

THE

POSTMAN'S KNOCK.

Vol. 2.

ST. JOHN, N. B., OCTOBER, 1869.

No. 19.

The Postman's Knock.

THE ORGAN OF THE AMERICAN POSTAGE STAMP COLLECTOR.

Is Published every Month, at St. John, New Brunswick, by

THE EXCELSIOR STAMP ASSOCIATION,
34 PRINCESS STREET,

Terms.—GRATIS to any part of America. To Europe,
3s. per Annum, in advance.

GREETING.

In the month of November, 1867, we issued to a sorrowing philatelic public what we then considered to be the farewell number of the "Postman's Knock." Extreme illness compelled us to do so, and when we did so we never expected to meet our friends again in an editorial capacity—never to wield the timbrophilic pen any more. But Providence overrules the intentions and expectations of poor feeble man, and Providence has permitted us to come back from the "Valley and the Shadow of Death" to greet you all again once more. Then rally round us as of old and give us your hearty countenance and support.

As of old there will be no charge for our humble sheet, and we trust that in a short time it will become as formerly a welcome and expected guest in hundreds of stamp-collecting homes, from the boisterous Atlantic to the tranquil Pacific, and from the forests of Canada to the bayous of Florida.

We have no intention of taking any part in the quarrels now going on in philatelic circles touching the honesty or upright method of dealing of certain persons inter-

ested therein. According to our ideas the whole affair has come to be a mere personal dispute, and of no postal interest whatever. We think we have great cause to congratulate our friends on the spread of Stamp collecting since we last addressed them; and not only on the increase in numbers of the persons engaged in timbrophilic pursuits, but also as we might term it on the "March of Intellect" in our direction. No longer is the Ideal American Collector a small-sized schoolboy with a most apparent antipathy to cleanliness in any shape, such antipathy being most particularly exhibited in that work of art which he styles his "collection." No longer does the American Collector haunt the entrance to the Post Office and besiege persons coming out with the demand for "them stamps, sir." Now these are all things of the past. The American Collector of to-day is a person who looks over his gathering, sees what he needs, and forthwith orders it from the dealer with whom he does business. The American Collector of to-day is capable of writing a legible and grammatical letter, and of expressing his wants in a few words and a business-like manner. He is willing to give a fair price for his purchases, and does not labor under the delusion that dealers can procure stamps for nothing, and consequently that all they get is profit pure and simple. He does not consider it a remarkably virtuous and clever action to get stamps sent on approval to him under an assumed name and then omit to pay for them, altogether on the ground that "I