

steadfast in the collecting of stamps, to become a permanent collector; it will pay us all, for it will cause the number of collectors to grow more rapidly, and every addition to the ranks makes the collections, already formed and forming, more valuable.

## United States Minutes.

CONDUCTED BY USONA.

THE point to which all our collectors are looking forward, is the issuing of Scott's 59th Standard Catalogue. Dealers are already beginning to quote its prices, and one monthly here is printing the advance sheets, but collectors are still uninformed as to the changes that have been made. The statement that the "boom" prices of the 58th have been disregarded seems to be received with favor by both dealers and collectors, both of whom have tired of the 50% discount business.

THE colonial stamps of the United States are in a fair way to become as unpopular as the earlier issues of the French colonies. It is charged and admitted that the government dies at Hartford Conn., have been used to print the surcharge for Cuba on many different varieties of envelopes, some lots numbering only 1,500. The Postoffice Department states that this has been put a stop to, but how many varieties have been printed and how many forgeries will be put on the market on the strength of this slip remains to be seen. There is no question but that the stamps are good for postal purposes, indeed, some surcharges have been received through the mails, but other lots have been printed on private orders, and then appear in the hands of dealers at 25 cents each. They seem to be

speculative issues, sold first for the benefit of the Cuban postal department, and afterwards at greatly increased prices, by dealers who have arranged for the printing of the particular variety or varieties offered for sale. If collectors want these, they had better buy them from reputable dealers who, in the event of the envelopes being discredited, will arrange matters to the satisfaction of all concerned.

THE private mailing cards authorized by act of Congress in May, 1898, are causing endless trouble to the postal officials. The law requires that they shall bear the words "Private Mailing Card, authorized by act of Congress of May 19, 1898" and be of practically the same weight and size of the official cards, but the dear public interprets this with latitude. The inscription is practically never used by private individuals and the cards vary from a piece of letter paper to binder's board in weight, and sizes and shapes are numberless.

THE Philadelphia National Export Exposition which opened on the 14th enjoys the distinction of being advertised by the Government through the cancelling machines. Each local letter passing through the Philadelphia office receives this stamp. The Buffalo and Toledo expositions have followed suit.

THE Philippine stamps now coming here to dealers, are in most all cases badly stuck together, and "by the pound" is the way one correspondent advises their sale.

THE diagonal surcharge is well done and no errors have so far been chronicled. The stamps are popular.

THE stamps issued by the United States during September are the \$100, \$500 and \$1000 revenues, surcharged postage Due stamps 1, 2, 5, and 10 cent denominations