

visible to consolidate? I do not hesitate to say, that the strongest and most solid is the worthy one to fill that vacancy. Glance over my list, and you cannot fail to note that those commanding attention are the two largest and only incorporated bodies, the A. P. A. and the P. S. of C. Compare these and note the benefits afforded by each individually. The A. P. A., the much older of the two, offers, advantageously, a perfect library, a beneficial exchange department, an invaluable sales department, a useful official organ, and indeed, every minute benefit of momentous importance. The P. S. of C., organized not long ago, now flourishes with equally as perfect a library, a masterly exchange department, a worthy organ, and benefits only equalled by its American friendly rival. And, while the *former* is the organization in the United States of America, the *latter* is adequately professed to be the one in British North America. Thus, and in numerous other ways, we may parallel them, but only *thus far*, for hence each takes a wide stretch into opposite directions. This is the exact state when we consider the one's exorbitant fees and dues to the other's low ones. What is the cause? You cannot but at once conclude, that either the A. P. A. *over-estimates its value*, or the P. S. of C. *under-estimates its worth*. I shall leave the decision to the readers, and will turn to the effect of monetary difference in the nature of the collectors of North America. Every sensible reader must admit that this matter must be one of vital importance to the average collectors, if we reflect upon the progress of the P. S. of C., and other societies with same lowness of fees, and the immense number of patronizers of same, as against the very small amount of patronage adorning those associations with high fees. This, to my mind, is a very convincing fact of the vitality of such an object to the average collectors. Hence, amalgamation of associations of both exorbitant and low payments is impossible, and not probable, at this systematic juncture, and amalgamationists must turn to some other means of accomplishment. Can any of my readers make any favorable proposition, or shall I try my hand at it? I will place four propositions before the Philatelic public, and every individual may exercise his mental ability and decide according as to advisability. The four are the only ones that present themselves to my mind, and if any of my more intelligent readers will be kind enough as to further any other and more appropriate prop-

osition, they would receive the thanks of every son of Philately. But now I shall hasten to impart my own propositions, which I trust will be acceptable!:

1st. The A. P. A. and its sister organizations lower their membership dues and fees to the standard of the P. S. of C. and its sister societies' dues and fees.

2nd. The P. S. of C. and its sister societies raise their dues and fees to the exorbitant standard of the A. P. A.'s.

3rd. The A. P. A., etc., lower fees and dues to \$1 per annum, and the P. S. of C., etc., raise theirs to same altitude.

4th. The A. P. A. and P. S. of C., etc., amalgamate and affiliate under the leadership of a grand governing body composed of the most prominent of the members of the union. These will form the order, from which will branch two districts, under the leadership of the A. P. A. and P. S. of C. respectively, each having the same aim in view, and adhering to the regulations of the constitution, yet at liberty to attend same with additional ones individually. The A. P. A. may leave its dues as at present, and the P. S. of C. correspondingly. The result would be that the Philatelist wishing to pay exorbitant dues will join the A. P. A. branch, and the ones wishing to pay low dues will cleave to the P. S. of C. Each branch may adopt its own departments and organ, and may hold individual conventions annually, and a joint one biennially, or at other intervals. The respective branches would be responsible to the Grand Governing Officers, and on such other bases as the organizers may see fit to accomplish their object.

Here brethren, have I bared before you four routes of accomplishments of amalgamation, and will now examine and select the most advisable. But, although I have displayed four means of accomplishment, yet I credit only one. Carefully pursuing the initial one, we discern the impossibility, or rather the improbability, of such a route by the A. P. A., etc. Passing to the second, the same obstruction meets us, but this time on the part of the P. S. of C., etc., which is equally improbable. The third means is more probable, yet we may be sure that general dissatisfaction would result on the part of both parties. Hence only remains the last, which, undoubtedly and with an excellent organizing corps, can and must be worked to perfection. This proposition is rather new and modern, yet I believe it to be the best course before us. What a grand