

was so apprehensive on this point that it took the bold step in 1883 of annexing the eastern half of the island. This action was disallowed by the Imperial government, much to the disgust of the Australians, but in consequence of the unanimity of public opinion and the contribution of £15,000 to the expenses of the local administration, the imperial government despatched the commodore on the Australian station, to proclaim a protectorate over the south eastern quarter of the island, and the large and important groups of islands lying to the southeastward. This was in 1884, and in the same month the first special commissioner was appointed. The natives have accepted the situation, in so far as they understand it, with tolerable equanimity. It is expected that New Guinea will soon be created a crown colony. The Queensland premier, having, it is understood, negotiated arrangements to that effect, during the recent colonial conference in London. The probable policy will be to develop the resources of the island with Australian capital and encourage the civilization and Christianization of the natives—many of whom are cannibals, and are a ferocious, piratical and blood-thirsty crowd. A local police force will be required to maintain order. The present commissioner, Hon. John Douglass, C. M. G., was formerly premier of Queensland and is a well-known and popular resident of Australia.—*Halifax Herald*

Is it not nearly time the Postmaster General of Canada was thinking about giving us a change of stamps? It would not only be a sight for sore eyes but a heavy re-imbursement to the treasury.

ONLY AN ENVELOPE.

In the second last decade of this 19th century of rapid transit and instantaneous communication, it would seem rather absurd to say that it would take a letter three whole years to go from Canada to England. It did, however, in one instance, and from the appearance of the letter it has probably been sent and re-sent, and directed and redirected a dozen times, until at last it reached its destination.

The envelope bore originally the following address:—

MRS. FOLLINGSBY,
care J. B. Follingsby, Esq.,
Bank of Montreal,
London, G. B.

This was written by a lady, and the only doubtful word in the caligraphy of the address is "London."

The first postmark is "Halifax, Canada, April —, 1884," the day of the month is indistinct. It then shows the following post office marks:

London, P. M. No — (rest indistinct). A circle with 8.30, Ju. 7, 84;
London, E. C., M., No. 3, A. E.;
London, 8, 14 No., 84 D.
Hamilton, Canada, 7 p. m., Nov. 3, 84;
Toronto, Ont., July-7, 84;
London, July — 87;
London, E. C., July 10, 87; and
Hastings Station office, E., Ju. 10, 87.

This letter, if it could speak, could tell of much swearing by post office clerks during its travel from Halifax to Toronto, thence to London, where the clerks sent it on the rounds of the great city. Then