

"Wanted—an Improvement in Our Literature" is the opening article in the *New York Philatelist*. It has thus fallen to the lot of Mr. J. F. Farrell to write the annual tirade against philatelic literature. Such expressions as "lack of grace, absence of organic symmetry or gross ignorance of the subjects discoursed upon * * * the very climax of absurdity and the most childish folly" form excellent word painting, but, to use the author's own words, are almost "entirely devoid of a suspicion of the element of truth."

FROM THE LAND OF STEADY HABITS.

(Continued from page 5.)

ent list of paid-up members comprehends some pretty good names, and it is matter for congratulation that the society has an official organ which comes out on time.

The writer has received letters the postage on which was prepaid with 2c. revenue stamps. The colour of the stamp is quite similar to the 2c. postage. There is no doubt that it is often done by mistake, and it is also evident that the writers do it sometimes to see if it will "go." I am certain that at least one of my correspondents posted a letter to me in the hope that I would have to pay for a 2c. due stamp and that my angelic disposition would keep me from—"sputtering." However, I have n't yet had to pay the two cents required by law, as the post office official at Rocky Hill has never "crossed sabres" with me and is a good fellow to deal with, whether he is doing government duty in the front or cutting up meat in the rear.

HENRY A. CHAPMAN.

Our circulation this month is over 2000 copies, probably equal to that

of any two other Canadian stamp papers in any one month during the past year. We would direct the attention of our readers to Messrs. Williams & Company's price list on pages 1 to 10 of our advertiser, and to the many smaller ads. which are full of bargains for Christmas. We invite also a careful inspection of our new premium list on front page. During 1899 the MESSENGER will be worthier than ever of its position as the leading Canadian stamp paper. Special Sale No. 2 will appear next month. Will you be in it?

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