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## NOTES ON THE "LARGE SQUARE" SERIES OF NEW SOUTH WALES.

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(Written for *Vindin's Monthly*, and read before the Philatelic Society of Victoria.)

The stamps of this series, although but few in number, have always had a warm place in my "philatelic affections," if I may be allowed such an expression; and, in turning over the pages of my album, even from my earliest experiences of collecting, there has always been a tendency to linger over this set, admire its beauties, inwardly congratulate myself on the possession of certain specimens, and point them out to my friends as being "something like" the stamps to have. I suppose that their distinctive form and appearance have been at the bottom of this, for having always been of a radical turn of mind, anything out of the stereotyped formed was sure to attract my attention, and, perhaps, even now, this may be the explanation of my liking for these stamps. Apart, however, from this, no one will deny that they have a considerable amount of inherent beauty, and the two combined make the attachment excusable. I find myself, then, on a congenial topic in starting to jot down a few notes concerning them, and so, with the modest hope that the pleasure may not be confined to myself, I make my bow.

According to Dr. Houison, the Post-master General submitted designs for the one shilling and sixpenny values as far back as January 29th, 1852, the Queen's head being "a copy of the India medal, designed by Levinge." If this date is correct, it is anterior to the issue of the 6d. laureated, which took place on the 8th May, 1852, and as the Council adopted the designs on July 5th, 1852, it would appear that the 6d. laureated were very much in the way of provisionals, for although arrangements were made for their issue on November, 1851, they were actually issued after the succeeding sixpenny had been determined on and approved; but the wheels of the Circumlocution Office moved as slowly in those olden days as now, and the 6d. laureated enjoyed an existence of a year and nine months before it was superseded by the new one.

Although the new design was adopted in July, 1852, it was not until the beginning of February, 1854, that the plates of the shilling and sixpenny came into use, and the laureated became obsolete. Up to this date all the stamps of