

without having these added. Young stamp collectors may give up the stamps for these picture cards and we do not want this to happen.

There will be no object in collecting them. They will never become scarce nor valuable. The number is not limited and besides any person can print them. The country will soon be flooded with them if they receive encouragement. They are useless as postal cards as full letter rate is charged and also because there is hardly any space upon which to write.

Taken all around these cards are only worthless bits of paper with pictures on the back which will do more injury than good. Stamp collectors especially should give them a wide berth. People may as well begin to collect advertising cards.

Forged Stamps.

FROM FAMILY HERALD.

One of the greatest troubles in collecting is the great number of forged stamps which are to be met with, a great part of which are made on the Continent of Europe. They present a danger which must be guarded against, as they threaten to deter and prevent fresh adherents to our hobby. Reprints, when fraudulent, are of course akin to forgeries, and with the streams of information, which can now be had so cheaply, in the shape of weekly and monthly publications devoted entirely to stamps, beginners should not be long in finding the assistance and material required

to cope with either dangea. Any one commencing a collection, who is willing to learn and continues quietly, without expecting to form one in a week or two, will derive amusement, information and pleasant companionship during a long year, and will, in addition, discover that his hobby has not only aided him intellectually, but also regarded from a financial standpoint, will have turned out by no means unsatisfactory. The toast given by a blacksmith might unfortunately have been taken as giving advice to those inclined to the evils we are describing; it was "Success to forgery," and has been followed to a very large extent for years. A well known London dealer (F. W. Palmer) has one of his rooms papered with over seventy thousand forged stamps, which, if genuine and unused, would be worth over five millions of dollars, and they include such stamps as all values of Great Britain from one penny up to five pounds, the penny black and the Mulready, beside other rare and unique forgeries.

Things got so bad that laws have been made in several countries against these practices. The one in the States says: "Any person who shall forge, or counterfeit, or knowingly utter, any forged or counterfeited foreign postage stamps of any government shall be punished by imprisonment at hard labor of not less than two or more than ten years." This goes to prove how some people try to defraud the postal authorities out of the revenue which accrues from the sale of these most useful pieces of gummed paper.