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Devoted to Stamp Collecting.

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**On Local Stamps.**

*(continued from page 11.)*

CANADA.—No genuine locals have ever been used in Canada, the labels that are passed off for such, are merely the work of speculating dealers, who must have had more imagination than conscience. The first issued of these stamps was "Ker's City Post" 1d., which appeared in 1864, this was soon followed by other values—3d., 2 cents, and 5 cents, printed in various colors, and all manufactured in Montreal. A dealer in Albany, seeing how well the bait took, shortly after introduced a stamp, purporting to be used to pre-pay letters, forwarded by "Bell's Dispatch" of Montreal, this was for a long time believed in, and had perhaps a much larger sale than any other Canadian local; it was soon followed by "Winslow & Co's Express" between Montreal and Portland, "British American College Stamp" "Grand Trunk Railway" newspaper stamp, "McLachlan's Post," and "Bancroft's City Express." Of the last named there are three different varieties, two issued by Nutter of Montreal, and the other by the Albany man, who was no other than S. Allan Taylor the celebrated stamp manufacturer of Boston; the stamp originated in Montreal as a woodcut; but this not proving satisfactory was rejected, not, however, before Taylor had obtained a copy and struck off an imitation; the third variety was on copper plate and finely engraved. Before issuing

this stamp Nutter had obtained Mr. Bancroft's sanction to use his name, this would make it appear a shade better than the other Montreal labels; that it would never have been used for the payment of postage, is self evident, for the cost (5 cents) is rather too high for a city express post, especially when the Government distributes local letters for 1c. On page 191 of the *Stamp Collector's Magazine* Vol. III the following letter appears, from a well known Montreal firm:—

*To the Editor of the Stamp Collector's Magazine.*

DEAR SIR,—We note a remark on page 136 of your magazine which does not appear to be correct.

Mr. Bancroft is the very respectable proprietor of 'The City Express Co.' of Montreal. He issues stamps of which we enclose a specimen. His customers stick one on any parcel they may wish him to send. He delivers parcels of all sizes and goods of all kinds. Shortly after its issue he informed us that his stamp was counterfeited in Albany; this we presume led to his initialing those issued by himself.

Yours truly,

Montreal

DAWSON, BROS.

This would seem to establish the authenticity of the stamp for the payment of the express charges on parcels, but upon our writing to Messrs. Dawson Bros. some time ago, they informed us that they knew nothing about the matter, and that the letter was not written by any one connected with their establishment. In the advertising pages of the S. C. M. for 1865-66 the stamp