

Where the Fault Lies.

When newspapers and letters go astray in the mail, the Post Office authorities generally have the blame laid at their door, and the aggrieved public scarcely ever think of looking beyond the service for cause of complaint. The inspection of complaints generally places* the cause on the sender's shoulders. The *Empire's* correspondent at Ottawa complained to the Deputy Postmaster-General of this, and was at once shown a bundle of 200 addressed newspapers, the accumulation of two days' mail at the Ottawa city post-office, and not one of the whole lot bore an address whereby its destination could be determined. "This," remarked Col. White, "shows the immense number of papers that go astray in the course of a year, and with whom the fault lies. A little more care in the addressing and mailing, and such losses would never occur."

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Postal Cards.

A new branch of our science which is rapidly increasing is postal card collecting. The demand is becoming greater each month. Postal cards form an interesting and beautiful collection, and we are glad to see them springing into general favor.

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Auction Sales.

As a standard for effecting the value of rare stamps, auction sales are springing into favor as the only reliable epitome of prices. The price brought by a stamp at auction sale shows its real worth. Realizing the value of auction sales and announcements, we have decided to devote a portion of our space each issue to brief auction reports.

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Canada Error Card.

A number of our correspondents have have sent us inquiries regarding this card. Some collectors are under the impression that the 1x1 cent reply card, with stamp at left, is due to a mistake in the cutting of the sheets. It has been proved that the card is not the result of a wrong cutting. Inquiry at the Post-office Department has shown that it is a government error *in the printing*, and the authorities acknowledge that a small quantity of the cards were issued before the mistake was discovered. The letter under heading of the Post-office Department removes all doubt as to the character and origin of the "Canada Error Card." It is considered a rarity.

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Albrecht's**Fifth Sale.**

Messrs. R. F. Albrecht & Co. held their fifth sale at 25 Ann street, New York, on October 5th, at 7.30 p.m. Mr. Henry Merry conducted the sale. It was especially rich in the U.S. and British North American, including several fine whole-sale lots. The sale consisted of 450 lots.

Re Oddities.

A craze seems to be taking hold of some of our collectors—the collection of the so-called Oddities. An envelope or a postal, with a double impression, a crooked impression, or a colorless impression, seems to be considered a *treasure*, and is greedily secured and kept. This is a danger which at present threatens our pursuit. Collectors! drop these unofficial varieties, which are in the strictest sense not stamps. Such collecting is a mere waste of time and money. Confine yourself strictly to the officially-issued varieties of stamps. You know only too well there are enough varieties—and to spare. This sort of thing has and will be the means of losing the support of many of our collecting fraternity.

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Our Personal Column.

This department was inaugurated last month, and is evidently appreciated by our readers. We wish it to be a glowing success, and at all times will be pleased to have our subscribers and patrons send us *short* personal items about themselves for publication, and in this way aid us in making this department an interesting feature. Let us hear from you.

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Bogert-Durbins' 35th Sale.

The Bogert and Durbin Co. held their thirty-fifth sale at the Knickerbocker Conservatory, New York, on Thursday evening, October 13th, at 2.30 o'clock. Four hundred and twenty-two lots were offered, being the collection of Dr. P. G. Skilern, of Philadelphia. It was especially rich in the obsolete issues of the Leeward Islands and other British Colonials. Among the stamps specially worthy of mention we note the following: Virgin Islands, 1s., *no border*; St. Lucia, 1s. surcharged; St. Vincent, 2½d. on 4d., 1s. brown; Nevis, 1s. on *laid* paper, *very rare*; 4d. rose; Montserrat, 4d. blue, C. A.; Labuan, \$1 on 16c.; United States, '69, 90c.; Justice, 90c.; Canada ½d. and 6d. perforated; New Brunswick, 6d.; Newfoundland, 2d., 4d. and 8d., vermilion, unused, etc. We do not as yet know what prices were realized, but expect to have this information in time for our next issue.

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Various Matters.

The Exchange Department is ready for everybody, and the rates very low compared with our regular adv. rates.—Collectors and dealers would confer a favor on the publishers by forwarding us the names of all their stamp collecting friends.—Our Approval Sheet Department is in active operation—see advertisement!—Cash must be sent with copy by advertisers unknown to us.—Subscriptions must begin with current issue; back numbers are very scarce and can only be supplied at 10 cts. each; no discount.