

THE PHILATELIC FAIRIE'S REVELRY.

BY GUY W. GREEN.

Between the dark and daybreak,
In twilight's witching hour,
O'er all reposing nature
There broods a magic pow'r;
'Tis then from out my album
There sounds a gladsome chime,
And dainty feet approaching
To cheerful notes beat time.

My stamps have sent their fairies
To join the merry dance,
And each is blithe and happy,
Each throws croquettish glance;
The air is filled with gladness,
Dull care is far away,
The elves of dance and music
Triumphant hold their sway.

The changing mass of color
Redims my dazzled sight,
Magentas, browns and purples
Appear on left and right;
The rainbow flings his streamers
The tripping forms around,
And clearer yet and clearer
The walls throw back the sound.

A sudden move, a scurry
Of anxious, hastening feet;
Bright colors quickly fading,
Where light and shadow meet;
A trembling flash of crimson
Athwart the eastern sky;
My fairies gone and vanished,
Alone at dawn am I.

SPECIALISTS AND SPECIALISM.

Second Paper.

BY A SUBSCRIBER.

Have just received the March number of your esteemed paper, and notice there is an attempt at criticism of my short article which appeared in your February issue. One of the first things one who attempts to criticise should do is to keep to the truth and not to go contrary to it in order to carry a point. In the first place Mr. Bernstein admits that the older issues are going, but he asserts that specialism has nothing to do with the rise. He makes the assertion but does not prove it. I say most decidedly that specialism is the main cause of this rapid rise in prices. Why? Well, it is a well known fact that a

general collector (as a rule) does not go into the sub-varieties of a stamp as do the specialists now; the specialist will, in most cases, have at least three or four varieties of the same stamp of an old issue, general collectors one. Therefore it follows that if a specialist has need for three or four varieties of that certain stamp while the general collector uses but one, it shows *clearly* that specialism makes the demand for that stamp four times greater; it follows that the stamp itself must increase in value on account of the increased demand. So Mr. Bernstein errs in his argument (?) that specialism does not tend to aid the increase in value of the older issues. Secondly, he says, "*Everyone with common sense knows it is certainly the older issues that advance. No one expects the new issues to advance.*" If my worthy friend had a little more common sense he would never have made such a statement as the above. All old issues do not advance; take our common red stamp of England. Is that not an old issue, Mr. Bernstein? Yes, most certainly, but is it increasing in value? By no means, they are scarcely worth their price as waste paper here in England. Further, Mr. Bernstein is far from correct in his statement that new issues *do not* become *rare*. He is far from correct, for had I space I could cite scores of examples of recently issued stamps which are now classed as rare. Thirdly, Mr. Bernstein asserts that when the specialist has gained a complete collection of any country he has gained nothing in knowledge, science, historical or geographical culture. I would venture to assert that the knowledge of a specialist at the end of ten years would be of more account and use to him than all my worthy friend B. could learn from his general collection in a like period of time. The specialist *studies* his stamps—searching out their minute difference, points of beauty, and historical relations. The general collector's collection is larger than that of the specialist, and he therefore can not give each stamp the same studious attention as does the specialist. He glances at *this* country, looks at *that*, 'here a little and there a little,' and as a result his knowledge is a scattered one. He knows no one thing perfectly, and such being the case what does it profit him? Take the specialist and his *country*, and you will find he has gained more solid, useful knowledge from his one country than the general collector has gained from his hundreds. It is just the same in Philately as in the outside