

Something About Stamps.

The contract for furnishing the stamps of the United States was given, in 1861, to the National Bank Note Company, which now annually supplies 220,000,000 more stamps than in the first year of the contract. During 1865 the company has furnished the Government 400,000,000 stamps, and the demand has frequently exceeded a million and a half per diem. The following will be read with interest.

The largest number ever delivered in one day was 5,923,895. The consumption of stamps of different values may be understood from a statement of the proportions manufactured in the month of March last, when there were delivered to the Government, of

1 ct stamps.....	165,200
2 ct do	14,477,250
3 ct do	85,933,850
5 ct do	375,340
10 ct do	10,000,640
12 ct do	372,900
24 ct do	480,300
30 ct do	140,650
50 ct do	19,490

Total.....102,926,630

In the above list we think the 15c. and 50c., ought to read 12c. and 40c.

The value represented by these stamps is \$3,207,199.50. The same writer says that the entire number supplied by the National Bank Note Company up to the present time is one billion three hundred millions. To meet a demand so vast, the presses are sometimes run night and day, and to avoid error in accounts, a daily balance of business is struck. In furnishing this immense number—representative of a value of \$40,000,000—not a single loss involving censure to the company has occurred, and the stamps are printed, perforated, gummed and packed (for delivery from the company's office to all the United States post offices) for twelve cents a thousand.

ALTERATION IN RATES OF POSTAGE TO COLONIES OF B. N. A. &c.—On the 1st January 1866 the altered scale of weights applied to letters sent within the United Kingdom was extended to Canada, New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, P. E. Island, and Newfoundland &c, under this regulation a letter for any of the above places weighing more than 1oz and not exceeding 1½oz will be charged with three rates of postage and so on in proportion.

We presume that in a few days the Post Master General of New Brunswick will instruct the department here to adopt the same scale for letters from New Brunswick to the United Kingdom.

A NEW STAMP PAPER will be issued in Chicago early this month. Our old friend Mr. Wm. Olcott—lately connected with the *Curiosity Shop*—is to be the Editor.

ENIGMA.

I am composed of 57 letters.

- My 35, 21, 46, 32, 50, 18, 22, 7, 20, 54, 10, 13, 29, 20, 33, 49, 32, 23, 18, 39, 53, is the name of a monthly for Stamp Collectors.
- " 32, 38, 42, 45, 18, 12, 37, 20, 56, 34, 40, 52, 22, 18, 23, 26, 41, 55, 33, 8, 9, 36, 15, 18, 25, 43, 48, 21, 33, 18, 22, are the names of two gentlemen who will long be remembered by all Stamp Collectors.
- " 46, 4, 44, 12, 32, 50, 18, 56, 16, 11, 33, 2, 20, 10, 45, 49, 52, 10, 55, 3, 42, 32, 33, 50, 57, 19, 22, 52, 29, is an inscription on a postage stamp.
- " 27, 46, 56, 9, 27, 7, 47, 25, 37, 38, 33, 24, 27, 14, 36, 57, is a gentleman whose portrait is to be found on several postage stamps.
- " 27, 15, 47, 33, 24, 5, 52, 8, 51, 28, 45, 34, 25, 43, 48, 17, 50, advertise in the *Gazette*.
- " 1, 42, 31, 39, 33, 20, 25, is the name of an island employing stamps.
- " 51, 2, 30, 56, 32, 20, 38, 33, is a Roman coin.

My whole is the name of four stamp dealers.

[Answer next month.]

Answer to enigma in our last: "*Prince Edward Island Postage, nine-pence currency, equal to six-pence stg.*"

Answer to Acrostic: "*Duc di Parma Piac Ecc.*"

Answer to 1st Transposition: "*Ein drittel silber groschen.*" 2nd: "*Correos Nacionales.*"

We are afraid that the acrostic and transpositions were too hard for our subscribers last month, at least we judge so, for we have only received four correct answers to the acrostic, none to the first transposition, and but six to the second. Mr. D. C. Dawson, of St. John, N. B., gets the unused set of Spanish official for correct solution to acrostic, and Mr. G. W. James, of Lawrencetown, N. S., the 25c. packet of stamps for his answer to the second transposition. A 25c. packet will be given to the first three correct answers we receive to the enigma.

We have received from Mr. W. M. Wright, Printer and Publisher, a handsome new Calendar for 1866. It is beautifully printed in colored inks, and contains a good deal of valuable information. Dealers who require to get Price Lists neatly printed cannot do better than give Mr. W. a call.

As we had occasion to employ a new mailing clerk last month, we would not feel surprised to find that some of our subscribers had not received their paper. Any of those who failed to receive it will confer a favour by notifying us so that the error will not be repeated.