

last brilliant—failure, so fully entitles him to.

JAPAN.

A new stamp of the value of 4 sen has been added to the present series of this country. The design is mainly the same as that of the current series; the color is Rose.

ST. LUCIA.

To hand, St. Lucia 6 pence, printed in both bright and dull violet. Present issue.

ITALY.

Better late than never." It is said that this Mediterranean land is about to treat itself to a pair of postal cards; to be presented to its subjects on the birth of 1874. Yellow and Rose are the respective colors; but while the former does duty as a deliverer simply, its mate will bear a reply to the sender.

BOLIVAR.

We have the pleasure of being the first to introduce the new set of stamps for this minor Republic. The design consists of the arms of New Granada in circle surrounded by inscription ESTADO SOBERANO DE BOLIVAR; numeral of value in angles; CORREO DEL ESTADO, above; value expressed in words, below. *On dit*, that they were issued in July. The values and colors are:

5 centavos, blue; 20 centavos, green;
10 do mauve; 80 do red;
imperfected; col. imp. on white.

A bill has been prepared for the restoration of the franking privilege and the free transit of newspapers through the mails.—*Wisconsin State Journal*.

Evidently the abolition of the above-named privilege is not exactly to the tastes of our office-loving neighbours. It is to be hoped however that the newsystem will receive a fair consideration at their hands, before denounced as impracticable, or the old one restored, as upon its success or failure, to a certain degree, depends its introduction into other countries now suffering under this great imposition.

A Few Hints for Young and Old Collectors on the Arrangement of their Collections.

BY FRITZ-WILHELM.

The object of my present paper is to give the collectors of America the results of a long experience in Stamp collecting, chiefly with reference to the choice of an album, and the mounting of specimens therein. There are so many collectors just beginning now, but who do not know how to make a start, and so many who are desirous of re-arranging their collections, that a word or two to them will not be out of place.

The first difficulty of intending collectors is to decide upon what album they will use. It is very undesirable that they should begin in a blank book, as then they have no means of guidance, and the book will soon be filled with the worthless forgeries with which the market is flooded, and in nine cases out of ten they would give up collecting in disgust as soon as the character of their most highly prized specimens was discovered. The best album to commence with that we have seen is Scott's "Common Sense" work. It is much more correct than most printed albums; its arrangement is most simple, and it excludes all varieties, which, to the new beginner, are only a source of annoyance. Having now obtained his cage, the collector must proceed to catch the bird; that is to say, he must look out for something to put into his album. The best plan is to get two or three packets of the commonest used stamps, those sold by the respectable English dealers being generally the cheapest, and with these to make his first attempts at mounting. It would be well not to purchase any rare or unused stamps at first, as, through inexperience, many specimens will be injured, this will not matter much with