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Walter N. Gardner

Part 10

THE Mch 28. 1870

POSTMAN'S KNOCK.

Vol. 2.

ST. JOHN, N. B., MARCH, 1870.

No. 21.

The Postman's Knock,

THE ORGAN OF THE AMERICAN STAMP COLLECTOR,

Is published occasionally, and distributed gratis.

E. A. CRAIG, - - - - - Proprietor.

EDITORIAL.

When we began re-issuing our little sheet in October last, we fully intended to have it out regularly every month—and we can assure our friends it was no fault of ours that our intention was not carried out. But a combination of circumstances over which we had no control—such as accidents in the printing office, our own sickness, and other things we need not mention, have delayed us so that now we come before you only to bid you farewell. Farewell is a sad word—but it must be spoken; and our removal to California renders it highly improbable that the "Postman's Knock" will ever be heard at your doors again.

Skilled labor of every kind is very expensive on the Pacific Coast, and we fear the cost of printing it will be more than we can afford, but if business is good, and our profits in any way warrant the outlay, we will try and visit you occasionally.

During our period of editorship we have made many warm friends by our little paper, and we feel therefore much attached to it and will certainly strain a point to continue it if possible. If at any time, through our rough mode of writing, we have hurt any individuals feelings, we beg leave to apologize. We may not agree with the ideas promulgated by a certain class, but still in our invectives against the system, we had no intention of bringing its friends in, or of making it a personal matter, although from our writings it has doubtless looked

like it. We dislike personalities, and we begin to think that a stamp paper can be filled with something better than an exaggerated account of the villainies practised by some person with whom the Editor has quarrelled. We have no downright enemies made in this way that we are aware of, and we trust that after P.'s article, any person or persons who may in the past have been offended by us, will feel their wounds heal over at once.

NOTES AND QUERIES.

CANADA.—We observe that of late there is a very alarming increase of "surcharged" stamps, that is to say, stamps with some value different from their own, printed across their faces, and used to prepay postage at the thus "surcharged" rate.

We must confess, that we were extremely dubious in many cases of the genuineness of these improved specimens, but had no peg whereon to hang our suspicions—but now we think we can point out an undoubted attempt at imposition in the cases of two Canadian half-penny postals, one of which is surcharged 8d. STG., and the other with the figure 1. Our reasons are—that firstly it could be no object to any P.M. to do such a trick, as he could not be compelled to put stamps on letters at all, and only would give himself extra trouble without remuneration when he did so, he being allowed no commission on sales, as persons in his position are at present.

In olden days, stamps were rarely affixed to letters in any way, except occasionally by mercantile firms, who would buy them in quantity and stick them on before sending the missive to the mail, thus preventing delay in making change, in case it might be near "closing time." It does not seem probable that P.M.'s would take the trouble of first sticking the stamps on, and obliterating them afterwards, when they could ful-

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fill their duty by merely impressing the envelopes with the common "PAID" hand-stamp.

Secondly, no subordinate P.M. would dare to surcharge a stamp in this way, as he would most certainly lose his situation for attempting to sell his stock at a value above its face. Of course, the authorities at the G. P. O. could do it if they pleased; but any one who will read the P.M.G.'s report of the original stock remaining on hand at the time the cent issue came in use, will see that there never was any lack, either of the eight-pence sterling labels, or of any of the others.

Thirdly, if a P.M. should daringly change the values in this way, — if such attempt was not taken notice of as swindling, it would be regarded merely as an obliteration, and this surcharged stamp would count the poster of the letter as exactly one half-penny, while the recipient would have the pleasure of singing songs of joy (in an under tone,) as he "torked over" double postage on missive "insufficiently prepaid."

SANDWICH ISLANDS.—Some time ago we purchased a collection of stamps, containing among others a specimen of the 13c. Sandwich Islands, which we innocently supposed to be genuine. This collection had been made mostly in 1863, and we do not think the original owner ever added to its numbers after 1865 or 1866, about which latter date it was forwarded to St. John for sale. No market being found, it was sent to England in charge of Mr. B., one of our Colonial Merchants going home for goods. He was instructed to take £5 sterling for it, if he could get it, but the eminent firm to whom he offered it, would only give £4. On this he brought it back with him, and, finding that the owner, (a lady,) was rather nettled that he had not taken the sum tendered, gallantly purchased it at that price himself.

Not being a collector, and not having the slightest knowledge of stamps, the book was of no use to him, and was consequently locked up in a drawer, and so remained till a few months ago, when it coming to his knowledge that we purchased such articles, he brought it to us and we bought it.

We give the above little history of the

book to show the antiquity of the stamp, and that it is almost next to impossible that it can be a forgery.

Now, we have three other Sandwich Islands 13c. specimens, and among the lot are fairly puzzled, and shall simply describe the differences existing between them to try and puzzle our readers also.

We shall number them as follows:—

No. 1, *undoubtedly genuine*, being procured direct from the Sandwich Islands Government. No. 2, *presumedly genuine*, this being the specimen which we took out of the collection above spoken of. No. 3, *presumedly forged*; and No. 4, *presumedly forged*. The points of difference we shall select, are as follows:—No. 1 has a stop after "States"; it has no stop after "8 cts.;" there is barely room for a stop after "5 cts.;" the "3" in the right upper corner is on a level with the "1". No. 2 has no stop after "States;" it has a stop after "8 cts.;" there is a space after "5 cts.;" the "3" in the right upper corner is *higher* than the "1." No. 3, it has no stop after "States;" it has no stop after "8 cts.;" there is barely room for the stop after "5 cts.;" the "3" in the right upper corner is *lower down* than the "1." No. 4 has no stop after "States;" it has a stop after "8 cts.;" it has plenty of space after "5 cts.;" the "3" in the right upper corner is *higher up* than the "1."

With regard to paper, Nos. 1, 2 and 3 are on white, rather thick; No. 4 is on blue. As to color, Nos. 1 and 2 are what we call red, No. 2 being much lighter, while 3 is a bright vermilion red, and 4 is a kind of rose purple.

Touching length, Nos. 1 and 2 are alike, while No. 4 is longer than either, and No. 3 is the shortest of all. Besides these, there are innumerable little differences which we cannot describe, not having room; but we may add that the only two which resemble each other are Nos. 2 and 4, and still there are the differences in the length and color. Our theory is that Nos. 1 and 2 are both genuine, from different plates, and No. 4 is a forgery from No. 2. As regards No. 3 we do not know what to say—perhaps it is a later and improved imitation.

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Let the Philatelic Societies try their teeth on the above, and when they have cracked the nut, give us the kernel.

FORGED STAMPS.

This is a department of Stamp-Editorship which we generally leave to abler pens than our own; however, the specimens of the imitator's art hereafter described, strike so closely home, that we feel impelled to break our rule, and warn collectors against them, begging them at the same time to make due allowance for our unfitness for the task. First, we note a forgery of the

NEW BRUNSWICK THREEPENCE.

In the genuine, the figures "3" in each of the four corners, all incline in one direction: in the forgery, the numerals all have their bases towards the centre of the stamp, thus allowing only one, viz.: that in the left hand upper angle to be in a correct position.

We could add further differences, but we think the above test will be found sufficient. Next comes the

NOVA SCOTIA THREEPENCE.

The corner figures in this counterfeit are correctly placed, and the main defect is in the style of lettering. For instance, the letter "O" in the word "POSTAGE," which in the genuine, is of the same *round* type as its brethren in "NOVA" and "SCOTIA" in the forgery, is of an oblong shape, totally different, and the letters of "THREE PENCE" which in the original, present a stout appearance; in the imitation are thin and attenuated, and are consequently much farther apart than they should be. We have now only to note the

NOVA SCOTIA SIXPENCE.

This is the best attempt of the series: not that it is less liable to detection on examination, but on account of the excellent imitation of the original color, in which respect both of the described specimens are failures. Only let the collector before purchasing, observe the word "POSTAGE."

The genuine is in block (E) letters, similar to those used in "NOVA" and "SCOTIA" while in the counterfeit, it is of this (E) style.

Where these forgeries came from originally, it would be extremely hard to tell, as surely no American manufacturer would make such a "poor list" of it.

New Brunswick threepence stamps are not so extremely scarce on this Continent that an original cannot be obtained; and it is to us an evident fact, that the engraver never saw one, or he could not have blundered so. Whatever their source, we merely add, "Collectors be on your guard."

THE BLUE CANADA ENVELOPE.

The time of a Stamp Editor is spent much as that of the Athenians alluded to in St. Paul's epistle—"to tell or to hear some new thing." We have a "new thing" to tell about, so give attention. Some months ago we purchased a collection of stamps, the property of Master Hale, son of James Hale, Esq., at present Superintendent of Money Orders for New Brunswick, and for many years one of the chief officials connected with the General Post Office. In this collection we discovered a *cut* five cent Canada envelope, struck in *blue* instead of *red*. We did not pay much attention to it at first, considering it to be merely a proof; but on learning that it was sent officially by the then Government of the *Province* of Canada to the Government of the *then* Province of New Brunswick as a specimen of their stamps, we began to prick up our editorial ears, for we knew that the sets of labels thus forwarded from one P. O. Department to another are generally intended to show only the kinds of postals for actual use. We consequently wrote to Mr. Hale, who, with the greatest kindness, penned us the annexed reply:—

SAINT JOHN, N. B.,
29th Nov., 1869.

MR. EDWARD A. CRAIG,—

Dear Sir,—I have your note with the enclosed Canadian stamp, and in reply beg to acquaint you that some of your questions to me cannot be answered. Postage stamps and stamped envelopes (of which the enclosed was cut from one of them) were received at the Post Office Department at Fredericton, from the Canadian Post Office Department, some years ago—say within twelve years,

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and am not prepared to say whether it was legally authorized or not; but presume that from the source from whence received, that it was an authorized issue sent to New Brunswick, with many others, as samples of the issue, or to be issued, in Canada.

Yours truly,

JAMES HALE.

The italics are ours. Mr. Hale, in response to an inquiry from us as to a suitable person in Canada of whom to seek further information, recommended us to W. H. Smithson, Esq., a gentleman in the O. Accountant's Office at Ottawa. We addressed Mr. S. on the subject; subjoined is his reply:—

OTTAWA, Dec. 7th, 1869.

Sir,—Enclosed please find stamp returned as requested, and trust the information will be satisfactory.

Yours, &c.,

W. H. SMITHSON.

Mr. CRAIG, &c., &c., St. John, N. B.

The "*information*" referred to is as follows, and was written on the card to which we had affixed the stamp: "This is a specimen. The stamped envelopes issued were 5 c. red and 10 c. brown, watermarked "Ca. P. O. D." They have been withdrawn from circulation on account of being easily counterfeited and not taking well with the public. As to numbers sold, see P. M. G.'s report (Mr. Hale's) for 1867, page 9. An embossed P. stamp is more easily counterfeited than any others. W. H. S."—At this point it will be seen that we are compelled to let the matter drop, not knowing to whom to write for full satisfaction. The very vague nature of Mr. Smithson's "*information*" is explained by the fact that he has only been in Ottawa two or three years, and not knowing anything about the "*specimen*," as he calls it, of his own knowledge, he probably did not imagine the matter of sufficient moment to make the research among old records necessary to throw complete light on the subject. Mr. Hale has been a great deal longer in official positions, and we think his reasoning in the matter, as italicised by us, to be very good. He sets at rest one point by speaking of the envelope from which it was "*cut*;" and on

the whole, so far as we can see, the stamp is entitled to as good a standing, philatelically speaking, as that of the "*CConnell*," which is in a somewhat similar position, having been prepared for use and yet *not* issued. We presume that other copies will "*turn up*," but, as far as is yet known, ours is a unique "*specimen*."

LEGOTYPING.

This is a new process in printing, and one that is very likely to have a great effect on Philately in many ways. The invention has been brought forward to its present state of perfection by Messrs. Leggo & Co., of Montreal, whom we understand to have secured patent rights for it in Canada, Europe and the United States. Its proprietors claim that by merely taking a photograph of any map—picture, engraving, lithograph, or printed matter of any kind—they can, by the aid of their secret process, reprint any number of exact copies,—so exact as to be undistinguishable from the original, and at less expense than by any other method. Perceiving that if this was true it would be at once seized on by the counterfeiters, we hastened to put some queries to Messrs. L. & Co., and annexed is their reply:—

MONTREAL, 30th Nov., 1869.

The Excelsior Stamp Association,

St. John, N. B.:

Gents,—In reply to your favor of 21st October (which was accidentally mislaid, and only turned up to-day), we beg to say that we do not think it would be any advantage to try the reproduction of postage stamps by our process. In the first place, as they are usually printed in colors, a great part of them would be lost in photographing; and again, as they are so finely engraved, it is next to impossible to get them printed as surface types. We could, if you desired, get them cut on stone or copper, and printed in that way, but we think the expense would be too great. Our leggotypes can be printed as well in colors as in black; where the difficulty lies is in photographing anything colored: for example, anything *yellow* photographs *black*, and *blue* comes out *white*. Thus, in copying a blue stamp we could get no result at all. The colors best suited for working from are black and white.

Our work is specially adapted to reproducing prints, maps, manuscripts, &c., &c., and we will be

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glad to hear from you with any job that you may have to do. Work in all the branches mentioned in our card will receive prompt attention, and be done at moderate rates.

Yours respectfully,

LEGGO & Co.

It will be seen by this, that the invention has not yet attained maturity, but no safeguard is furnished but that it will at some future period; in fact, we feel confident that a person of such genius as is exhibited by the originator of leggotyping cannot fail in improving his process up to the highest standard. Even now it could be used to imitate wood block stamps and rougher engraved specimens which are printed in black. Any of our readers who desire to see the effect of the invention can purchase a copy of the new publication, entitled, we think, the "Canadian Illustrated News," the pictures of which are copied by this process from the London paper bearing the same title.

EMINENT PHILATELISTS.

Collectors are, as a general thing, entirely ignorant of the antecedents of the leading men engaged in Philately, and know nothing of the "big guns," save their names.

In every other pursuit the case is different, and we now make a bold effort to raise our profession to the common level in this respect—"Charity begins at home." We begin at home, and open the ball with sketches of the two persons who have labored the most for the cause in the Canadian Provinces. We trust that the example we now set, will be followed, and hope ere long to read biographies of all the great Timbrophilists both of America and Europe.

GEORGE STEWART, JR.

The subject of our sketch is the only son of George Stewart, Esq., (President of the St. Andrew's Society, and well known as the most talented Auctioneer in the lower Provinces), and was born at New York City, Nov. 26th, 1848, from which place his parents soon after removed to Loudon, C. W., where the future Editor spent the earlier years of his life. In 1859 he came to

St John, where he has since resided. At school he was always regarded as a boy who would make his mark, and consequently his parents were desirous that he should be a professional man,—but so strong were his predilections for mercantile pursuits, that he was permitted to take his course and learn the drug business. We learn he is soon about to open an establishment of his own, and we have no doubt he will succeed.

Mr. Stewart was one of the first persons in St. John to become a stamp collector, and he seized on the new idea with all the energy for which he is so celebrated.

He went into it heart and soul: and one of the first results of his enterprise, was the establishment of the "Stamp Collector's Monthly Gazette," the publication of which he commenced in June, 1865. Numbers 1, 2, 3 and 4 of the "Gazette" contained four pages only, but its success was such, that at the 5th issue its size was doubled, while at the beginning of the second volume, in addition to a fine ornamental heading, still further more pages were found to be necessary, and it continued thus enlarged to the end.

To criticize the "Gazette" by the increased light of these later days, would not be fair, but we can truly say, that in our opinion, with one exception, it was fully equal to many of the European stamp papers of its time, and was in most respects superior to all of its American contemporaries. Mr. Stewart as a stamp Editor, had, of course, his little faults,—the chief being a strong penchant for 'stories,' which marred his paper to a certain extent; but taken as a whole, the "Gazette" was most ably conducted, and reflects the highest credit on its manager.

At the time the "Gazette" was first issued, stamp collectors (more especially in Canada), were in great need of papers, through which information on Philately might be sown broadcast, where all was darkness and ignorance. Very hard did our Editor work; and now that Philately has become a science, with its thousands of adherents, we think he can safely look back and feel as would one of the pioneers of an

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exploring expedition after successfully opening up to the world a hitherto undiscovered region. In April, 1867, Mr. S. commenced publishing "Stewart's Literary Quarterly Magazine," which was stated on the title page, to be devoted to "Light and Entertaining Literature," and this new enterprise caused the death of the "Gazette," for it is hardly to be expected that he would be able to edit two periodicals, when the evenings (after tolling at his ordinary business all day), were his only available time.

The "Gazette" therefore was suffered to go down, and Mr. Stewart entered into the prosecution of his new aim, viz.: to develop native talent by a periodical, which should insert only original articles written by provincial authors.

The Quarterly at first contained only about 60 pages, and the price was fixed at 40 cents per annum, but so successful has it been, that it now contains 120 pages, and the subscription price is \$1.00. It is everywhere noticed by the press in the highest terms of praise, and is one of the standard magazines in the country. We have no intentions of criticizing the "Quarterly," it is out of our line, but we would like to draw the attention of collectors to the results that energy and enterprise will accomplish, and to Mr. Stewart's example as one worthy of imitation. We claim also on behalf of Philately, that its pursuit sharpens the intellect and enlarges the mind, and we prove it by Mr. S's case,—for we assert that it was the use of his brains required to be a timbrophilist, a stamp dealer, and the Editor of the "Gazette" which gave him the mental training and confidence in himself necessary to attempt the publication of such a magazine as the "Quarterly," at the age of 18. Personally, Mr. Stewart is considered handsome, and he sports a large black beard, which we know must be admired by the fair sex. He is a favorite with every one, and his ready wit is such as to make him the most agreeable of companions. He is a leading member of the I.O.O.F., and also, we believe, some other organizations. We will leave him here, merely adding, that though he is no longer a Stamp Editor, he is still a

collector, and has a collection numbering 1800.

E. A. CRAIG.

EDWARD ALLISON CRAIG was born at St. John. N. B., Oct. 5th, 1845, and is consequently now in the twenty-fifth year of his age. He is the oldest and only surviving son of Mr. J. W. Craig, well known as the builder of the Clipper Ships *Wanata*, *Matoaka*, *Alma*, &c., the *Wanata* being the first N. B. vessel ever classed at Lloyd's, A 1, 7 years.

The legal profession was early selected as that of which the subject of our sketch, was to become a member, and he therefore was entered as a Law Student in the office of J. M. Robinson, Q.C., in Michémas Term, 1862, and in October, 1866, having completed the four years of study required by the Statute, was examined and admitted an Attorney. He commenced the practice of his profession immediately in his native city, and, for the short time he was permitted to engage in it, did remarkably well; but at this point his health gave away, and, after two or three attacks, more or less severe, he was stricken in May, 1867, by inflammatory rheumatism in the knee joint, and brought down to the very "Gates of Death."

In Nov., 1867, so far gone was he, that he was sent to Europe, in the faint hope that the voyage might save his life, but, on arriving there, after a boisterous passage, it was ascertained that the disease had settled into acute pyæmia or surgical fever, one of the most terribly fatal known to medical men. Mr. Bickersteth, F.R.C.S. of Liverpool, one of the greatest living surgeons, in whose charge he was at once placed, succeeded, with the help of Providence, in bringing him through all danger, but no earthly skill could restore him to anything like health; though at some future period the disease (being in the blood), will probably exhaust itself, and he may recover the use of his injured limb, it will always be bent and stiff, and he will never walk without a stick or support of some kind. At present, as for some time

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back his means of locomotion are a pair of crutches, on which he hobbles around quite smartly, but is not capable of travelling any great distance on them. It was expected that the invigorating air of his native climate would work wonders, but the hope proved fallacious, and he is now again obliged to remove—this time to California, in the salubrious breezes of which country he will eventually recover, if recovery is possible.

Mr. Craig's connection with philately began in the year 1864, about which time he became an ardent collector. In 1865, in partnership with Mr. Robert Melvin he commenced business in a small way as a dealer, but in Oct. of that year Mr. Melvin retired from the concern; and Mr. C. finding that his engaging in any other pursuit while a law student, was likely to tell against him in going up for admission as an Attorney: changed the business name first to Ridgeway Jones, and shortly after to "The Excelsior Stamp Association," under which latter title he has (excepting while in England), carried it on to the present time. He has been very successful as a dealer, owing simply to the fact, that he has always been prompt and honest, and has not spared money in advertising. In fact, it was the very laxity of the U. S. dealers which first built the E. S. A up: for collectors in writing to the latter had formerly 10 cents postage to pay on their orders, while at home it only required 3; but they like to be attended to sharply, and cheerfully paid it rather than wait two or three weeks for a reply, as their countrymen invariably compelled them to do. The promptness of the St. John firm soon became well known, and in Nov., 1867, when Mr. Craig was obliged to give it up. The Excelsior Stamp Association had a business and a name unequalled in America.

While he was absent, the concern was unfortunately allowed to go on to ruin, and, since his return, he has had to build it all up anew—which he has succeeded in doing, and now again he leaves it, at this time in the hands of a gentleman whom he fully expects to carry out the re-established reputation.

Mr. Craig has edited two stamp periodicals, the "Stamp Argus," and the "Postman's Knock," and with regard to the first series of the latter, when it is to be remembered that he had to write every line of its contents himself, that his means of obtaining information were limited, and that in most cases he got it up, corrected proof, and prepared it for mailing while he was propped up in bed, and suffering intolerable agony, it will be considered at least passable.

The service the "Postman's Knock" has done to Philately is incalculable—it circulated everywhere, it circulated gratis, its contents were not perhaps up to the standard as regarded the nicer distinctions, &c., but they were suited to the persons who were its readers; for to tell the truth, the greater number of stamp papers published at a subscription price are so intensely learned, as to be of little or no use to common collectors at all. Mr. Craig's views of timbrophily have always been those of the English School, though of late the greatly increasing number of stamps has compelled him to modify his tenets to a considerable extent, and look favorably on some things to which he was formerly bitterly opposed. He has come to the determination, that because a person may not hold exactly the same ideas as one self, is no reason why such person is entirely devoid of intellect: a conclusion which we naturally draw from most of the philatelic publications now issued. He would feel proud to be considered the founder of the 'American Moderate School,' in which every one could hold his own opinions, unquestioned, and all shall work together for the spread of Stamp Collecting.

Mr. Craig was for many years an earnest and hard working unit of the Temperance organizations, and held for two years the office of Grand Guide of Cadets of the Province. He is also a Freemason; and a member of Hibernia Lodge, No. 3, N. B. R. (late 301 Irish Registry.)

✉ We have received information that the new One Cent Canada (small size) is issued.

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NEW ALBUM.

We have received from the New York publishers, for review, a copy of "Scott's American Postage Stamp Album," and after a careful examination of its pages, can candidly say that we are much pleased with it. It is arranged somewhat on "Lallier's" principle, on which it is a great improvement in many respects. It follows "Lallier" to the extent of having a particular square, on which each particular stamp belongs; but it differs from its parent in the circumstance that it has the full description of the postal on the space it is intended to fill, instead of placing it on the opposite page, and leaving the collector to find a stamp's proper location by reference to its color.

Speaking as a critic should do, in an impartial spirit, we do not think this "new idea" any improvement; it looks very pretty when the book is empty, but, unfortunately, most philatelists gum their treasures firmly to the page, and once the description is covered up, who is to know anything about a specimen except from its face? One fault more, and we have done: we think the publishers have adhered almost too closely to the "American school," in omitting to provide squares for varieties that are recognized by every one, no matter how closely they may draw their lines. Taking New Brunswick as an instance, we find totally left out in the cold the 1c. mauve, 5c. dark green, and the "Connell" stamp. The arrangement of the work is alphabetical throughout—a very necessary improvement on the old system; and we cannot too highly praise the style in which the printer has done his part. All new stamp-issuing countries are provided with pages, including even spaces for Angola and the doubtful issues of Antioquia; and there are blank pages left in sufficient quantity to satisfy the greatest variety or watermark collector who ever breathed. The great amount of labor bestowed on this work by its editor, and the quantity of enterprise and money it must have required to publish it, any of our readers can best learn by buying a copy; and we trust no American

collector will purchase any imported album when he can get a superior and cheaper article at home.

NEW STAMPS.

Our readers will be disappointed to find we have omitted our usual lengthy description of new stamps, but the reason we have done so, is that it would be likely to occupy the whole paper. We cut it down, therefore, to the following synopsis, omitting all varieties and minor changes. *Canada*,—3c. red reduced to size of $\frac{1}{2}$ cent. *Belgium*,—new issue of ten stamps; inscription, *Belgique*, 1, 2, 5, 6 and 8c. with numeral of value; 10, 20, 30, 40c. and 1 fr., head of King. *Dutch Indies*,—head of King to right—5, 10, 20 and 50 cents. *Spain*,—new set of thirteen—head of Spain,—values 1, 2, 4, 10, 25, 50, 100, 200 and 500 mils de escudo: 1 escudo, 600 mils; 2 escudos, 12 and 19 cuartos. *Cuba*,—similar design to Spain; 5, 10, 20 and 40 centimos. *Italy*,—inscription, *SEGNATASSE*; design, numeral of value in central oval; values, 1, 2, 5, 30, 40, 50 and 60 centesimi, yellow; 1 and 2 lire, blue. *North German Official*,—shape, oblong; design numeral in value in octagonal; values $\frac{1}{2}$, $\frac{1}{3}$, $\frac{1}{2}$, 1 and 2 groschen, and 1, 2, 3 and 7 kr. *New Granada*,—design, impossible to describe; value, $\frac{1}{2}$ cents, shape, irregular triangle,—we think it a hoax.

THE postage from the U. S. to England is now six cents. From and after Jan. 1st, 1870, letters can be sent from the Dominion to Great Britain via Halifax for six cents, and via New York for eight cents.

"If from money you take two letters you leave one" On this a southern editor remarks that he has heard of a man who took money from letters and left none, and all we have to say, is that we know where that man lives, viz.: in Chillicothe, Ohio.

During a recent flood in Norway, Maine, P. M. lashed the P. O. to a big elm tree, next morning it was gone, but on search, it was discovered at Hannover, some miles distant.

The Postman's Knock.

Cyrus McGowan, P. M. at Knoxville, Illinois, had an awful falling in the way of pocketing the contents of registered letters. The authorities found him out, and Cyrus has retired from public life, and lives in a secluded state in "marble (or some other kind of stone) walls."

ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS.

C. H. F., *Lansingburgh, N. Y.*—By reading this paper you will see that we had no time to reply to your favor, and you will also perceive where to direct your letters.

A. Y., *Fordham, N. Y.*—We were obliged to pay 10c gold for your letter, which swallowed up the scrip enclosed. Prepay all letters in future. See reply to C. H. F.

D. B. V., *Middletown, Ohio.*—See answer to A. Y. as to full prepayment. A price list will cost you 15 cents. Mr. Craig's new catalogue for 1870, you can only procure by writing to his California address. Mr. C will probably be established in San Francisco by April 15th. Read advts.

A. C. B., *Fort McPherson, Nebraska*, and others.—Dealers now-a-days, do not give away their price lists; the reason for this is that there are numberless collectors who collect *price lists only*; and if the pamphlets were given away, as they used to be, would write about once a month for the latest edition of the same. The books, though small, cost a considerable sum to print and the various stamp merchants soon became tired of such unprofitable customers. Any collector who is too stingy to pay for a catalogue, will be too mean to expend any money with the person issuing it, and consequently a price is now charged. A. C. B. must not deem this personal, as it is evident from the tone of his letter that he was not aware that what he required had to be paid for; but as we have disposed of the business, we have no other way of informing him why no list was sent him.

G. F. H., *Poultney, Vt.*—See answer to C. H. F.

C. V. R., *Amsterdam, Holland.*—Letter duly received this morning, (March 11.)

S. T., *Augusta, Me.*—Scott's American Album is decidedly the best for you to procure: it is bound in two styles, at \$5.00 and \$6.00, and is taken as a whole, superior to any imported article. Every American Collector should patronize the home made book, and encourage domestic enterprise.

Canadaigua, N. Y.—There are two packets awaiting the time when you will send your name; your letter was unsigned.

J. R. C., *Brookline, Mass.*—There are no new Canadian stamps, excepting the 3 cents red, reduced in size. Although our contemporaries do speak of a complete new issue, they do not name the values; and the P. O. Officials are not aware of any others than the one we name. The 12j and 15c., the former of which is now *entirely*, and the latter *almost* useless, will not probably be re-produced, but there will likely be a new lot of values, viz.: 5, 8, 10 and 20 cents. The reason of the reduction in size is not as our N. Y. friend supposes, just because he "said so," but because the Bank Note Company's building have been totally destroyed by fire, and the plates of the now current issue destroyed. This circumstance necessitated the re-engraving, and when the work had to be done, it was resolved then, that there might as well be a change.

SPECIAL NOTICES.

SCOTT'S AMERICAN ALBUM.—The very thing for American Collectors. Price \$5. and \$6.00 according to binding, by post, 25 cents extra. E. A. Craig, San Francisco, Cal.

CRAIG'S NEW PRICE CATALOGUE FOR 1870.—Containing description and price of all stamps issued up to date. List of Packets, &c.—fourth edition, post free, 15 cents. San Francisco, California.

REMEMBER!—E. A. Craig's New Address, viz.: care James Olmstead, Esq., 71 Clementina Street, San Francisco, Cal., and remember that all orders sent to that address will be filled on E. A. C's arrival (about April 15, 1870.)

BREMEN.—Complete set of SIX, viz.: 2, 3, 5, 7 and 10 grot, and 5 s. gr., all *unused* and *genuine*, only 40 cents. E. A. Craig.

WANTED.—Canada Bill Star 75—U. S. Envelopes, rare—Genuine original Locals South and Central American, all kinds in quantity—Pence issues B. N. A. Provinces, &c. E. A. Craig.

DEALERS will do well to send for E. A. Craig's Wholesale List, which will be found as reasonable as any in the trade.

E. A. CRAIG'S stock includes 1800 varieties. He can supply almost any stamp; Gambia, Sarawak, Sierra Leone, Shanghai,—Spain in great variety,—new issues of Belgium,—Servia,—Roumania, &c.

NEWLY ISSUED STAMPS.—E. A. Craig's arrangements are such that he is supplied with newly issued stamps as soon as they appear.

P. E. ISLAND.—Complete set of six *unused*, viz.: 1d, 2d, 3d, 4d, 6d, and 9d, only \$1.10. E. A. Craig, care Jas. Olmstead, Esq., 71 Clementina St., San Francisco, Cal.

The Postman's Knock.

Price List, 34 pp.,
15 cts. U. S. Cy.

Established Four Years.

Excelsior Packets.
List—Gratis.

THE EXCELSIOR STAMP ASSOCIATION, Foreign and Colonial Stamp Merchants, No. 5 QUEEN STREET, FREDERICTON, N. B.

HENRY LEMONT, PROPRIETOR.

P. O. Address, Box 75.

SPECIAL NOTICE.

COLLECTORS are particularly requested to note our change of address; and, in future, direct all communications as above.

We are making very great additions to our present stock, and will shortly be able to fill all orders, however large.

REMEMBER! No. 5 Queen Street is the only place at which the original EXCELSIOR PACKETS can be obtained. Price List, 34 pages—best yet issued—.5 cents U. S. Cy. Back numbers "POSTMAN'S KNOCK" (No. 1 series), 14 for 50 cents. Colonials bought; list of prices sent on application. Collector's duplicates exchanged. All prices in U. S. Currency. ALL STAMPS WARRANTED GENUINE.

NOTICE OF SALE.

EDWARD A. CRAIG begs leave to inform his numerous customers and friends, that he is removing from St. John, N. B., to San Francisco, Cal., and that he has sold the business known as the The Excelsior Stamp Association, to Mr. Lemont of Fredericton. (see advt.) Collectors will please observe, Mr. Lemont is the only person entitled to use the above name, or to sell Excelsior Packets, &c., and will in future write to the Fredericton address, as all letters received after this notice at the St. John Office, will be forwarded after Mr. Craig to California. All claims due from or to The Excelsior Stamp Association previous to this notice, will be settled by E. A. Craig. Mr. Craig trusts that the liberal support so long given to The Excelsior Stamp Association will be continued to his successor.

NOTICE OF REMOVAL.

EDWARD A. CRAIG, Dealer in Foreign Stamps, desires to inform collectors that he is about to open an establishment for the commerce in postals in San Francisco, California, and hopes to hear from all his old friends there. The Pacific Railroad has so shortened mail communication, that a letter will travel to California in a very few days; and as Mr. C. invariably ANSWERS ALL COMMUNICATIONS PER RETURN POST, customers in the Eastern States and Canada will not be any longer delayed in getting their orders filled, than they would in ordinary cases, while those living in the West will receive their stamps much quicker than formerly. Read Mr. C's advertisements, and send your orders right along!

DATE OF REMOVAL.

Mr. Craig will (D. V.) leave St. John, March 17th, and sail for California (via Panama) March 21st, and as the passage generally takes three weeks, will probably be in San Francisco by April 15th, and on his arrival will be happy to have a large number of orders waiting, which, of course, he will at once fill. By May 1st, Mr. C. hopes to have a place fitted up, his stock arranged for inspection, and to be ready

to execute commissions to any amount. Mr. Craig requests till further notice all letters should be addressed thus—EDWARD A. CRAIG, care James Olmstead, Esq. 71 Clementina St. San Francisco Cal. As soon as he is settled, he will issue a circular to his customers, informing them of the fact, and of any change in the mode of directing communications, but begs leave to assure his friends that all letters addressed as above will be sure to reach him safely.

CARD.

EDWARD A. CRAIG, Dealer in Foreign Stamps, San Francisco, Cal., U. S. A. Read his advt. in other parts of this paper. All kinds of stamps in stock. All stamps warranted genuine. All orders over \$1.00 post free. All packets post free at price named. Packet List for 1870—gratis. Price Catalogue, 15 cents. Collector's duplicates exchanged. Collections bought or sold on commission. Albums for sale. Old stamp papers for sale. POSTMAN'S KNOCK, (new series), set of three Nos. \$0.25. Wanted—Canada Bill Stamps, old U. S. Envelopes. Address till further notice—care James Olmstead, Esq., 71 Clementina Street, San Francisco, Cal.

CANADA BILL STAMPS.

Craig's Packet No. 1, Post free, 30 cents, contains 15 varieties of these beautiful stamps, (including all issues.)
Craig's Packet No. 2, Post free, 50 cents, contains 25 varieties Canada Bill Stamps, all issues, some scarce.
Craig's Packet No. 3, Post free, \$1.00, contains 35 varieties Canada Bill Stamps, all issues, including the higher values.

CRAIG'S CREST PACKET.

Craig's Crest Packet No. 1, Post free, 30 cents, contains 25 varieties Arms, Crests, and Monograms.
Craig's Crest Packet No. 2, Post free, 50 cents, contains 50 rare Arms, Crests, and Monograms.
Craig's Crest Packet No. 3, Post free, \$1.00, contains 100 varieties.

The Postman's Knock.

Sets under \$1.00 }
one stamp extra. }

Cheap Sets of Stamps.

} Price List. 1870 }
Post free 15 cts. }

EDWARD A. CRAIG, STAMP DEALER, SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA, begs leave to call the attention of his customers to the following Cheap Sets of Stamps.

ALL WARRANTED GENUINE.

UNUSED.			USED.		
Austria, 1847.	6 va.	\$1.00	Austria.	25 va.	\$0.50
Argentine Confederation,	3 "	1.10	Austrian Italy,	6 "	0.15
Argentine Republic,	3 "	1.00	Baden.	20 "	0.50
Bavaria, 1850, (1, 3, 6, 9, 12 and 18.)	6 "	1.00	Barbadoes,	5 "	0.25
Brunswick, 1865,	6 "	0.15	Bavaria,	1 "	0.25
Bergedorf,	5 "	0.3	Belgium,	8 "	0.25
Bremen,	6 "	0.40	Bernuda,	4 "	0.45
Belgium, issue, Nov. 1869,	6 "	0.30	Brazil,	6 "	0.30
Brazil, (10, 20, 50, 80, 100, 200, 500.)	4 "	1.60	British Guiana,	4 "	0.20
Cashmere,	2 "	0.30	Canada,	10 "	0.20
Ceylon Envelopes, (complete)	12 "	6.00	Cape of Good Hope,	6 "	0.30
Confederate States,	4 "	0.20	Ceylon,	15 "	1.50
Canada, (including 1870 issue)	12 "	1.00	Ceylon,	6 "	0.35
Egypt, (old and new.)	6 "	0.60	Denmark,	10 "	0.30
Finland, 1869, (3, 8, 10, 20, 40)	5 "	0.80	Finland,	5 "	0.35
Hamburg Adhesives,	10 "	0.75	France, including Republic.	15 "	0.60
Hamburg Envelopes,	6 "	0.80	French Colonies,	6 "	0.30
Hamburg-Boten,	116 "	0.50	Great Britain, (Oct.) 6d. 10d. 1s.	3 "	0.35
Heligoland, complete,	4 "	0.75	Do. (later issues.)	10 "	0.15
India Envelopes,	2 "	0.25	Greece.	7 "	0.15
Ionian Islands,	3 "	0.50	Hamburg,	10 "	0.50
Lubeck,	18 "	1.50	Hanover,	8 "	0.25
Lubeck, official,	2 "	0.50	Holland,	6 "	0.15
Luxemburg,	9 "	1.10	Hong Kong,	9 "	0.30
Madeira,	4 "	4.40	India,	16 "	0.30
Meck. Strelitz,	9 "	1.10	Italy,	18 "	0.25
Modena, 1862,	8 "	1.25	Jamaica,	8 "	0.40
Modena, provisional.	5 "	1.00	Luxemburg.	6 "	0.30
Montevideo, envelopes,	2 "	4.50	Luzon, (1864)	4 "	1.50
Montevideo, adhesives, (1866.)	5 "	1.00	Moldavia,	6 "	0.25
Naples, arms,	7 "	1.50	Mexico,	10 "	2.60
Naples, provisional,	8 "	1.00	Do. 1869.	5 "	1.00
Newfoundland, (1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 6½, 8 and 1s.)	9 "	4.00	Natal,	5 "	0.40
Newfoundland, (1, 2, 5, 5, 10, 12, 18 and 24)	8 "	2.50	New Brunswick,	6 "	0.35
New Zealand, (1, 2, 3 and 4d.)	4 "	0.60	New South Wales,	6 "	0.30
North German Conf. (1, 2, 5, 7 & 18)	5 "	0.75	New Zealand,	5 "	0.25
Nevis,	4 "	1.25	Norway,	6 "	0.25
Nicaragua,	4 "	1.60	Nova Scotia,	6 "	0.20
New Caledonia. (fac-simile),	50 "	0.25	Oldenburg,	8 "	0.35
Oldenburg, 1862,	5 "	0.40	P. E. Island,	4 "	0.25
Orange Free State,	3 "	1.50	Papal States,	10 "	0.40
Parma, provisional,	3 "	1.25	Portugal,	6 "	0.30
Parma, 1858,	3 "	0.40	Prussia,	12 "	0.30
P. E. Island, (1, 2, 3, 4, 6 and 9)	6 "	1.10	Queensland,	5 "	0.25
Prussia, 1861,	6 "	0.20	Russia,	6 "	0.25
Prussia, 1867,	5 "	0.30	Do. (Envelopes).	2 "	0.25
Papal States, obsolete,	9 "	1.50	Saxony,	12 "	0.25
Russia, envelopes,	4 "	2.00	Schleswig Holstein,	10 "	0.45
Roumania, (5, 10, 15, 25, 50),	5 "	1.00	South Australia,	4 "	0.20
Romagna,	9 "	1.00	St. Helena,	6 "	1.30
Saxony, 1863,	6 "	0.15	St. Lucia,	4 "	0.80
Servia, old issue complete,	7 "	0.75	St. Vincent,	4 "	0.75
Servia, 1869, complete,	8 "	1.00	Spain,	10 "	0.60
Schleswig Holstein, (1849),	2 "	0.55	Do. (many very rare)	80 "	13.50
Schleswig Holstein, (later issues)	14 "	1.25	Strait Settlements.	9 "	1.50
Sicily,	7 "	1.00	Sweden,	9 "	0.25
Spain, (official),	4 "	0.30	Switzerland,	15 "	0.30
Shanghai, (old issues),	8 "	3.60	Tasmania,	6 "	0.40
Spain, 1870,	7 "	1.50	Trinidad,	6 "	0.50
Switzerland, envelopes,	4 "	0.50	Thun and Taxis,	10 "	0.30
Singapore,	4 "	0.90	United States,	15 "	0.20
United States, 1837,	8 "	1.25	Victoria,	18 "	0.60
Virgin Islands,	4 "	1.25	Wurtemberg,	15 "	0.30
			Wenden,	2 "	0.35
			Western Australia,	5 "	0.40

The Postman's Knock.

All Stamps are
warranted genuine. }

CRAIG'S NEW PACKETS FOR 1870.

New Price List,
Post free, 15 cts.

- CRAIG'S Packet No. 1, post free, 30 cents,**
Contains 6 varieties of *unused* British Colonial Stamps, including Transvaal Republic, Grenada, Turks Island, &c.
- CRAIG'S Packet No. 2, post free, 30 cents,**
Entirely different from 1 and 3, contains 6 varieties of *unused* British Colonial Stamps, including Orange Free State, Bermuda, &c.
- CRAIG'S Packet No. 3, post free, 30 cents,**
Entirely different from 1 and 2, contains 6 varieties of *unused* British Colonial Stamps, including British Honduras, Virgin Islands, &c.
- CRAIG'S Packet No. 4, post free, 30 cents,**
Contains 8 varieties of *unused* British Colonial Stamps, including Newfoundland, Ceylon, &c.
- CRAIG'S Packet No. 5, post free, 30 cents,**
Contains 12 varieties *unused* Foreign Stamps, including Martinique, Spain, (1870), Servia, &c.
- CRAIG'S Packet No. 6, post free, 30 cents,**
Contains 12 varieties *mixed* British Colonial Stamps, including *unused* British Guiana and Heligoland; *used* Queensland, &c.
- CRAIG'S Packet No. 7, post free, 30 cents,**
Contains 30 varieties *used* stamps, including New Brunswick, Fr. Republic, Wallachia, &c.
- CRAIG'S Packet No. 8, post free, 30 cents,**
Contains 40 varieties *used* stamps, including Meck.-Schwerin, Austrian Italy, Belgium, &c.
- CRAIG'S Packet No. 9, post free, 30 cents,**
Contains 20 varieties *used* British Colonial Stamps, including N. S. Wales, Hong Kong, &c.
- CRAIG'S Packet No. 10, post free, 30 cents,**
Contains 12 varieties *obsolete* stamps, including first issue Belgium, black 1d English, Spain, &c.
- CRAIG'S Packet No. 11, post free, 30 cents,**
Contains 15 varieties *envelope* stamps, including rare Switzerland, Old German, Oldenburg, &c.
- CRAIG'S Packet No. 12, post free, 30 cents,**
Contains 100 mixed Continental Stamps, including Prussia, North German Confed., &c.
- CRAIG'S Packet No. 13, post free, 30 cents,**
Contains 50 mixed Continental Stamps, (best quality), including rare Thurn and Taxis, &c.
- CRAIG'S Packet No. 14, post free, 30 cents,**
Contains 40 varieties Hamburg-Buen stamps.
- CRAIG'S Packet No. 15, post free, 30 cents,**
Contains 80 *mixed* common Colonial Stamps, including Canada, Queensland, &c.
- CRAIG'S Packet No. 16, post free, 30 cents,**
Contains 50 mixed Colonial Stamps of a much better quality and variety than No. 15.
- CRAIG'S Packet No. 17, post free, 30 cents,**
Contains 25 varieties U. S. Locals, including many rare specimens.
- CRAIG'S Packet No. 18, post free, 30 cents,**
Contains 6 varieties *scarce used* stamps, including Canada 3d., Cuba, &c.
- CRAIG'S Packet No. 19, post free, 30 cents,**
Contains 10 varieties *scarce* stamps, including Sardinia, Brazil, &c.
- CRAIG'S Packet No. 20, post free, 30 cents,**
Contains 5 varieties *scarce unused* stamps, including St. Thomas 3 cents, &c.
- CRAIG'S Packet No. 21, post free, 50 cents,**
Contains 10 varieties *unused* British Colonials, including St. Helena, Antigua, St. Vincent, &c.
- CRAIG'S Packet No. 22, post free, 50 cents,**
Entirely different from Nos. 18 and 20, contains 10 varieties *unused* British Colonial Stamps, Ceylon Env., Bahamas, Straits' Settlement, &c.
- CRAIG'S Packet No. 23, post free, 50 cents,**
Entirely different from Nos. 18 and 19, contains 10 varieties *unused* British Colonial Stamps, Orange River, St. Vincent, South Africa &c.
- CRAIG'S Packet No. 24, post free, 50 cents,**
Contains 14 varieties *unused* British Colonial Stamps, Heligoland, Barbados, Br. Guiana, &c.
- CRAIG'S Packet No. 25, post free, 50 cents,**
Contains 10 varieties *rare unused* stamps, including India Envelope, Shanghai, &c.
- CRAIG'S Packet No. 26, post free, 50 cents,**
Contains 25 varieties *unused* stamps, including Turkey, Chili, &c.
- CRAIG'S Packet No. 27, post free, 50 cents,**
Contains 20 varieties *British Colonials*, including *unused* Orange River, British Honduras, Jamaica, Mauritius; *used* West Australia, &c.
- CRAIG'S Packet No. 28, post free, 50 cents,**
Contains 25 varieties *used* Colonial Stamps, Queensland, Hong Kong, &c.
- CRAIG'S Packet No. 29, post free, 50 cents,**
Contains 10 *scarce* stamps, including Livonia Luxemburg, Antigua &c. &c.
- CRAIG'S Packet No. 30, post free, 50 cents,**
Contains 30 varieties *used* stamps, including Sarawak, New Grenada, Shanghai, &c.
- CRAIG'S Packet No. 31, post free, 50 cents,**
Contains 40 varieties *used* stamps, including Transvaal Republic, Naples, Grenada, &c.
- CRAIG'S Packet No. 32, post free, 50 cents,**
Contains 50 varieties *used*, including Argentine Republic, Uruguay, &c.
- CRAIG'S Packet No. 33, post free, 50 cents,**
Contains 60 varieties, *used*, including Moldavia,
- CRAIG'S Packet No. 34, post free, 50 cents,**
Contains 110 varieties, Hamburg-Buen, the complete set.
- CRAIG'S Packet No. 35, post free, 50 cents,**
Contains 50 varieties U. S. Locals.
- CRAIG'S Packet No. 36, post free, 50 cents,**
Contains 10 varieties West Indian, including Cuba, Trinidad, &c.
- CRAIG'S Packet No. 37, post free, \$1.00,**
Contains 40 varieties, none with less than 8c.
- CRAIG'S Packet No. 38, post free, \$1.00,**
Contains 400 varieties, this is the best packet made, one trial will prove it.
- CRAIG'S Packet No. 39, post free, \$1.00,**
Contains 20 *scarce unused*, including P. E. Island, Uruguay, &c.
- CRAIG'S Packet No. 40, post free, \$1.00,**
Contains 80 varieties *good unused* stamps, including Spain, Servia, Brazil, &c.
- CRAIG'S Packet No. 41, post free, \$1.00,**
Contains 30 Br. Colonial, 10 *unused*, including St. Lucia, Nevis, Turks Island, &c.
- CRAIG'S Packet No. 42, post free, \$1.00,**
Contains 80 varieties *good foreign* stamps, including Moldavia, Russia, Australia, &c.
- CRAIG'S Packet No. 43, post free, \$1.00,**
Contains 10 *very scarce* stamps, including N. S. Wales, Sarawak, *unused*, &c.
- CRAIG'S Packet No. 44, post free, \$2.00,**
Contains 125 varieties, including stamps of many countries, (good for beginners.)
- CRAIG'S Packet No. 45, post free, \$5.00,**
Contains 200 varieties, including many *rare and scarce* (highly recommended.)

W. L. CRAIG, 111 N. 3rd St., Philadelphia, Pa.