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[Written for the Q. C. P.]

STAMP COLLECTING

AS AN AID TO THE STUDY OF
GEOGRAPHY, CHRONOLOGY,
HISTORY, GOVERNMENT,
AND THE FINE ARTS.

BY PHILO.

PHILATELY, or its kindred French term *Timbrologie*, has been defined by the leading lexicographers of France as "having for its object the study of stamps, both in themselves and also in their connection with Chronology, History, Geography, Government and Finances, Philology, and the Fine Arts."

This definition admirable as it is, is apt to confuse the beginner. Stamp collecting for the purpose of studying the stamps themselves seems rational enough to all, but the objection may then be raised, why neglect the ordinary methods and resort to stamps to acquaint us with the other sciences

mentioned?

The answer is simple enough—do not neglect the ordinary methods. The most ardent collector does not claim that postage stamps alone, can thoroughly familiarize us with Geography, History, etc., in their various branches but that in connection with them they are an invaluable assistant in impressing facts acquired in the school-room or study.

Starting with Chronology, History, and Government, take the stamps of Germany, first we have those of the various States, Free Cities etc., such as Hamburg, Bremen, Thurn and Taxis the Mecklenburgs, Lubeck, Prussia and Oldenburg; but in 1868 we see all these suppressed and a new and uniform series for use throughout the entire North German Confederation. And after the French war, these gave way to still another issue denoting that the German Empire was an accomplished fact.

The same with Italy. First came the stamps of the various States, Par-