

CHAPTER II.—PILLS.

BILLINGSBY was engaged in the manufacture of antibilious pills. Possibly the aroma of those beneficent creations of the pharmacopœia affected his brain with benevolence.

He started!

He sneezed!

"Ha!" he exclaimed, rubbing a pill wildly into the roots of his hair in the excitement of the moment. "he may—he may—he may use the envelope to send me a cheque for my article. I have heard of such things. And if he should die—they may refuse to cash it! Let me fly to preserve him. Mr. POPKIN'S pills can wait."

CHAPTER III.—PENANCE.

BILLINGSBY clamoured at the portals of the (name suppressed for obvious reasons.—ED.) office. A mild person put his head out of the window and said, "What the doose are you a-kicking up that row for?"

"I must see the editor. It is a matter of life and death."

"What name, sir?"

"My name is Norval for all practical purposes, for he would not know me by name."

The mild being disappeared and returned to usher the trembling BILLINGSBY into THE PRESENCE. (The printer is requested to put that in caps for obvious reasons.—ED). In the editor's right hand is a manuscript, which the unhappy BILLINGSBY recognized as his. In his left was an envelope. Before him lay a stamp. BILLINGSBY was the prey of conflicting emotions. His MS. was about to be rejected:—should he let "venom do its work?"

While he hesitated, the editor—with the sweet placid smile editors are wont to use—slit the MS. into its cover, drew the flap of the envelope over a Patent Damper, did the same for the stamp, and affixed it, and then looking up, said—

"May I ask the reason of your visit?"

The unhappy BILLINGSBY saw a large blue-bottle, attracted by the moisture, taste the fatal spring, and then fall on his back, with his six quivering legs upwards, on the blotting pad. Poor bluebottle!

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An hour later all that remained of AUGUSTUS DE VERE BILLINGSBY was a powder triturated to impalpability in the bottom of MR. SQUILL'S mortar.

The unhappy wretch had thus committed suicide. Peace be to his smashes!

* "See the poet:—'a riding in a railway-car.'"—A. DE. V. B.

A correspondent in Concord, N. H. sends us the following which he says was picked up in that city lately on the back of an envelope.

This letter to Colbrook town must go

In Coos County N. H., you know

And when it gets there I presume to say

Mr. George B. Eastman will take it away

THE STAMP COLLECTOR'S

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THE FRENCH STAMPS.

The Stamps of France, Greece, and Nova Scotia, have been pronounced by connoisseurs to be the most handsome in the world. As regards finish, design and engraving they are certainly unsurpassed, and their delicate tints are the admiration of everybody. For nearly eighteen years have the people of France employed Stamps, and during that period lived under three forms of Government.

First there was the Republic, then the Presidency, and lastly the Empire.

In the year 1849 when France was a Republic, her first Stamps appeared, and consisted of six varieties. They were rectangular in shape and contained a profile of the Goddess of Liberty to the left, in a circle, within an elongated frame, at the top was inscribed *REPUB. FRANCE*, at bottom *POSTES*. Value in figures, coloured impression on white paper and unperforated. 10c. cinnamon, 15c. green, 20c. black; 25c., blue; 40c., vermillion, orange; 1 fr., lake, carmine, and orange.

1852.—THE PRESIDENCY. These Stamps had a portrait of the present Emperor Napoleon III, in a circle, head to the left, rectangular, non-perforated and inscribed like those preceding. 10c. cinnamon: 25c. blue.

1853-66.—THE EMPIRE.—Identical with the the above, except the inscription at top is *EMPIRE FRANÇ.*, below *POSTES*. 1c. olive-green; 5c. light-green: 10c. bistre, cinnamon; 20c. blue, light, dark, 25c., blue, 40c., orange vermillion; 80c., lake rose; 1 fr., carmine.

1859.—A Stamp for unpaid letters was issued in this year and was as follows, in an oblong frame is a numeral denoting value in the centre, over *centimes à percevoir*; *CHIFFRE* at top *TAXE* below, *POSTES* on each side, 10c., black, printed on white paper and unperforated.

1863.—Two unpaid and two Postage Stamps, the former similar to the one just described, 10c., and 15c., the latter of an entirely different design and value from any hitherto issued. Profile of the Emperor in a circle, towards the left, within an oblong erect frame, *EMPIRE FRANÇAIS* above, *c. Postes* c below, in dark letters, large figures of value in lower corners, perforated, 2c., chocolate, light and dark, 4c., lavender.

Numerous essays have from time to time, been introduced to our notice, one consisted of an oblong erect frame, containing a portrait of His Imperial Majesty, Napoleon III, to the left, in an oval disk, inscribed in white letters, *Louis Napoleon Bonaparte*, at top *Re-*