

The Postman's Knock.

and am not prepared to say whether it was legally authorized or not; but presume that from the source from whence received, that it was an authorized issue sent to New Brunswick, with many others, as samples of the issue, or to be issued, in Canada.

Yours truly,

JAMES HALE.

The italics are ours. Mr. Hale, in response to an inquiry from us as to a suitable person in Canada of whom to seek further information, recommended us to W. H. Smithson, Esq., a gentleman in the O. Accountant's Office at Ottawa. We addressed Mr. S. on the subject; subjoined is his reply:—

OTTAWA, Dec. 7th, 1869.

Sir,—Enclosed please find stamp returned as requested, and trust the information will be satisfactory.

Yours, &c.,

W. H. SMITHSON.

Mr. CRAIG, &c., &c., St. John, N. B.

The "*information*" referred to is as follows, and was written on the card to which we had affixed the stamp: "This is a specimen. The stamped envelopes issued were 5 c. red and 10 c. brown, watermarked "Ca. P. O. D." They have been withdrawn from circulation on account of being easily counterfeited and not taking well with the public. As to numbers sold, see P. M. G.'s report (Mr. Hale's) for 1867, page 9. An embossed P. stamp is more easily counterfeited than any others. W. H. S."—At this point it will be seen that we are compelled to let the matter drop, not knowing to whom to write for full satisfaction. The very vague nature of Mr. Smithson's "*information*" is explained by the fact that he has only been in Ottawa two or three years, and not knowing anything about the "*specimen*," as he calls it, of his own knowledge, he probably did not imagine the matter of sufficient moment to make the research among old records necessary to throw complete light on the subject. Mr. Hale has been a great deal longer in official positions, and we think his reasoning in the matter, as italicised by us, to be very good. He sets at rest one point by speaking of the envelope from which it was "*cut*;" and on

the whole, so far as we can see, the stamp is entitled to as good a standing, philatelically speaking, as that of the "*CConnell*," which is in a somewhat similar position, having been prepared for use and yet not issued. We presume that other copies will "*turn up*," but, as far as is yet known, ours is a unique "*specimen*."

LEGOTYPING.

This is a new process in printing, and one that is very likely to have a great effect on Philately in many ways. The invention has been brought forward to its present state of perfection by Messrs. Leggo & Co., of Montreal, whom we understand to have secured patent rights for it in Canada, Europe and the United States. Its proprietors claim that by merely taking a photograph of any map—picture, engraving, lithograph, or printed matter of any kind—they can, by the aid of their secret process, reprint any number of exact copies,—so exact as to be undistinguishable from the original, and at less expense than by any other method. Perceiving that if this was true it would be at once seized on by the counterfeiters, we hastened to put some queries to Messrs. L. & Co., and annexed is their reply:—

MONTREAL, 30th Nov., 1869.

The Excelsior Stamp Association,

St. John, N. B.:

Gents,—In reply to your favor of 21st October (which was accidentally mislaid, and only turned up to-day), we beg to say that we do not think it would be any advantage to try the reproduction of postage stamps by our process. In the first place, as they are usually printed in colors, a great part of them would be lost in photographing; and again, as they are so finely engraved, it is next to impossible to get them printed as surface types. We could, if you desired, get them cut on stone or copper, and printed in that way, but we think the expense would be too great. Our leggotypes can be printed as well in colors as in black; where the difficulty lies is in photographing anything colored: for example, anything *yellow* photographs *black*, and *blue* comes out *white*. Thus, in copying a blue stamp we could get no result at all. The colors best suited for working from are black and white.

Our work is specially adapted to reproducing prints, maps, manuscripts, &c., &c., and we will be