

Written for THE CANADIAN PHILATELIST.

## AN INCIDENT.

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**E**, students of Templeton College, had suddenly become possessed of a new mania, one which threatened to usurp the authority of the masters. We had by some means become stamp collectors one and all. How it started no one seemed to know. Nevertheless it came in full power, and exercised its sway to an almost unlimited extent. I had always been fortunate, and when I became a collector I seemed to be even more so. The source of supply was a limited one, for the majority of the boys depended on the letters of their parents and friends to secure their stamps. Here I had a great advantage. I had been a collector some two or three years previous, and when my interest again became aroused I started with a valuable bit of experience and no small amount of knowledge in regard to the value of stamps.

The Christmas holidays had arrived, and for various reasons myself and a few others were unable to go home. We nevertheless resolved to make the best of this somewhat unpleasant situation. Two stamp collectors besides myself had remained, and we unanimously resolved to devote our holidays to the pursuit of our hobby. Our pocket books, only too moderately filled, did not seem to promise us much assistance, and we decided to see who should be able to secure stamps of the greatest value at the least cost. The first few days were uneventful. We unearthed little of value. Christmas Eve arrived and with it an invitation from a neighboring nobleman to spend Xmas day with him. This unexpected event served to brighten my somewhat monotonous holidays. During the evening Lord Allenby (who by the by is a staunch supporter of our school) happened to speak of a decidedly unpleasant task which he had before him on the morrow. His father, to whose title he had just succeeded, had left on his death, an office full of old correspondence, as he always disliked burning his letters, and before the office could be used these piles of letters must be examined and the useless ones burned. What a jump my heart took! You can readily understand how quickly I proffered my help, and how very willingly it was accepted.

Xmas morn at length arrived. It was with me one of great anticipations. Would they be realized? At first it seemed as if nothing would be found, for during the first hour or two I came across nothing but the commoner class of English and colonial stamps. At last when I was about wishing I had never began the job a change came! And what a change! I had evidently struck a gold mine. Before me lay such a host of rarities I could scarce contain myself. "Sydney views" by the dozen. Further search disclosed several Canada 10d, and what constituted the best part of my treasures, a Canada 12d. I also secured a number of the early issues of Mauritius—but no "Post Office," home W. S. Locals—but no New Havens! During the whole day I continued to unearth, one after another, some long desired stamp—mostly British Colonials, and it was only in the evening when I began to examine my treasure that I fully realized its value. I had at least one day in my life that I would always remember as a pleasant one; one day in which I struck an almost unparalleled "find." Will I ever see such another day? I deem it nothing but right I should tell Lord Allenby the value of the stamps, which I did. He however scorned the idea that they had any value, and told me if they had I was welcome to the proceeds.

The time to return to school came. I returned, but no one was the wiser regarding my fortunate acquisition. The best portion of the rarities went to my collection, which is now an object of envy to my friends. They all admire them, but no one knows how I obtained them, and to this day this important incident in my collecting career has never saw the light, and would not at this time, but that the "editor's prize" tempted me beyond bearing. Now in conclusion, the best of the stamps as I have said, remain in my collection to this day. The remainder, which owing to the shattered condition of my finances I had to part with, went to a large London firm, who paid me close on £200 for the six hundred odd stamps remaining. This little incident related above is strictly true, and to this day I look back on this as one of the most pleasant and lucky events of my life.

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## PHILATELY'S ENCHANTMENTS.

## I.—HISTORICAL.

BY A. R. E.

**A**N old subject under a new title; but the pleasures and beauties of stamp collecting have struck me somewhat differently to what I have ever seen them expressed or commented upon.

How aptly we find the rise and fall of empires and republics represented by our stamps, and how singularly interesting it is to trace out these historical events. The little island of Cuba we find quietly residing under the yoke of Spain until when by a spirited revolution of very short duration, they endeavored to shake off the yoke of the mother country, but failed. The tale of this brief and unsuccessful revolution is told us by the Cuban stamps. The long array of general issues for the colony, then that one little stamp issued by the revolutionists, but never used, shows how rapid was the rise and fall of the revolutionary party! Then follows the ceaseless array of the colonial issues, as a symbol of the restoration of peace and order.

Then again, what a lasting reminder of the great American Civil War is furnished us by those stamps issued by the Confederate States of America, bearing the familiar profile of their first and only President, Jefferson Davis, and in examining the dates and years of issue we see clearly the short life of this republic and its cessation prior to the Union.

Other interesting historical references are very numerous. The alternate rise and fall of the French Empire and Republic as illustrated in the stamps of France. The Peruvian Revolution, as shown by those "despised and rejected" Peruvian surcharges, which we find so numerous. And the Mexico Santillo issue of 1864 clearly shows the failure of Maximilian to reach the (prospective) Mexican throne; and how he became so sure of success as to issue these stamps, yet failed at the near completion of his ambitious scheme.

In no manner is the scope and sway of an empire so shown as by its colonial stamps. Take Great Britain in countries large and small, governed by her in all parts of the world, we find the profile of "our gracious Queen" as a sign of Britain's widespread authority and dominion. Not only Britain, but other great European powers:—France, Portugal, Spain and Denmark, and others such have in their colonial issues a fair illustration of the size and range of their dominions. Much can we learn by a careful study of the historical associations of these little attractive stamps so widely and eagerly sought after.