

STAMP STUDYING.

BY PHIL.

It is surprising to note among the many collectors that are now in every country throughout the world, how few really deserve the name of philatelists.

Philately or stamp collecting as a science, does not consist merely in the accumulating together of a number of stamps that it is possible for them to obtain, no, it signifies something more than that, something elevating, in fact, something to study. But now comes the question, how are we to study our stamps and which is the best way? and the answer is by no means a difficult one, simply *read*, that is, read all that can be obtained from good journals relating to the study, articles written by prominent philatelists, and by this means you will acquire a knowledge in regard to philately, that you can get in no other way.

One of the best articles at present, by which to study your stamps, is the Philatelic Catalogue, which is published each month in Mr. C. H. Mekeel's fine journal, *The Philatelic Journal of America*, as besides giving a very full description, it also gives a very fine cut of each stamp, and we would advise anyone who is not already a subscriber to Mr. Mekeel's paper to lose no time in sending on for it. But then there are a great many who consider that they know just as much about their stamps as any one and therefore never open a philatelic paper more than to see if it contains their last exchange notice or advertisement. Not long since we had the pleasure of looking through a collection of about 3200, and these about 300 were forgeries and

reprints and about 500 badly soiled or torn, and nearly all arranged in a careless manner, and it just occurred to us at the time that it was better to have a collection of about 1500 of good genuine varieties about which we know something than this fairly large one of bad stamps.

ON VARIOUS THINGS.

BLUE NOSE.

THE early Prince Edward Island stamps were ordered by George Dundas, Esq., Lieutenant-Governor, in 1856, and were engraved by Mr. Chas. Whiting of London, England.

IN *Harpers' New Monthly Magazine* for Oct., 1871, Vol. 43, No. 257, will be found an 18 page illustrated article on New York City Post Office, extending over a period of 200 years; also a 10 page article on "Postage Stamps and their Origin," with 100 illustrations; both of these articles are interesting and no collector should be without them.

It is suprising to see what amount of petty spite is indulged in by certain of our American contemporaries; it certainly does not add to the dignity of our "hobby" to have the editors of philatelic papers calling one another rogues, thieves and liars. The sooner this kind of bickering is stopped, the better. If you have just cause of complaint against you brother editor, make such complaint in a gentlemanly manner, and you will find it works better than all the abuse you can print. Moreover, you and your paper will be respected, both by collectors and others.