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OUR RAREST STAMP.

New Brunswick has the honor of having produced the rarest stamp in the world, viz: The "Connell," as it is universally called. Now, this stamp is not an essay in any sense of that much-abused word; the circumstances are as follows: In the year 1861, the Hon. Charles Connell, a gentleman renowned alike for his integrity, genius and benevolence, was the Postmaster-General of the Province of New Brunswick. Soon after entering on his official duties, Mr. Connell discovered that the postage stamps of the province were susceptible of improvement, and to that end, employed the famous American Bank Note Company to execute a set of stamps in lieu of the labels hitherto used. Mr. Connell furnished the designs, the idea of which was certainly original, and which speaks for the excellent taste of that gentleman to the present day; for the stamps of New Brunswick are unsurpassed in point of elegance and neatness by any stamp in Christendom. Mr. Connell's idea was the sensible one of putting a different design on each stamp, and to that end, a steam-engine on the 1c., a head of Her Majesty of England on the 10c., a steamboat (indicating European postage) on the 12c., a portrait of the possible future Monarch of England on the 17c., and his own portrait on the 5c.

The stamps arrived, and were issued to the public; but, alas! unfortunate Mr. Connell had, in the eyes of Her Majesty's lieges of New Brunswick, committed a frightful crime. That he, a mortal created man, a descendant of Adam and Eve, should dare to engrave his honest countenance on a similar piece of paper to that on which the majesty of that broad domain on which the sun never sets, was depicted! A mass-meeting presided over by a political opponent of Connell was instantly called, and it was resolved to request Mr. Connell to resign, but Mr. Connell dashed the reins of the post-office department back in the face of the governor, and retired at once and forever, from the political arena.

The stamp was only used one day, and a number having passed through the post-office, it therefore could not be an essay. Selected.

INVENTOR OF THE ADHESIVE STAMP.

For many years stamp collectors regarded Rowland Hill as the inventor of the adhesive stamp.

Mr. Hill was not the inventor, but this honor is due to Mr. James Chalmers, of Dundee, Scotland.

The sons of these two gentlemen, Mr. Pearson Hill and Mr. Patrick Chalmers,

have each urged the claims of their respected fathers, placing before the public books and pamphlets containing their arguments which have reflected great credit upon their desire for justice.

The decision of the *Encyclopaedia Britannica*, whose editors carefully investigated the claims of each, resulted favorably to the Chalmers' claim.

There is now no doubt but that Mr. James Chalmers was the inventor of the adhesive postage stamp, and he has received due recognition as such.

In the February number of this magazine, the article by Mr. John K. Tiffany ably treats the subject, and in conclusion says: "It would be well, perhaps, for stamp collectors to change their patron saint, and with this great English authority (*Encyclopaedia Britannica*) accord the invention of their hobby to its real inventor, James Chalmers."—*Philatelic Journal of America*.

Melange.

Why is courting a girl like running a newspaper? Because first it starts as a weekly, then becomes a tri-weekly and lastly merges into a daily.

A Boston artist painted an orange-peel on the sidewalk so natural that six fat men slipped down on it.

The poet who wrote "man wants but little here below" lived many years ago. Man, in these days, wants all he can get.

"Don't call a large, strong snowy man a prevaricator. If you are sure he is a prevaricator, hire another man to break the news to him.

An Irish magistrate asked a prisoner if he was married. "No," replied the man. "Then," said his worship, amid peals of laughter, "it's a good thing for your wife."

A letter addressed to a party in "Father, Mich." was sent to a post office expert, and he forwarded it to Paw Paw, Mich. He guessed right.—*Burlington Free Press*.

"Volapuk," the "universal" language, is read, written, and spoken by 10,000 persons on the continent of Europe; only half a dozen in America are able to speak it.

A stamped envelope for letters and packages was used in Paris by a private company as early as 1758.

Almost the only character inscribed on Oriental Coins is the Arabic, variously modified.

