S. Custom House N. Y." and on the next four lines are CASHIERS OFFICE, FEES RECEIVED, 20 CENTS, BUREAU OF ENGRAVING AND PRINTING, and on the left is an engraving of "Wright", the same is rouletted and cancelled June 1st 1889. I would like some of the readers of this paper to tell me if this stamp

Another stamp that has not been catalogued is more of a legitimate issue than the so-called Officially Sealed stamp of 1889. This letter-stamp I am informed was never legally authorized by the Post-Office Department. The stamp I have is printed in black on yellow paper, laid with U. S. watermark and is 1 by 1½ inches in size with the following inscription on it enclosed in a square border:—"Letter returned by carrier because addressees could not be found. If the address is correct or there is any other reason why the letter could have been property delivered, please send the envelope to the Postmaster with a statement of the facts that an investigation can be made." I would like some reader to tell me more of this stamp.

The 1847 United States issue of 5 and 10 cents are found in about ten different shades and are usually found cancelled in red.

*Editors Note. The variety of the 1850, 5c beaver Canada is easily distinguished. The word "Canada" is printed in double and there is a double line on the oval to the left of the stamp.