

Written for THE CANADIAN PHILATELIST.

A JAPANESE PICTURE.

BY ROY F. GREENE.

You ask me why I love them,
These stamps from old Japan :
And why I sit thus musing,
And deep their features scan ?
They scarcely seem artistic,
No colors bright I see ;
Yet of all my choice possessions
They seem the best to me.

Among my album's treasures
Much fairer ones appear ;
But none among the number
To me seems half so dear.
'Mong all the ones I've gathered
Since collecting life began,
None draw my heart so closely
As the stamps from old Japan.

Time honored as a nation,
'Neath centuries so dark ;
That learning's candle entered not
To throw of light a spark.
But bloody war was not your aim,
But quiet life you ran,
Till knowledge came and conquered hosts,
Ye antique, loved Japan.

The rose, the thistle moves me not,
Nor heads of rulers grim ;
The locomotive, beaver, cod,
Nor steamships, staunch and trim ;
The cassowary, Kangaroo,
I see no charm in these ;
Queer emblems of diversity,—
Give me one Japanese.

I see the gay chrysanthemum,
An emblem which I prize ;
I fancy that I see again
Those drooping love-lit eyes ;
I see those flowers on the breast
Of my first sweetheart Louise ;
And this is why, from all the rest,
I chose the Japanese.

CHATS ON COUNTERFEITS.

BY THE EDITOR.

(Compiled from various sources.)

II.

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 147)

AFTER the few introductory paragraphs regarding counterfeits given by me in my paper of last month, I consider that it will be advisable to enter into the subject in detail. Any further definitions that may be needful will be given as we progress.

"*Montenegro*." These stamps have been extensively forged, and so well executed are some of the forgeries that an expert often finds difficulty in distinguishing between the genuine and the forgery. In the genuine stamp, as well as in the forgery, all the values are printed from the same stone. In both cases the stamps are lithographed. The genuine is printed on *thin*, white-wove paper, while the forgery is printed on *thin*,

white-wove paper. The genuine is perforated 10½, the forgery 12½. In the genuine stamp the inscription on the right-hand label reads : T.S.R, GORE. The letters TS are like two I's joined at top and bottom with a little tail to the right-hand of the bottom cross-stroke. This has the appearance of a flaw. In the forgery the inscription in the right-hand label reads : PR, GORE. The P is like two I's, joined at top and bottom, but without the little tail. In the genuine stamp the stops after TSR and NOVCH are larger and distinct, while in the forgery they are very small. In the genuine stamp the ear is large and very prominent ; in the counterfeit it is almost hidden by the hair and whiskers. The genuine stamp also shows a very prominent vertical cleft or dimple in the chin, which in the forged stamp is very indistinct and runs in a vertical instead of an oblique direction. The colors in the genuine and forged specimens are almost identical. In the genuine the perforation is large and distinct, in the forgery it is smaller and very poor. The forgeries are ungummed. The entire series has been counterfeited, 2, 3, 5, 7, 10, 15, 25 NOVCH. The above points are the most prominent differences which are apparent between the genuine and forged stamps.

"*Newfoundland, Triangular 3d. of 1857*." This stamp was forged years since, and I quite often meet with copies of the forgery in collections made in the "sixties." The genuine stamps are unperforated and engraved in *taille douce* ; the forgery is lithographed. The ground work of the central triangle, behind the large trefoil, is engine-turned all over. There are, however, three horizontal lines where the engine-turning allows more of the dark background to be seen. In the forgery the imitation of the engine-turning is in four strips, so that the dark background shows without any lines upon, it between the strips. The dark background is more prominent in the three lower strips. In the genuine this dark background also shows faintly, however, the engine-turning is all one piece. In the genuine stamp the word NEWFOUNDLAND is spelt as one word ; in forgery the name is separated and spelt as two separate words, thus : NEWFOUND LAND. In the genuine stamp the apostrophe in JOHN'S is correctly shaped, as is also the comma after POSTAGE. In the forgery the apostrophe in JOHN'S is very badly shaped, while the comma after POSTAGE is a badly shaped period. In the genuine stamp there are three leaves on the left of the thistle, while in the forgery there are but two. The rose and shamrock do not touch any part of the border in the genuine, but the stem of the thistle just touches the border at the bottom. In the forgery the leaf on the left of the rose touches the inner border of the trefoil, and the top leaf of the shamrock almost touches the border also. The stem of the thistle does not touch the border, in fact the stem does not project below the leaves at all. The lettering on the forgery is very ragged and too thin-faced. The color of the genuine stamp is a rich, dark-yellow green ; the color of the forgery is a blueish-green of a decidedly chalky appearance. In the forgery there is also a flaw in the top of the H in JOHN'S on the left-hand stroke, and the imitation engine-turning projects a little too far, just under the first D in NEWFOUND LAND, forming a white spot. The forgeries were printed in sheets of 30 and cancelled with an imitation of the Br. Guiana cancellation stamp without figures. These points are the principal differences between the genuine and forgery of this stamp.

(TO BE CONTINUED.)