

Philately has its stronghold in the temperate climes, and any American collector can tell you that there are more collectors in the Northern States than there is in the Southern members of our National Union.

And again, friend Jones, Philately is not taken up as a means to while away dull hours which drag heavy on our hands. Nine-tenths of its followers are hard-working, earnest men of business, or boys who are studiously applying themselves to their books, all of whom realize the truth of that old verse:

"Life is too short to while away the hours;
All must be earnest in a world like ours."

No, Mr. Jones, you'll find your idle boys out on the street somewhere, or possibly down to some billiard hall or saloon; its the active, energetic boy who is collecting stamps. I've known of lots of idle boys commencing the collection of stamps, but they a.i gave it up early in the game.

So, friend Jones, do you not think you'd better rake up some other excuse for stamp collecting? And remember that the next time you make a statement you'd better have the facts on your side.

NOTELETS.

BY THOS. G. SUTHERLAND.

COLLECTORS had better be keeping their Canada registration stamps, as no more are to be issued. The current 5 cent stamp has been withdrawn. These and the 15, 20, and 50 cent denominations of the postage, are well worth saving.

I have a specimen of the 5 cent, 1862-'63 stamp of Switzerland, on bright pink paper, and one of the 20 cent with blue threads running through it. By the way, why doesn't Scott list the watermark which appears on most of the perforated Swiss stamps? It is a cross enclosed in a two lined circular oblong frame.

Postal card collecting will probably advance rapidly when the new catalogues appear, as cards are now going to be listed. It is a pity we cannot have a catalogue of all revenue, telegraph, local, and railway stamps.

Acting Observer Clerly, of the U. S. Weather Bureau, has made arrangements to furnish postoffices within a convenient distance of Kansas City, cards giving the weather indications. They are large postal cards to be sent out daily, and posted in a conspicuous place in each postoffice. Before sending out the cards he sent several hundred letters to postmasters, explaining what he proposed to do, and asking them to post the cards. To each he sent an envelope with the Weather Department's frank for a reply. The answers are coming in, and Mr. Clerly says he can tell a new postmaster's letter from one written by a "hold over." Some of the new postmasters put a big Columbian stamp over the frank, to make sure that they are not violating the law. It is said that stamping a franked envelope is nothing new in Tennessee, but this is the first time in history that a Kansas office-holder has been known to pay for what he could get free.

In a lot of stamps I received some time ago, from a correspondent in England, is an officially sealed, found-open stamp used in that country. The following is the description: In centre, oblong space for postmark; to left, "Found open;" and to right, officially sealed. Above crown and "V R.," perforated; color black. It is postmarked "Newark, J. 11, 93." I wrote to the party who sent it, to find out whether it was a local or government issue. He replied that it was a government issue. A friend of mine also has a specimen, which he obtained from the same source.

Some of the U. S. "Penalty Envelopes," are watermarked. I have one watermarked "P. O. D." in monogram. Another is watermarked with a jumble of letters, but the paper is so coarse, that I cannot make it out.

A short article appeared in the *Youths' Companion* for Aug. 31, on Mr. J. W. Palmers' "Chamber of Horrors," which, as you probably know, is a room papered entirely with counterfeit stamps. I give a couple of extracts. "It is estimated by Mr. Palmer, who is the largest stamp dealer in the world, that these stamps would be worth five million dollars but for the unfortunate circumstance that they are not genuine." "This crazy patchwork shows a specimen of every known stamp in the world." It strikes me perhaps a few of those "common continentals," as well as some other stamps, were among the counterfeits; and what is the matter with Stanley Gibbons, Limited, of London, England, in regard to the largest dealer? The writer of the *Youths' Companion's* article is surely not a collector, and evidently believes all he hears.

If you have not seen a postal card, or envelope, with all the writing in Native Indian or Egyptian characters, you have missed something. It looks exactly as if a bird had stepped into a bottle of ink, and then walked all over it, (the card, not the ink bottle.)

I have a dead letter envelope of Canada, which has in the right hand corner, a large figure 3 to represent the postage. Should not this be classed as a sort of official stamp?

I have something of a curiosity in the shape of a watch company's advertising card, made in imitation of an envelope. The envelope appears to have been torn open, revealing a letter praising the watches, etc. In the right hand corner of the envelope, is an exact imitation of the 1 sen green, and the 2 sen rose, Japanese stamps. The stamps are slightly raised, so as to appear as if stuck on the envelope. The 1 sen stamp has apparently been torn when the envelope was opened.

The *Youths' Companion* is still offering as a premium, Mekeel's American catalogue, Popular Stamp Album, and a packet of 200 foreign stamps. In regard to the catalogue, they say: "The stamp collector of to-day is becoming a specialist. He endeavors to secure all the stamps of some one country, and become an authority in that direction. This catalogue is for an American specialist." They are also offering two new packets of stamps singly.