

Written for THE CANADIAN PHILATELIST.

TO THE "BEAVER" STAMP.

BY CHAS. E. JENNEY

'Tis a Canada five-cent—a "beaver,"
In the parlance of philatelists ;

Very common—worth 12 cents a dozen,
As you learn from the dealer's price list ;

But a dull, badly-cancelled, red five,
Passed unnoticed 'mongst pence issues rare,

Yet it bears a Canadian emblem,
From its home, out abroad—everywhere.

And when all the old days shall have vanished,
And the present has faded to past,

And in history alone is recorded
Days and deeds which will memory outlast,

'Midst the curious antiques and relics,
In an album all faded and worn,

Comes to light this old Canada "beaver,"
Badly cancelled, and faded, and torn,

What a dream of past ages 'twill lead to,
How the mind of the future will gaze

On the frontier scenes of the New World,
Long ago in colonial days ;

When the trapper kept long lonely vigils,
In a land of wild beasts and wild men,

When the woods stretched from ocean to ocean,
And the beavers infested each glen ;

When the red men through virginial forests,
With light mocassin, stalked moose and deer,

And his wigwams were staked in the valleys,
With the fields of the golden maize near ;

When the sons of the forest were pitted
With the bold pioneer in dread strife

And the frontier villages trembled
With the fear of the hatchet and knife.

How those days that are e'en now historic,
Men will thrill as the years onward tramp,

And the past can be changed into present,
By the sight of an old postage stamp.

Written for THE CANADIAN PHILATELIST.

SOME PAGES IN MY ALBUM.

BY ROY F. GREENE.



NOTICE often I take my album from its resting place, open wide its pages, and seek to interest some visitor who is not a collector of stamps. As I turn to my two or three triangular Good Hopes, or my early British Guianas, and tell them of their variety and worth, comparatively speaking, I note that my friends are but little interested, and so on through the pages replete with, to me, priceless treasures, yet my friends fail to catch my enthusiasm and seem listless and ill at ease. But I have at length reached Germany, and as I open the pages a complete set of the Alsace-Lorraine reprints appear before us. They happen to be in my album because a near and dear friend gave them to me, and I preserve them more for their associations than for their worth. But as these gaudy, bright-colored specimens fall under the notice of my friends, they fairly fly into a joyous flight of endearing adjectives and want to know if they are not "awfully costly and rare, etc."

It is with difficulty I curb my temper on such occasions, when I see my precious varieties thus passed over without a compliment, while those vile forgeries were lauded to the skies; and then my page of Heligolands, didn't they receive an ovation at the hands of my non-collecting friends. The diversity of

colors, the very gaudiness of their appearance, seems to provoke compliments from the uninitiated. Then my array of Seebecks, Salvador, Nicaragua, Honduras, and all the rest, were commented upon, and one of my friends condescends to remark that if all stamps were like these emissions, he'd collect stamps himself. It is truly exasperating to see the true stamp, the worthy one, despised, while some vile usurper is given the palm of praise. But such is the cruel fate of the world, the worthy are passed unheeding by, while the gaudy, counterfeit unreal personality is given all homage.

Of all my album, probably the only page of legitimate issues that receives a word of praise is that of Guatemala. I confess that these stamps always held a high place in my affections, and when I acquired my first specimen of this country, I thought it the prettiest thing I had ever seen in the stamp line. These stamps are worthy of our praises, for they are a truly legitimate issue, and no stain of speculation rests upon their emission or sale.

I feel that the Seebecks unless postally used are unworthy our regard, yet I have a set which is partially unused; but I am removing the unused and substituting the used as the latter are presented. Yet I have often felt that Seebecks and such were probably a blessing in disguise, for no doubt they, by their artistic merits, draw many to purchase them, and thus breed a desire for more and more until we have as the result a full-fledged collector.

Dealers have often told me that they sell more stamps of such countries as Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua, Salvador, Alsace-Lorraine, Samoa, Heligoland, Switzerland (1862-79), Spanish "baby kings", and Newfoundland ½ cents, in an unused condition, than any other stock on hand. And dealers in stamps, as in everything else, have learned that you must please the eye if you hope to reach the pocket-book. Taking all into consideration I do not know that my friends evince less sound judgment in connection with stamps than I did when I first gazed on a collection of stamps. I remember that a British North Borneo, and a Persian Official came in for the greater share of my praise. We were all such dunces one day, and I suppose that is one reason why I should keep my temper while hearing the praises of those Heligolands sung by my friends, who have as yet never tasted of the sweets dealt out by Philatelia to her worshippers.

Correspondents' Column.

[This column is open to all, and we hope you will take the opportunity to express yourself on any philatelic question. Those who want any information should send in their queries, which will be answered in the following number.]

Spring Valley, N. Y., Nov. 24th 1893.

*MR. L. M. STEBLER,

Dear Sir:—In regard to this R. E. Pentecost. He did not trade me for much, but he managed to swindle me nevertheless. He wrote offering to pay 7c. each for 25 1887 U. S. 3c. unused, giving as reference, A. W. Dunning, Cal.; W. F. Bishop (a snide) and State Senator Pentecost. I sent stamps, and not hearing from him in 60 days wrote again, but letter was returned, unclaimed. The P. M. at Aurora, Ill., informed me, in reply to inquiry, that R. E. Pentecost had flown. Mr. Dunning informed me, that he was also loser to the amount of about \$100.00. Such beats should be hauled up with a sharp turn.

Respectfully, E. C. REED,