

Canadian stamp paper that has reached us for a long time. We hear of several new ones, but have not seen them yet.

The handsome appearance of the Virginia Philatelist is deserving of special mention. We trust that it will receive sufficient support to maintain so high a standard.

The 1c Jubilee stamp is found in two shades, yellow and orange, the 2c in green and blue green, the 3c in a light pink on spongy paper, the 8c in a variety with period between 'eight' and 'cents,' and the 50c in pale and bright ultramarine.

The Perforator is a bright little paper, and is presenting its readers with quite a gallery of portraits of good-looking philatelists.

E. A. M., in the Perforator, says the 8c jubilee bids fair to be very scarce, and whoever owns one is lucky. We have a few, but we would rather own a Nova Scotia shilling.

The 10, 15, 20 and 50c Jubilee ought to be better stamps to buy than the 8c and as good as the 4c. They are less in demand because they have been more evenly distributed. But wait.

The Columbian Philatelist, September, contains an interesting contribution 'On the value of English stamps.' Among the stamps mentioned as under-priced in the catalogues are: 1840, 1d black; 1856, 6d and 1s; 1870, 1½d; 1880, 1½d and 1s.

Several writers have been exercising their wits lately describing the features of an ideal stamp paper. Let us also give our opinion. The paper which comes nearest to our ideal is full of information about stamps rather than stamp collectors; it does not devote more than half its space to admiration of itself and censure of its fellows; and the other half is not altogether filled up with pictures of collectors, and biographical sketches of its advertisers.

The advertising pages of the *Messenger* have until now been almost wholly taken up with the publisher's own announcements. With this issue a new departure is inaugurated. Fourteen leading dealers have advertisements in the present number, and we hope to have twice as many with us next month. We shall not mind it if the publisher's ads are crowded out alto-

gether. The Standard Stamp Co., of St. Louis, has spoken for a half page. Look out for their advt. in November. We ask intending advertisers to kindly send in their copy before the 20th. Remember, 25c per inch, cash in advance; 75c per half column.

'Burnham,' under which pen-name a well-known philatelist contributes interesting notes from Boston to this number, will be a regular contributor to the *Messenger*. Another contributor, 'Karl Kramer,' writes forcibly of a practical question affecting philately.

An International Stamp.

Mr. Maury, in the July number of his excellent journal *Le Collectionneur de Timbres-poste*, which, by the way, was founded 33 years ago, suggests a new scheme to obviate some of the difficulties connected with an international postage stamp. His first proposition is that the alternate horizontal lines of perforation be omitted in a sheet of the 5c. stamps, or their equivalent in other countries, as 25 centimes, 20 pfennig and 2½ pence. This will give vertical strips of two stamps, imperforate between. The double stamp is to be lapped over the fold of a letter-card leaving a single stamp on each side of the card. One side only is to be obliterated and the double stamp is to be detached (cut out or soaked off,) and is then to be used for return postage. The objection is raised, however, by the postal authorities of several countries, to whom Mr. Maury's scheme was submitted, that it would be difficult to furnish all post offices with letter-cards of this description since demand for them is very limited and that on account of the expense of manufacturing them they are not in use in many countries.

Mr. Maury acknowledges the force of this objection and proposes that a horizontal double stamp, imperforate between should be used on an ordinary envelope, and that through a slit cut in the envelope one stamp should be slipped inside and so protected from obliteration and the other stamp will adhere to the envelope in the usual way. When the letter reaches the addressee, the double stamp can be detached and used for return postage.

The scheme is ingenious, to say the least of it, and the principle involved in it is already admitted in the use of Postal Union reply cards.