

Clippings.

All Clippings from newspapers thought by the Editor to be of interest to Collectors will be published in this column. Subscribers are invited to send clippings, which always prove acceptable.

"NEW" POST OFFICE RULES.

A funny postmaster recently sent to the Post Office Department a new set of Post Office rules. They were:

A pair of onions will go for two cents.
Ink bottles must be corked when sent by mail.
Persons are compelled to lick their own postage stamps and envelopes; the postmaster cannot be compelled to do this.

Persons are earnestly requested not to send postal cards with money orders enclosed, as large sums are lost in that way.

Nitro-glycerine must be forwarded at the risk of the sender. If it should blow up in the postmaster's hand he cannot be held responsible.

When letters are received bearing no direction, the persons for whom they are intended will please signify the fact to the postmaster that they may at once be forwarded.

As all postmasters are expert linguists, the address may be written in Chinese or Cree.

It is unsafe to mail apple or fruit trees with the fruit on them.

It is earnestly requested that lovers writing to their girls will please confine their gushing rhapsodies to the inside of the envelope.

Ducks cannot be sent through the mail when alive. The quacking would disturb the slumbers of the clerks on the postal cars.

When watches are sent through the mail, if the sender will put a notice on the outside, the postmasters will wind and keep in running order.

John Smith gets his mail from 674,279 post offices, hence a letter directed to John Smith, North America, will reach him.

When you send a money order in a letter, always write full and explicit directions in the same letter, so that any person getting the letter can draw the money.

Alligators over ten feet in length are not allowed to be transmitted by mail.

The placing of stamps upside down on letters is prohibited. Several postmasters have recently been seriously injured while trying to stand on their heads to cancel stamps placed in this manner.—*Clipping.*

HOME RULE AND PHILATELY.

The editor of the *Philatelic Journal of Great Britain* was wise in his generation when he addressed a polite query to the Premier as to the bearing of Home Rule on the future of stamps. Mr. Gladstone's reply was not very precise, to be sure, inasmuch as he confined himself to the statement that the question "will be one for the consideration of the Irish Government." Still, when once it is clear that the matter is within the competence of the proposed Parliament on College Green, it follows, as the night the day, that the passage of the Home Rule Bill would inevitably lead to the issue of a new and distinct series of postage stamps. The patriotic Irishman is a great fellow for signs and emblems, legends and mottoes, and we may rest assured that if there is an Irish postage stamp it

will be something rich and strange. The Premier's announcement, we fear, cannot but lead to a serious conflict in the bosoms of all stamp collectors. From the evidence which their hobby affords them of the greatness of the British dominions, they can hardly fail as a class to be imbued with the Imperialist ideal. But, *qua* collectors they will probably welcome the possible issue of a new series of stamps, irrespectively of the disastrous events of which that issue is the visible emblem. The philatelist whose Unionism triumphs over his collecting mania really deserves to have ten votes at an election. It is worth noting, in conclusion, that the ability to establish a separate postage which is to be conferred on the Irish Government, might, under certain circumstances, prove a most lucrative source of revenue. When an Irish Republic takes the place of the nondescript *regime* which Mr. Gladstone hopes to introduce, apart from the national love of change there will be a strong monetary inducement to replace President Justin by President Tim, and to keep ringing the changes as rapidly as possible, for as one head succeeds another on the Irish stamp, it will always be possible to sell the disused remainders at a good price to wealthy philatelists. This, at least, is said to be the case in the Republics of South America, and Ireland could hardly fail to profit by so instructive and congenial an example.—*London Globe.*

NEW CAPE COLONY STAMPS.

The Cape Government have accepted a design for a new postage stamp for the Colony, and the issue will commence as soon as possible. The stamp, which is of the same form and shape as the existing stamps, was designed by Mr. Mountford, and is exceedingly artistic, tasteful and appropriate. The centre is occupied by the figure of Hope standing erect, the right hand resting upon an anchor. In the background behind the figure is Table Bay, and showing Table Mountain, the Lion and the Devil's Peak. The base, consisting of a scroll, furnishes space for denoting the value of the stamp, and running along the top and down both sides, assuming the form of a horse shoe, typifying good luck, is a further scroll, bearing the words "Cape of Good Hope." The denomination of the stamp in figures is shown in both top corners. Altogether the stamp will possess considerable artistic merit, and Mr. Merriman, with whom the choice rested, has given the colony a stamp of which it might well be proud. Philatelists anxious to obtain early issues will be compelled to exercise some patience. There is but one specimen in the country, but we understand that there will be no further issue from the Treasury, and the new stamp will come into use immediately a supply has been struck.—*Johannesburg Star.*

A young woman in a Pennsylvania village the other day asked the postmaster for some stamps. "Which kind?" he inquired. "The ones with the whiskers," she replied, and at once gave her some 2c. stamps on which is the picture of Columbus with his 12 hours' growth of whiskers.

Rev. Father Tiernan brought a letter into the Police Station the other day addressed to "Mrs. John Neill, New London, Upper Canada, North America, in care of the Rev. P. Priest, in care of the Police Sergeant, Canada, Philadelphia." The envelope very naturally bore the post-mark of Nenagh, Feb. 19.—*London Free Press.*