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Our Progress in 1893.

BY FREDERICK S. FOX.

AT this Yule-tide festival, when we are about to bid a farewello to 1893, and ring in a hearty welcome to 1894, it may be interesting to cast our eyes backward through the long months and weeks of this Columbian year, and ascertain what progress, if any, our hobby has made since January 1st, 1893. Twelve months since, the philatelic sooth-sayers, in glowing words of prophecy, predicted, in 1893, one of the most successful years in Philately's history. And, successful years in Philately's history were based, not on groundless reasons, nor were the most conservative at fault in deeming their words worthy of fulfillment. The issue of the Columbian stamps and envelopes, together with the manifold new attractions in the Columbian Exposition and its various stamp exhibits, certainly furnished tempting food for thought and hope.

And a look into the past will reveal to us the fact that we have not hoped in vain. The impetus given to collecting circles by the Columbian stamps cannot be conceived. A merely casual observation will convince us that the number of new collectors added to our ranks by means of this issue is legion. In proof of this, I refer you to the membership lists of our societies. Wonderful gains have been made in new members by all of them, especially by those which are conducted, presumably, in the interests of the younger collectors, to whom the Columbian issue appeals more directly.

While the number of new philatelic journals issued during the year is not unusually large, the death rate, on the other hand, has been remarkably low. Then, too, an increasing production of new issues in stamp journalism is popularly regarded as a doubtful blessing. The newly made members of our fraternity have contributed their support to our journals, and as a result we find the majority improved and healthier in appearance, while their prospects for a long and successful career in the journalistic world have increased correspondingly. Take the *Canadian Philatelist* for an example.

We have witnessed "hard times" in 1893. And yet, upon inquiry and investigation, we will find that in spite of all unfavorable circumstances, our dealers have every reason to be satisfied with their business from January to December, and that in most cases their receipts for the year will show a marked increase over those of 1892—a most gratifying state of affairs when the business depression and general financial gloom of the year is considered.

Have the prophecies of 1892 borne fruit? As we survey the field, and note the general improvement in matters philatelic over last

year, an emphatic "yes," must surely be our answer, and we have cause to congratulate ourselves of Philately's triumphant march in the last twelve months. In spite of bank failures and business panics, our hobby has progressed wonderfully. With satisfaction, then, we can turn our thoughts to the coming year, and with new strength use our endeavors in making 1894 a more successful year in Philatelic affairs than 1893 has been. A few grains of sand and determination will do it. A constant perseverance will crown our efforts in this direction with the fruits of success, and a year hence, if we will have used this perseverance, cold facts will bear me out in this assertion.

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A Philatelic Aviary.

BY C. E. JENNY.

IN looking over our stamp collections, many and varied are the scenes presented to us. The designs can be roughly divided into several classes, as follows: Scroll work, like the rapid telegraph stamps of the U. S.; portraits, which is the most numerous class; scenes, rural or otherwise; birds, animals, trees and flowers. I will deal now with the birds, depicted on postage stamps. To begin with the U. S., although it has no notable instance, and none at all in the regular issues.¹ But on some of the locals are to be found our national emblem, the eagle, and that appropriate bird, the dove, messenger of peace and good news. Since the eagle has been mentioned, I may as well say a little more about it. As the king of birds, he has long been the emblem of many nations. As the most powerful of the birds of the air, he has been chosen by empires; and as the bird of freedom, republics have decked their banners with him. In the Coats of Arms, central European countries he is found in some form, ha², double, or single.

On the early stamps of Bolivia can be seen the condor, more powerful even than the eagle. Its home is in the Andes, especially in and around Bolivia. On the beautiful stamps of Guatemala appears what many call a parrot, but it is not. It is the quetzal, the sacred bird of the Aztecs. In Prescott's "Conquest of Mexico," and Low Wallace's "Fair God," very interesting accounts and description of this famous bird can be read. In fact it has a place for itself in history, and no better subject for romance could be found.

On the stamps of Japan we have the pheasant, a bird very common in that country, where many beautiful varieties of it can be found.

The interesting jilitee set of New South Wales has two of the peculiar birds of that country upon its stamps, viz., the cassowary

and the lyre-bird. The cassowary resembles, in some respects, the ostrich, while the lyre-bird is so-called from the fact that its tail is in the form of a perfect lyre. The natives of Australia, man, bird and beast, are all of the most peculiar form and habits, and it is from this chiefly that Australia is classed as a sixth continent rather than an island.

Last, but not least handsome, we arrive at the stamps of Western Australia, formerly called Swan's River Settlements. As is naturally supposed, this region was the home of the wild swan, and it is here that is found that *cygnus niger*, the black swan. Certainly this country has chosen a pretty and appropriate device for its stamps, and one from which it has never varied. So much for the bird division of natural history, recalled to us by our stamps. I will speak later of the animals, whose portraits are sent around the world.

¹ Ed. Note.—The pic of 1869, has an eagle in its design.

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These are Philatelists!

WALTER A. WETHROW.

A PHILATELIST is a stamp-collector who studies, classifies and arranges stamps. The collector who carefully studies stamps and arranges them into sheets or blocks, in their original position, who examines into the papers on which the stamps are printed, who studies the various methods of printing and engraving, who studies his stamps with reference to shades of color, who examines into minute points of difference in the plates or dies, from which the stamps are printed, is a philatelist.

The dealer in stamps, the philatelic author and the philatelic poet are not necessarily philatelists. If the author and poet do not study their stamps, if the dealer sells his stamps without reference to shade, paper or methods of engraving, they are not philatelists.

The collector who studies his stamps and traces their history with reference to their authenticity, is a philatelist. A boy of twelve may be a philatelist as well as a man of fifty years of age. It isn't the age that makes the philatelist—it is the experience and study. It isn't the number of years of collecting that makes the philatelist—it is the amount of study given the stamps. I know a gentleman fifty years of age, with a collecting life of twenty years, who has but little knowledge of philately. He adds a stamp to his collection frequently and that is as far as his interest goes.

Noah Webster died before the general introduction of postage stamps, and certainly before stamp collecting was thought of, and could hardly have defined the word "philately" as it now is, "a collector of stamps."

¹ Ed. Note.—See "Who are Philatelists?" Dec. 1891, CANADIAN PHILATELIST.