

discovered somewhat later, and were first noticed in England. Taylor has manufactured an oblong stamp, value 5 cents, but no genuine stamp of this shape ever existed.

Adhesive—Figure 5 with *CRS.* below, enclosed in oval band, inscribed *P. O. CHARLESTON, S. C.*, above, and *POSTAGE PAID* below. Outer border of three lines. Figure 5 repeated in each corner on a ground-work of oblique lines. Col. imp. rect.; 5 cents, blue, varying in shade.

Envelope—Almost exactly the same as the oval portion of the adhesive. Impressed on the upper right hand corner of differently colored envelopes. (Scott mentions having seen an envelope bearing two impressions.) Col. imp., Oval; 5 cents, blue on white, buff, yellow, straw, orange and blue.

COLUMBIA, S. C.—But little is known of the ugly stamp issued by this Post Office, except that is undoubtedly genuine. Unused specimens are very seldom met with, and used ones are very rare. It is stamped by hand upon various sizes of envelopes in the right hand upper corner. We have never seen any reprints or forgeries, but from the ease with which it can be copied, we imagine many of the latter must exist.

Figure 5 in centre of an oval, which is enclosed in another and between the two *P. O. COLUMBIA, S. C.* above, and *PAID* below. Col. imp., oval; 5 cents blue, on white and buff.

FREDRICKSBURG, VA.—Two values, 5 and 10 cents, are said to have been issued by this city. We consider their character very dubious, and in this opinion are supported by almost every authority but Dr. Petrie, who seems to be the only person who defends them. We reproduce his letter, announcing their discovery, which appeared in the "American Journal of Philately," and leave our readers to form their

own opinions. "I am at this time able to add two to the list of Provisional Confederates, (called locals,) already known. They were issued by the City of Fredricksburg, Va., in 1861, and are of the value of 5 and 10 cents. Their history is the same as all others of this class. From one of my correspondents in a letter dated March 12th, 1871, I received the following description of a local which he had in his collection. "The inscription is Fredricksburg Post Office, Virginia, E. T. Thom, almost square, printed in blue on white paper, five cents." He further added that it "was genuine, and post-marked Fredricksburg, Virginia, October, 4, and that he took it off a letter himself addressed to his uncle." At once upon receipt of this information, I attempted to trace the history of this unknown and undescribed candidate for philatelic honors. In reply to a letter sent by me to the postmaster of Fredricksburg, I received a letter informing me that Reuben T. Thom was postmaster in 1861, and that he died May 7th, 1868, at an advanced age in that city. I further found that he had a daughter living in that city, and at once opened a correspondence with her, to learn the full history of the stamps issued by her father, and try to receive from her every copy of this stamp that she might possibly find among her father's old papers. She could not satisfy my enquiries as to when issued and used, how many, how long, &c., &c.; but in the other particular she did for me all and more than I could expect. In looking over her father's old papers, she found "a proclamation by the Postmaster General of the Confederate States," dated at Montgomery, Ala., May 13th, 1861, and directed to all postmasters, together with a quantity of those Fredricksburg stamps of two values,—five and ten cents, and some other stamps and papers, all in an envelope, post-marked Richmond, September 26th, 1861, and franked by H. St. George Offut, chief of Con-