

predecessors, the latter decidedly inclined downwards. In the two of these, occupying the centre of the second line the "y" in "Penny" is without a tail. The remaining three of this row have the figure with a short top-stroke—nearly horizontal—and a thick bottom stroke.

The ten stamps composing the third row have a figure similar to that of the preceding three stamps, and the first letter of "Penny" has also a thick bottom stroke and is a heavier letter than in any of the other varieties. These make thus seven distinct varieties; but the number was doubled by some being printed in red and others in black—making fourteen. There was also a carelessness in placing the sheets while printing the surcharges, so that in some instances the figure was "run off" from the edge of some sheets which, consequently, appear without it, adding in this way two more varieties. The whole number is thus sixteen on a single sheet of sixty stamps.

In 1882 the supply of the one penny stamps again ran short, and the four-pence stamp, light-green, was surcharged "EEN PENNY" in black upright capitals, the initial letter "E" and "P" being larger than the rest of the words. Of these provisionals there were two kinds, some having the surcharge inverted.

We would strongly urge all collectors to spare no effort to secure the whole of the above twenty provisionals if possible. As they were but a short time in use their value must constantly increase and they will always form an interesting and important feature in every collection of any pretensions.

SYSTEMATIC MAIL ROBBING.

A paper published in this province relates the following story, the facts of which we are assured are correct:

"There seems to be a good deal of systematic thieving going on in the post office department—somewhere between Boston and points in Nova Scotia. A Nova Scotian working at Taunton, Mass., during the past few months addressed five letters to his wife, living in Halifax County. Not one of them ever reached its destination. Three of them contained money. The first of the three was unregistered. The next letter contained \$30 in greenbacks was registered. Yet that fared no better than the money in the unregistered letter. But the waiting wife wanted money. And the husband wondered why his wife never wrote him. Next he sent her

a post office order for \$25. Now a money order is considered to be absolutely safe. But that letter too met the fate of all the others, and never arrived at Lawrencetown. But unlike previous letters containing greenbacks the money order was useless to the thief. He did not attempt to get it cashed, and the owner of the money will get that amount returned when a duplicate order is obtained from Washington or Ottawa. How does it happen that four or five letters, one after another, sent by the same person in a small town in Massachusetts to the same person in a small settlement in Halifax County, should be stolen?"

POSTMASTERS in the United States have received orders not to pass matter through the mail prepaid with official postage stamps, and all government officers have been notified to use the "penalty" envelopes exclusively in future. The Treasury, and perhaps other departments, have been using official stamps to pay the fee on registered letters, but they can do so no more, and the official stamps have come to their end at last.—*Ex.*

COREA.

Our attentive correspondents both in China and in Japan—to whom we desire to express our obligations—have notified us that the quasi kingdom of Corea has decided to issue a series of postage stamps of its own and has ordered the plates for printing them from Europe. The designs have been submitted and approved but no description of them has been made public. It is expected that the new stamps will be ready for issue about the end of the current year. Philatelists will eagerly look for them as they will bring another nation into line, postally, with the civilized world.

Corea occupies a peninsula in the north-east of China and, though it is nominally independent, both China and Japan claim a titular sovereignty over it and, we believe, both have exacted tribute from its kings. About two years ago the two empires nearly came to war over the dispute as to which had the best right to Corea. The question has not as yet been definitely settled but is in the mazes of diplomacy. Though but little is known of the interior of this country, it is asserted to contain many valuable mines of silver, lead copper, coal, etc., and to be richly wooded.

INVITATION TO PHILATELISTS ABROAD.—We shall always be pleased to receive consignments of used stamps, etc., from any of our readers in Central and South America, the West Indian Islands, Africa, all parts of Asia, and any of the islands of the Pacific. Stamps must be in perfect condition, i.e.: neither soiled or torn. Parties living in any of the above-mentioned countries who have quantities of such stamps and desire to enlarge their collections will do well to communicate with us. Any consignment that they may see fit to make will be treated with the greatest consideration, and valued at the highest market rates as per our exchange circulars which we will forward with returns. In order that our exchange correspondence may be conducted to mutual satisfaction, we will send approval sheets from which the consignee may select to his

entire satisfaction such as he wants to the value credited for remittance. We thank our world-wide correspondents for past favors and hope that our relations with them and all new ones may always be agreeable and mutually beneficial.

All communications may be addressed,

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