

earliest and as all the stamps were good specimens, he offered his note for \$90 for them, but as the stationer thought this was a trifle too little he promised Mr. A he could have them at \$100 cash.

About this juncture in comes Mr. B, who, when he found that only \$90 were offered, promptly raised the bid to \$125, but as the stationer had given his promise to Mr. A, he would not, for the time being, entertain Mr. B's offer. A spirited bargaining was then kept up till about midnight when Mr. A, determined not to increase his offer, went out and called upon the bank messenger at this late hour, and received his promise that the stamps should be sold for \$90 and the messenger also informed him that he could call at the stationer's on his way down to business in the morning for that purpose. Mr. A and Mr. B both promised to call upon the stationer in the morning, but at 8 o'clock Mr. A's wife arrived with the \$90 and a lawyer's letter demanding the stamps at that price. The stationer immediately telephoned Mr. A that if he wanted the stamps he must put up \$100 and as far as the lawyer's letter was concerned, he only desired that it should trouble Mr. A as little as it did himself. After considerable bargaining over the 'phone, Mr. A, finding he could not get the stamps for less than

\$100, instructed his wife to leave her I. O. U. for the remaining \$10. While this was going on Mr. B came in, but of course could not get the stamps.

When Mrs. A received the stamps she turned to Mr. B and with a few triumphant words, left the store. Still Mr. B was not discouraged but called that same evening at the residence of Mr. A. After sending in his card he was informed by the servant that Mr. A would not see him, and yet a few days later, some of these selfsame stamps were lying in the safe of Mr. B. This will exemplify the old adage that says "where there's a will, there's a way."

IDEAS AND CLIPPINGS.

BY OTHER PEOPLE.

Some interest has been aroused in the East by rumors that negotiations are on foot between China and Portugal looking to the cession of Macao to China.—*Toronto World*.

Should the cession of the island take place, it will probably mean a considerable increase in the value of the stamps.

Beware of the Narragansett Stamp Company, Box 5, West Kingston, R. I., as they are frauds of the first water. All persons who have been defrauded by them are requested to send us an account of it, as we intend placing the matter in the hands of the P. O. Inspec-