

RE AMALGAMATION.

BY J. BERNSTEIN, JR.

Brother Philatelists! We have not yet fully recovered from our previous discussion when we are again confronted by a serious and momentous subject, which needs not a little forethought and consideration on the part of each and every adherent to Philately. A short period ago, one of our Philatelic magazines, the *Post Office*, of New York, edited and published by Messrs. Alvah Davidson and Henry Gremmel, respectively—too well known to the public for further explanations—came forth with a leading item, having for its object the amalgamation and consolidation of the numerous Philatelic organizations of North America into one large union or body, under the wings and patronage of America's leading and national organization, the American Philatelic Association. This bright idea, which reflects not a little credit upon its inventors, has, to my knowledge, found favor with the majority of our most prominent philatelists, and has been reechoed and resounded by the Philatelic press—the representatives of Philatelists—until at present there is no doubt of this agitation leading to vast results, which will certainly tend to the welfare and general advancement of Philately. Such is also my opinion, however on a different basis from that pursued by our amalgamationist friends of the present. Let us—my worthy readers and my humble self—examine and inspect the utility or inutility of such a serious move, as, undoubtedly it is a topic that commands every one's utmost attention, consideration and counsel. Let us carefully and watchfully study and revise all the arguments brought forward upon this occasion, and then each and all shall decide either *pro* or *con* as the advisability may counsel them. I see proper, according to my own views, to tender the initiality to our anti-amalgamationist disputants. They have, thus far, brought forward *two* questionable objections to this scheme, that are worthy of note. I shall attempt, to the best of my ability, to enlighten the numerous readers with the contents, in accordance to merits. They complain and object upon, *firstly*, THE BENEFITS THAT THE A. P. A. AFFORDS TO THE AVERAGE MEMBER; and, *secondly*, THE EXORBITANCE OF THE A. P. A.'S DUES AND FEES, AS AGAINST THE LOW ONES OF THE OTHER ORGANIZATIONS. I shall attempt to criticise them singly and jointly. I regard the former of these con-

tradictory sentiments as foolhardy and absurd. I am personally not a member of the A.P.A., but if hearing counts for anything, the allegation in the first indictment is untrue and exaggerating, but as I said, I am unacquainted with the affairs of the Association, and therefore will grant this argument to those who profess to know at regards this. What then? We come to the conclusion that the benefits afforded by the A. P. A. are questionable, whether it be verified or not. But what of that? There is no reason whatever to suppose, that because the A. P. A. is not seemingly now, that a large body under that name would be equally as unseemly. I am forced to think contrarily, for, to my mind, if allegations be founded upon reality, nothing will so tend to improve same, as a large roll of membership, and more means to carry on improvements to extremes. How can you meet this sound argument, my disputant *anonymous* or *pseudonymous* friends? Your initial objection was sense-lacking, so we shall proceed to your next, and trust for something sounder than previously. Yes, the second objection commands consideration. We must admit the impossibility of the young organizations with low payments to co-operate with the A. P. A. with its exorbitant fees. I fully believe that this is the only and serious drawback in this scheme. But as there is some balm as a cure, it is amendable. However, as I have an object in view, I will leave this at present, and turn to the benefits derivable from the effects of a successful and grand union. How commendable would it be to see the Consolidated Philatelic Society, the Western Philatelic Union, Sons of Philately, United Philatelic Association, Philatelic Society of America, New York State Philatelic Association, United States Philatelic Society, Ohio Philatelic Association, Iowa Philatelic Association, Nebraska Philatelic League, Southern Philatelic Society, New Jersey Philatelic Society, Rhode Island Philatelic Society, Oregon Philatelic Society, Columbian Philatelic Association, Michigan Philatelic Society, Canadian Philatelic Association, Philatelic Society of Canada, American Philatelic Association, and the other three score and ten, affiliate. We would be able to be reckoned by the thousands, and would command the due respect of the non-collecting world, as do our noted organizations all over the world. Who can doubt then the advisability of amalgamation? Absolutely no one. And now we advance to the question of under whose protection it is more ad-