

The Postman's Knock.

Let the Philatelic Societies try their teeth on the above, and when they have cracked the nut, give us the kernel.

FORGED STAMPS.

This is a department of Stamp-Editorship which we generally leave to abler pens than our own; however, the specimens of the imitator's art hereafter described, strike so closely home, that we feel impelled to break our rule, and warn collectors against them, begging them at the same time to make due allowance for our unfitness for the task. First, we note a forgery of the

NEW BRUNSWICK THREEPENCE.

In the genuine, the figures "3" in each of the four corners, all incline in one direction: in the forgery, the numerals all have their bases towards the centre of the stamp, thus allowing only one, viz.: that in the left hand upper angle to be in a correct position.

We could add further differences, but we think the above test will be found sufficient. Next comes the

NOVA SCOTIA THREEPENCE.

The corner figures in this counterfeit are correctly placed, and the main defect is in the style of lettering. For instance, the letter "O" in the word "POSTAGE," which in the genuine, is of the same *round* type as its brethren in "NOVA" and "SCOTIA" in the forgery, is of an oblong shape, totally different, and the letters of "THREE PENCE" which in the original, present a stout appearance; in the imitation are thin and attenuated, and are consequently much farther apart than they should be. We have now only to note the

NOVA SCOTIA SIXPENCE.

This is the best attempt of the series: not that it is less liable to detection on examination, but on account of the excellent imitation of the original color, in which respect both of the described specimens are failures. Only let the collector before purchasing, observe the word "POSTAGE."

The genuine is in block (E) letters, similar to those used in "NOVA" and "SCOTIA" while in the counterfeit, it is of this (E) style.

Where these forgeries came from originally, it would be extremely hard to tell, as surely no American manufacturer would make such a "poor fist" of it.

New Brunswick threepence stamps are not so extremely scarce on this Continent that an original cannot be obtained; and it is to us an evident fact, that the engraver never saw one, or he could not have blundered so. Whatever their source, we merely add, "Collectors be on your guard."

THE BLUE CANADA ENVELOPE.

The time of a Stamp Editor is spent much as that of the Athenians alluded to in St. Paul's epistle—"to tell or to hear some new thing." We have a "new thing" to tell about, so give attention. Some months ago we purchased a collection of stamps, the property of Master Hale, son of James Hale, Esq., at present Superintendent of Money Orders for New Brunswick, and for many years one of the chief officials connected with the General Post Office. In this collection we discovered a *cut* five cent Canada envelope, struck in *blue* instead of *red*. We did not pay much attention to it at first, considering it to be merely a proof; but on learning that it was sent officially by the then Government of the *Province* of Canada to the Government of the then Province of New Brunswick as a specimen of their stamps, we began to prick up our editorial ears, for we knew that the sets of labels thus forwarded from one P. O. Department to another are generally intended to show only the kinds of postals for actual use. We consequently wrote to Mr. Hale, who, with the greatest kindness, penned us the annexed reply:—

SAINT JOHN, N. B.,
29th Nov., 1869.

MR. EDWARD A. CRAIG,—

Dear Sir,—I have your note with the enclosed Canadian stamp, and in reply beg to acquaint you that some of your questions to me cannot be answered. Postage stamps and stamped envelopes (of which the enclosed was cut from one of them) were received at the Post Office Department at Fredericton, from the Canadian Post Office Department, some years ago—say within twelve years,