

The Philatelic Advocate.

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Pithy Philatelic Points.

Sayings and Articles of Noted Writers
Carefully Condensed.

BY GEO. W. STARNAMAN.

A very unique set of stamps, is the lottery stamps of Louisiana, being the only place in which a tax was placed on "chance." A full set consists of four stamps, two of 7½ cent and two 12½ cent value. The earlier set shows the Masonic emblems for a design and the latter the state arms.—E. R. Aidrich.

The review columns of some of our philatelic magazines are one uninterrupted succession of "very good number," "nice paper," "usual contents," etc. This is no way to review a paper, as always praising and never condemning, however much it may be needed, is not reviewing.—Gordon C. Corbaley.

What is more aggravating to a collector than to receive a sample copy of a paper several months old. Acting on the assumption that it is a late issue, the columns are eagerly perused, and the advertisements scanned for bargains. Then the discovery that he has been reading stale news, and advertisements from which the bargains have long been withdrawn, will truly raise his ire.—Ed. H. Wilkinson.

There are many reasons why a single corporation is unqualified to regulate the market value of all stamps. The holdings

of a single company and the comparative demand for particular stamps held by that company would essentially differ considerably from the supply of and the demand for stamps held by other dealers. The catalogue is a useful guide in the study of stamps but it cannot be depended upon as uniformly correct.—Edmund L. Smiley.

Specialists say "You cannot collect everything; or at least if you try to you will never approach completion." To this I say that neither can the specialist, unless his ambition is so small that he is content with a very meagre group. Where are the rarities to come, unless, indeed, the specialist is a veritable Cæsus.—Joe F. Burnett.

Do not be afraid to ask for stamps, nor to ask anybody for the privilege of looking over their old correspondence for stamps and envelopes. It is in this manner that the greater number of rarities are turned up, and added to the collectors' stock of the world.—S. A. D. Cox.

Have you heard anything drop recently? (March 20th 1898). I have. Nothing more or less than the prices of Canadian half-cent jubilees, and what a. d. s. t. it must seem like, to those holders who have paid from 25 to 40 cents each for this stamps. The last quotation I noticed was 20 cents, but don't get anxious the price will go still lower.—Willard O. Wylie.

(They are now advertised at 15 cents by many dealers.—Ed.)