

The Useful Instructor.

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NO. 2.

The Useful Instructor.

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The Useful Instructor.

HALIFAX, MAY-JUNE, 1887.

We are compelled to combine the May and June numbers of the USEFUL INSTRUCTOR, owing to about three weeks' delay in our April issue, caused by a difficulty with the post office department. The two months combined will count as one issue, and thus no loss will occur to our patrons. We wish our paper to be ready for the mail promptly on the first of the month of which it bears date, and we could find no other way by which to gain this end than the manner above described. No. 3 will go to press on June 30th, and all advertisements for the July issue must reach us prior to that date.

The attention of advertisers is called to the merits of this paper as a medium by which to reach a paying class of readers. By reference to our advertising columns you will see that most all the advertisements contained in our first issue are duplicated in this, although they were, in most cases, intended for one insertion only. This speaks for itself. Two of our friends have been kind enough to send us, unsolicited, their opinion of our paper:

NEW YORK, MAY 4, 1887.

Dear Sir: Continue my adv. in your next two Nos. Find cash for same enclosed. I find that my adv. in USEFUL INSTRUCTOR has paid better than in any other philatelic paper.

Yours truly,

C. DREW.

HALIFAX, MAY 10, 1887.

Dear Sir: I cannot help expressing the satisfaction I have received from my 1st adv. in the USEFUL INSTRUCTOR. It has paid me better than any other stamp paper. I wish you success, and hope that others will see that they are getting the value of their money by advertising in your paper.

Truly yours,

HARRISON L. HART.

Advertising rates and terms will be found on first page. We would like a trial advertisement from all dealers to whom a copy of this issue is sent, as we feel certain that, at our low rates, it is sure to pay.

We have reduced the subscription price of this paper to 15 cents per year. Subscribers who have sent us 50 cents will have 35 cents refunded to them. At this reduced rate we do not guarantee to issue our paper in sixteen page form, but shall make the number of pages suit the quantity of reading matter and advertisements that we have on hand. The title of *Useful Instructor* will be dropped next month, and hereafter this paper will be known as *The Canada Stamp & Coin Journal*. Philately and numismatics will hereafter occupy all our space, and we do not wish any further contributions on other subjects. Good articles on coins and stamps will be thankfully received, and paid for if desired. Authors must affix their own price.

THE COINAGE OF NOVA SCOTIA.

BY D. A. K.

In the early part of this century the copper coins used in the British American Colonies became very scarce, and in no colony more so than in Nova Scotia. The copper coin was so very scarce here that at one time the Royal authorities, to relieve the strain for copper coins, struck at the Royal Dock Yard a large number of copper $\frac{1}{2}$ pennies. They were perfectly plain, no inscription or device of any kind whatsoever. These were popularly known by the name of "Dockyarders." At that time anything in the shape of a circular piece of copper passed current as coin. One of the commonest pieces in circulation then, is what is now known as the Magdalen Island penny, which Admiral Coffin had had issued for his lordship of the Magdalens. But there were, however, many more in circulation in Nova Scotia than where they were struck for. Shortly after the issue of the large English copper penny and two-penny pieces in 1797 there was a large quantity sent out to the colonies, but the thrifty natives of Nova Scotia, finding that they were worth more as copper than as money, soon made away with them all. The merchants were then necessitated to make some effort to procure copper change, and therefore, imitating their friends in the mother country, issued quite a small coinage of half-pennies. Of these coins the first we get, dated 1814, are of quite a respectable size, but the next year a new issue was put out, and the issuers seem to have repented of their generosity in making them so large at first, as they made the 1815 issue not much larger than the English farthing. A couple of firms, however, Miles W. White and Starr & Shannon, made theirs the same size as the first issue.

The lack of a copper coinage and the small size of the Merchants' Tokens arousing great discontent, the Government were at last, in 1823, forced to take the matter in hand, and did so by issuing a copper coinage. The first was a half-penny in 1823, followed by a one-penny in 1824. Those coins are the old familiar Thistle pennies. There were three issues of the half-penny, 1823, 1824, 1832. I have only seen two dates of the one-penny, 1824, 1832, although there is said to be a one-penny of 1823. A peculiarity about those coins is that, although George IV., whose head is on those coins, died in 1830, his head, and not that of his successor, William IV., was continued on the 1832 issue.

The next issue was not till 1840, three years after the Queen had ascended the throne. They were of the same type as the last issue, except the heads being changed. The head of the Queen on those coins is a very poor specimen of work in the way of resemblance, giving Her Majesty a very plain not to say ugly face.

This issue was followed in 1856 by what is known as Mayflower pennies. The coins consisted of a one-penny and a half-penny. The design was an extremely handsome one, on the obverse was a head of the Queen, and on the reverse a bunch of Mayflowers, the emblem of Nova Scotia. These coins were issued both in brass and bronze, of which the brass ones are quite rare. This was the first time that the time honored thistle was not on the Government issues of Nova Scotia coins, and it has not appeared on them since. In 1861 the currency was changed from £ d. s. into \$ c., and the old pennies and half-pennies were called in, and a new issue of cents and half-cents were put in circulation to agree with the new currency. Those coins were one cent and half-cent bronze.

The design was different from any of the other issues, the head of the Queen on it being copied from the design on the current English coins. Those coins are in circulation at the present time, except that the half-cent was withdrawn in 1871.

In 1867 the various provinces of Canada united into a Confederation, and a new bronze and silver coinage was struck for the whole Dominion. Those coins have a head of the Queen as she now appears on the obverse, and on the

reverse the value enquired by a wreath of maple leaves, the emblem of Canada. Those coins hardly belong to Nova Scotia, but as they are the circulating in it at the present time it would be hardly fair to pass them over.

The following is a description, arranged chronologically as much as possible, of the Government issues and the local tokens:—

Obverse.—Province of Nova Scotia. Laureated head of George IV. to left.

Reverse.—One Penny Token, Thistle, 1824-1832.

O.—Same type as preceding.

R.—Half-penny token, Thistle, 1823, '4, '32.

O.—Province of Nova Scotia, Head of Queen Victoria to left.

R.—One penny Token, Thistle, 1840-'3.

O.—Same type as preceding.

R.—Half-penny token, Thistle, 1840-'43.

O.—Victoria D. G.: Britanniar: Reg. F. D., 1856, crowned head of Queen to left.

R.—Province of Nova Scotia, one penny token, bunch of Mayflowers.

O.—Same as preceding.

R.—Province of Nova Scotia, half-penny token, bunch of Mayflowers.

O.—Victoria D. G. Britt. Reg. F. D., bust of Queen to left, head laureated.

R.—One cent, Nova Scotia, 1861, '2, '4, Crown encircled by wreath of roses and Mayflowers.

O.—Same as preceding.

R.—Half-cent, 1861, '64, same as preceding.

LOCAL TOKENS.

O.—Half-penny token, 1814, laureated head of Geo. III. to right within circle.

R.—Payable by Hostrman & Etter, Halifax, building, full front, size 18.

O.—Same as preceding, 1815, no circle round head.

R.—Same as preceding, size 17.

O.—Same type as preceding.

R.—Success to Navigation and Trade, full-rigged ship to right, size 17.

O.—Same type as preceding.

R.—For the convenience of trade, ship under sail to right.

O.—Same type as preceding.

R.—Payable by Carritt & Alport, Halifax, ship under sail to right.

O.—Broke, Halifax, Nova Scotia, bust of Broke to left in naval uniform.

R.—Britannia, 1814, Britannia seated to left with olive branch in right hand.

O.—Same type as preceding.

R.—Payable by John Alex. Barry, Halifax, ship to right, size 16.

O.—Same as preceding.

R.—Halifax, ship to right, size 16.

O.—Same as preceding.

R.—Genuine British copper, Britannia seated to right, size 16.

O.—Half-penny token, 1815, barrel in circle, spikes, nails, etc., on head of barrel.

R.—Importer of ironmongery, hardware, etc., within circle; Payable | by | Miles W. | White | Halifax | N. S. size 18.

O.—Payable at W. L. White's, Halifax House, Halifax, One | Farthing.

R.—W. L. White's, Halifax House, Halifax, Cheap | Dry | Goods | Store, size 14.

O.—Starr & Shannon, Halifax, 1815, Indian with dog to left.

R.—Half-penny token, Nova Scotia, ship under full sail to right, size 17.

O.—Commercial change, 1815, Indian with dog to left.

R.—Same as preceding, size 17.

O.—Wholesale and Retail Hardware Store, 1815, house, full front.

R.—Halifax, Nova Scotia, in centre; spades, barrel, scythe and sickle, size 16.

O.—Same as preceding.

R.—Payable at W. A. de S. Black's, Halifax; barrel, spades and scythe, size 16.

O.—No one impute lacesit, Thistle in centre.

R.—Payable at the store of J. Brown, ship to right, sails furled, size 16.

O.—Half-penny token, Commerce to right, setted scales in right hand and cornucopia in left.

R.—Nova Scotia and New Brunswick success, ship under full sail to right, size 16.

O.—Robert Purves, Wallace; Cheap | Family | Store.

R.—Encourage | country | importers | size 16.

O.—Ferry Token.

R.—Halifax Steamboat Company, steamer to left, size 12.

Of those tokens the Purves token was the last one issued.

It was issued by Robert Purves, of Wallace, who did a ship building and general store business in Wallace, N. S., for about 15 years. The token was issued in 1857 or 1858. There were about half a ton weight of them made, but were never all issued, as, in 1867, when all tokens were out of circulation and not considered legal coin, Mr. Purves had about 600 lbs. in his possession, which he sold out for old metal. There are several other tokens which are said to be Nova Scotian, but on such slight authority as not to warrant their insertion in any list.

BRIC-A-BRAC.

[SELECTED.]

A curious old book, by Matthias Koops (the first book printed on paper made solely from straw, and the appendix from wood pulp), informs us that the ancients used to preserve their parchment, paper and books from moths by washing them over with cedar or citron oil, which gave them at the same time an agreeable scent. It is believed that the preservation of the books found in the grave of Numa was solely attributed to this precaution.

According to Wehrs, the oldest known specimen of linen paper extant is a document written A. D. 1308. This was probably made as early as 1300. Indeed, many leading historical writers concur in that date. Wehrs supposes that, in making paper, linen rags were, either by accident or through design, at first mixed with cotton rags, so as to produce a paper which was partly linen and partly cotton, and that this led by degrees to the manufacture of paper from linen only. He also claims the honor for Germany, but Schonemann gives the distinction to Italy, because there, in the district of Ancona, a considerable manufacture of cotton paper was carried on before the fourteenth century.

This oldest document or paper as yet brought to light by searchers and delvers for the quaint and curious is an account-book, the paper of which is supposed to have been manufactured out of linen rags by the Holbein family at Ravensburg. The date of this ancient paper record is 1301. It is rather a suspicious circumstance that the paper of this account-book is marked with the "Globe and Cross," while it is a well-known fact that all the paper from the Holbein mills bore the "Ball's Head" water-mark. This exception, however, does not stamp the account-book as a forgery, for, as has been aptly suggested, a forger would have directed his ingenuity toward the imitation of an old mark, and not to the invention of a new one.

KING Theobaw's remarkable collection of Oriental MSS.—a collection handed down to him as an heirloom—has been secured for the India Office in London. Many of these MSS. are extremely valuable, inasmuch as they treat almost exclusively of the modern history of Burma and Siam. They for the first time give an insight into the peculiar views held by the Burmese people and its leaders of their

European visitors. And dating as they do from the time of Portuguese settlements, when men like John de Silveira and Ferdinand de Moraes, represented European culture in those regions, when men like Ferdinand Mender Pinto were the channel through which Europe received its knowledge of the East, they must be regarded as historic authorities of the greatest value.

The holding an inquest upon treasure-trove is among the most ancient duties of the coroner. By a statute of Edward I. the coroner was required, on being certified by the king's bailiffs or other "honest men of the country," to go to the places where treasure was said to be found and to inquire who were the finders. It is quaintly suggested that it may well be perceived who is to be suspected of finding it, "where one liveth riotously, haunting taverns and hath done so a long time." Moreover, the individual might be apprehended upon this suspicion. But the new regulations will probably supercede all these old processes. In the future there will be little temptation to conceal treasure-trove, because the finder will be quite as substantially rewarded by discovering it to the authorities. In a recent case the treasury gave a practical illustration of this. A number of old English gold coins of various dates were found by a workman in some old oak beam which was taken from a farmhouse near Luton. Of these many proved of such rarity that they were sent to the national collections, but the treasury gave orders that the finder should be paid for them at the rate of their value as old gold, while the remainder were returned to him.—*Chambers' Journal*.

The Boston man who recently bought at an auction in Philadelphia a rare book for two dollars, for which he was afterwards offered six hundred and fifty, was probably some "nosing antiquary" or book collector, who knew at once the value of his treasure.

The report of this sale has shown that instead of their being but two copies of the book extant, there are half a dozen or more, but the purchaser's bargain was nevertheless a good one. The annals of book sales record numerous instances where rare books have been bid off "for a song," and on the contrary there are many cases where the buyer has paid fabulous sums in order to gain the coveted volume.

The enthusiastic book collector rarely stops to think of expense as long as he fears that some one else may secure the desired prize. Emerson tells the story of the sale of the only perfect copy of an edition of "Boccaccio," published in Venice in 1471. It was sold at an auction of a library 75 years ago in England, and two noblemen competed for the treasure. Shortly the bids rose to 500 guineas; that bid was doubled, and so the contest proceeded, until at last the book was knocked down at £2,260. "When the hammer fell," adds Emerson, "the stroke of its fall sounded on the uttermost shores of Italy. The tap of that hammer was heard in the libraries of Rome, Milan and Venice, and Boccaccio stirred in his sleep of 500 years."

That the passion for collecting rare books is strong in our city is seen in the recently formed "Club of Odd Volumes," whose members meet to enjoy the precious privilege of handling for an evening one another's collections of unique and costly books, a favor which the true-book collector is always chary of granting his fellows.—*Globe*.

The sum of \$22,250 was paid in London last week for two prints lately belonging to the late Duke of Buccleuch, sold at auction. The first, Rembrandt's famous "Hundred Guilder" piece in its first state, fetched £1,300. It was bought by the Berlin Museum. The second was the first state of "Our Lord before Pilate." The price, £1,150, was the largest sum ever paid for this fine etching. It was bought by an American, name not given.

THE TWELVE PENCE CANADA.

The Canadian Provinces can boast of the rarest and most interesting stamps known to collectors. Newfoundland has its rarest shilling, Nova Scotia and New Brunswick have rare shillings of unique designs, New Brunswick being the home of the Connell stamp, one of the most remarkable stamps issued. But Canada has its twelve pence, of which I want to speak in particular. They were made in New York, and about 50,000 were printed on thin, unperforated paper. They were sent to the Canadian P. O. in 1851. Only 800 of them, however, were issued. The people were slow to appreciate them, even the postmaster was slow to appreciate them. The twelve pence were intended to pay postage to England, but the rate being soon changed to ten pence, it was withdrawn. Very few of the 800 were used, the public not knowing that such a stamp existed. What became of the 50,000 received by the Government I am not sure, but presume they were destroyed, as none of them have escaped.—F. O. CREED in *Texas Stamp*.

A RICH DISCOVERY.

AN INTERESTING AND TRUE STORY, TOLD IN A DRAWING ROOM CAR ON THE UNION PACIFIC R. R.

A pleasant morning in September, 1884, found the writer, accompanied by his wife and daughter, in the vicinity of Cheyenne City, W. T.

We were seated in a drawing room car of one of the fast trains of the Union Pacific Railway. Our meals were served us in the dining room cars that were attached to our train, and they were as well cooked and served as in any first class hotel of New York or Chicago. Every one had had their breakfast, and felt the consequent satisfaction that results from partaking of a good meal. Sociability and joviality were the prominent features of the hour. The passengers were as happy and agreeable a lot as it has been my pleasure to meet. Every one wished to know his neighbors, and to make the time pass pleasantly, and generally with success.

A scarf pin, worn by one of the party, was noticed by another, and the remark made that it was a decided novelty. The gentleman took the pin and passed it round for inspection, requesting each one to state what they thought it was, opinions were various, but the general decision was that it was an ancient gold coin, in splendid condition. I coincided with these opinions, but went farther, stating the reigning emperor, name, age of the coin, and gave a little history of its time. This led to a farther discussion in regard to the coinage of various countries, and some of the gentlemen spoke so correctly and intelligently of the world's coinage that all were entertained and interested. From this subject the conversation drifted to telling stories, and I suggested that these should be a continuation of the theme of old coins, and that each should relate some personal recollection that had occurred in their past history. The first was related by Dr. B——, of St. Louis, a man well known in the numismatic world; and the following is a digest of the main points of the story in his own words:

"Shortly after the close of the war of 1861—5, I held a position in a prominent bank of a large southern city that shall be nameless. More borrowers than depositors were among our callers, for the people had only begun to rise from their ruined plantations, and lacked the means to restock and replenish them again. Help must be hired and no money to hire with. Everything was demoralized, and of necessity nothing but money could straighten out the complexity of affairs.

The banks were ready to furnish means, providing the security was good and ample. I remember distinctly a lady calling one morning to negotiate a loan. She was plainly but neatly dressed; and, as she desired a private interview

I invited her into the inner office. She told her story briefly and to the point, and with that air of refinement and grace that denotes the true lady. Previous to the war her husband owned a fine plantation four miles east of the city limits, with nearly 200 slaves, and all necessary apparatus to carry on the plantation successfully.

They had three children, one a boy of seven, and two daughters younger. Like his associate planters, her husband espoused the Confederate cause, joined the army, and in one of the battles before Richmond, gave up his life to the 'lost cause.'

The close of the war found her family destitute and nearly penniless. All the slaves were freed; the Confederate government had driven off all their stock, paying for the same in worthless confederate scrip.

Fire had devastated their plantation, and nothing but the home buildings remained. They were in great need and could she not effect a loan of a few hundred dollars, giving them security on her land property? I laid the matter before the other officers of the bank, and they instructed me to drive over to the lady's place the following day, and make a report of the condition of the plantation. This I accordingly did, and was pleasantly received by the lady and her intelligent children. The son, now fourteen years of age, directed me in my ride over the premises. He was one of the brightest boys I had ever met, and showed training by a master hand. To my enquiry who had been his tutor, he answered, "No one but mother." About a half mile from the house, we passed a peculiar formation of ground, and I asked what it was. Harry answered it as the remains of an old French fort of by-gone times. He said he had found some coins, French apparently, while digging in it one day; and on my return to the house he showed them to me. All were copper but one, and this was so covered with an incrustation as to not be decipherable. I took my knife, and out through the crust, discovering it to be gold. Before leaving, I stated to Harry that it was possible he might find more gold coins if he searched the old fortification carefully and thoroughly; and if he did so, I would give him \$3.00 each for all he found.

Returning to the bank, I presented my report, and it was decided not to loan the lady any money, as the security was not considered desirable. This was the answer given her when she called the following day. She burst into tears, exclaiming: "God pity us: must we starve?" and before we could address her another word she was gone. The next week, as I was passing out of the bank, I met Harry, and shaking him by the hand, I enquired after his mother and sister. All were well; but he wanted me, if I would to take the old French coin, and give him \$3.00 for it, which I did, and told him to keep up good heart, maybe he would find more if he was diligent in his search. He assured me he would be and went away quite light-hearted.

I think about two weeks after this Harry came into the bank, enquiring for me. I saw on the instant that he had agreeable news to communicate, so I took him in an inner room, where we would be alone.

The instant the door was shut, he burst out with, "Oh, Mr. B. I have found lots of them." I guessed at once what he meant, and said, "Tell me all about it, Harry." He was excited most thoroughly, but told the story plainly. "For the first few days after you were there, I dug considerably in the old fort but found only a few pieces of old iron and a solitary copper; but I kept constantly at it, for we so needed the money if I could find any, and your words encouraged me very much. I came to the city, and let you have the one I had at \$3.00, and spent the money for flour to keep us alive. Every day after this I felt I must find more gold pieces or what should we do. Day before yesterday I found two of them near one of the inner corners of the fort. This greatly encouraged me. I commenced digging all around, and digging deeper. Yesterday, all day, I kept going deeper, and at dark I gave up, tired and

disheartened. Thought I would not try any more, but my night's sleep rested me, and I went early at it again. Some time in the forenoon I came upon some old rotten wood that seemed to be plank. My pick went through it into a hollow space below. I cleaned off the dirt, and found it was some kind of a chest, and opening it by taking off the rotten plank cover, I saw there were books and manuscript records in it. My shouts to mother soon brought her to the spot. Taking out the books and papers, I passed them up to her. Under the papers I found another box, and this was heavy, and almost all I could lift up on the bank above my head. In tipping it I could hear the clinking together of the coin, and I was so excited I hardly knew what to do.

But I passed up the balance of the contents of the chest; two short French swords, two curious pistols and several other things. Between mother and I we took the chest to the house, and I pried off the lid. It was gold, and the same kind that I found before, only these were clean and nice. Here are six of them Mr. B., and will you give me \$3.00 each for them?" I examined them. They were old French "louis d'ors" worth \$4.00 or over, in United States gold; and I told Harry I would give him \$4.00 each for every one of them. A happier youngster I never saw. I ordered my horse and carriage and immediately drove out to the plantation. In the presence of the lady and her children I counted out the gold pieces—just 1343 and I gave Harry a certificate of deposit in the name of the mother for \$5,372. Before sunset we had the gold in the bank vaults, and saw Harry started homeward with quite a load of comforts that must have come at a timely moment. They have never seen want since, and to-day no better conducted plantation can be found than Harry M's, or one better looked after or more productive. Its years of idleness gave new strength to the soil and, the flourishing crops attest the thoroughness of culture and that a master hand guides all, others have dug over the old fort but no more louis duors have greeted the eyes of the expectant seekers.

J. G. BINGHAM.

McGrawville, N. Y.

Dec. 20, 1886.

POULTRY.

It is a well known fact that as long as human nature continues as it is, so will the contemplation of the inferior animals prove to most persons a source of constant enjoyment, as at present almost everybody takes an interest in some member of the brute creation. A well known writer says, that the fondness for animals finds gratification in many ways. The ornithologist is so absorbed in the study of the feathered denizens of field, forest, and shore—and a most fascinating study it is—that he seeks no other amusement, and we can readily understand how some enthusiasts in these pursuits even turn all domesticated birds because they are not nature's own, pure and parcel of the wild landscape. The keeping of poultry is on the whole better suited to the multitude than any other hobby we know of, there is plenty of opportunity for studying their habits. As in any other tame stock, their habits are quite as interesting, while their beauty in form and coloring can hardly be exceeded, and besides this there are special economic considerations. No domestic animals will yield larger pecuniary returns for expense of feed and attendance than poultry—if rightly managed. The interest in blooded fowls is now so great that every year there are thousands of beginners that are led to try their hands at the fascinating pursuit of breeding fine poultry. Now no experienced fancier need be told of the difficulty of properly attending to a half a dozen or more varieties at a time, but the great bulk of our readers are probably not experienced, and a word in season may be of advantage to many, who following the cravings of their fancy purchase many sorts at once. To

those we would say, if you have plenty of time on your hands to care for and tend them—then go ahead. But the majority will find it better to select the one breed best suited to their fancy, and devote their time in carefully attending to and improving it. Besides considerable space and house-room is required where different varieties are kept, as otherwise like the poem of the twins "they will become slightly mixed," and the fanciers interest in them will suddenly vanish. Many people assert their objection to poultry keeping because they say it cannot be done successfully without plenty of yard-room, but this is not the case. True if your grounds will permit of their having a large run over which to forage so much the better, but if you have a fondness for poultry and gauge the number of fowls to what limited space you command, with a warm house for the winter season, well ventilated, variety of food and cleanliness, the good-natured Biddy will not find fault and will repay you for your kindness and attention with a profitable supply of eggs and chicks. Much may be said in favor of only small flocks being yarded together as all our best poultry fanciers—some of whom raise hundreds of blooded stock annually—advocate that small flocks kept together tend to greater cleanliness and contentment, two great essentials to success in raising poultry. Then again there is scarcely any family from whose table there is not thrown each day sufficient to feed as many fowls as would keep them supplied with plenty of good fresh eggs and a nice fat chicken for dinner occasionally, thus economizing in the matter of housekeeping expenses. It is a well known fact that many of the choice birds seen at our Exhibition were raised in no very extensive yards in our towns and cities, as those breeding them were thus able to look after them better in their leisure time than if they had more space and greater numbers, thus being able to show them in better condition. Of course there are many advantages possessed by those fanciers who have been many years in the poultry raising business, and raise greater numbers, in being able to cull only those birds for exhibition which show the greatest perfection, but while they have this advantage they also have the greatest expense, and in many instances devote their whole time and energy to the business. But it can and is being done profitably by those who only raise what their time and space will allow. There is scarcely a peasant's house in France, but what has its poultry yard well supplied, and in our own town the supply of poultry is far short of the demand, and those raising more than they require for the family table need have no fear of not being able to dispose of their surplus stock, there being constant demand in large quantities by hotels and steamers. We will occasionally give hints as to the habits of the different breeds, care and feeding, of course we would not advise as to any particular kind being the best, for like everybody's baby "our is the best," and to attempt to say otherwise would only bring a cyclone about our ears. So we will leave the matter of choice to those interested and only caution beginners. Don't attempt too many kinds at first, as one breed looked after carefully is more profitable than a whole barn-yard full—neglected.

Z.E.D.

MR HENRY HECHLER, of this city, has written us a first class article on the stamps of the Canadian Provinces, including Old Canada, Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, Prince Edward Island, and British Columbia. He has given the most minute details of every stamp, post card, newsband, and stamped envelope. Mr. Hechler is acknowledged as an authority on many subjects relating to philately; his article on "watermarks," now running as a serial in the *Halifax Philatelist*, is a specimen of his writing, and is much admired by all. The first installment of "The Stamps of British North America" will appear in our next issue, be fully illustrated, and should be read by every philatelist.

A CORAL ISLAND.

PEOPLE used to think the coral islands were built from the bottom of the sea; but the tiny architects which construct them, the polyps, cannot live at any great depth in the water, therefore they support their workmanship upon some rock beneath. Neither can these little builders live out of the water; but they gradually bring the framework of the island to the surface of the water, and the work of completion is brought out in another way, which Captain Chem, of the Royal Navy, describes as follows:

"First, the foundation is built up until it makes a break or ripple on the surface. Something is then drifted and entangled on it—maybe a log of wood, a dead tree, a mass of weed. Then birds bring their food of fishes and leave their bones there. Sand, gravel and broken shells accumulated around it, and it begins to appear above water.

Seeds drifting on the ocean are next arrested in their progress. Dead wood, decayed leaves, and fish bones form a soil. The seed, generally the mangrove, germinates, and rapidly too, with the heat and rain of the tropics. This becomes a bush, then a tree. Its roots grasp the surrounding soil, and it becomes the nucleus of a mangrove island, waiting for some passing discoverer to name it.

I have watched with real interest the progress of these islets from year to year—first the ripple, then the collection of leaves, sand and shells, then the first shoot of the mangrove, then the sea shells, the hermit crab and the surface ocean shell—all soon to become a coral island."—*Ec.*

NEWSPAPERS.

The history of newspapers begins with the written news letters which were circulated from hand to hand in the fifteenth and sixteenth centuries. The discovery of the art of printing was applied principally to book work, but the adaptation of the art to the circulating of news was very slow for two centuries or more.

The first weekly news journal in England was issued in 1632. Next came a succession of papers, called the "News," one of which was used for advertising in 1648. The first strictly commercial paper appeared in London in 1657; the first literary paper in 1680, and a sporting paper was issued in 1683.

The first daily paper appeared in London in 1702, and in the course of fifty years from that time, there were a large number of monthly, weekly, and daily journals. The limits of this article will not permit a review of the progress of the newspaper press on the continent. The history and growth of journalism in the United States is far more important and interesting to us.

Americans are a news-loving and news-buying class of people; no nation pays more for news; and no country circulates more newspapers.

Newspapers began publication in the colonies, in 1690, in Boston, which was promptly suppressed by the authorities.

The *Boston News Letters* was published weekly from 1704 to 1776. James Franklin started the *New England Courant*, in Boston, in 1721.

The *Pennsylvania Packet*, (Published in Philadelphia.) became the first daily paper in 1784.

The still preserved copies of some of these earlier American journals are curiosities in size, paper, and the antiquity of "news," when printed; and the absence of editorial expression of opinion, is very amusing.

The oldest papers in New York are the *Commercial Advertiser*, dating from 1797, and the *Evening Post*, established 1801.

The *Journal of Commerce* was founded in 1827; the *Sun* 1833; and the *Herald* in 1835. The most active competition in news-gathering and printing has made the U. S. press what it is. Enterprise in this direction began

with the Journal of Commerce, in 1828. There were fast packets between Europe and America. The *Journal of Commerce* set afloat a fast schooner, which intercepted inbound ships off Sandy Hook, procured the news and foreign papers in advance of rivals, and thereby gained a large circulation.

The "American Newspaper Directory" gives that Canada has 79 daily's, 477 weekly's, and 71 monthly's. Total 671. The United States has 1,216 daily's, 10,685 weekly's, 1,603 monthly's, Total 14,160 papers.

Six papers print editions of more than 150,000. (*The Youth's Companion* having 380,000 alone.) 24 papers have more than 100,000. New York has the largest publication of the States, having 1,134, thirty more than Illinois.

R.N.E.

"PHILATELISTS."

WHICH MEANS MEN WHO COLLECT POSTAGE STAMPS.

A Mania with which many Persons have been Seized—Big Prices paid for Rare Postage Stamps.

The man who has the mania for collecting postage stamps is known, technically, as a philatelist. The word is derived from the Greek, and is translated "love of a tax." Mr. Bogert, President of the National Philatelic Society of New York, thinks the title is not the most happy one that could be procured; but, as it has gone into general use, both in this and other countries, it is too late to change it. There is an impression among the general public that stamp collecting is confined to boys and eccentric men and women. This impression, however, is wrong. A great many bankers and brokers in this and other cities, who have proved by their business successes that they are possessed of sound judgment, are enthusiastic stamp collectors.

The postage stamps used in the world run up into the thousands, and a book of seventy-four pages, printed in fine type, is required to catalogue them. The United States government issues at the present time 209 stamps of different kinds (not including revenue stamps), which range in value from one to ninety cents apiece. A complete collection of these and other foreign stamps, of recent dates, unused, is worth in the philatelic market about twice their face value.

Just now stamp collecting is booming. Never before in the world's history were there so many engaged in it. There are in Paris 180 wholesale dealers in stamps, and a large number of periodicals. A single wholesale dealer in the southern part of France imported last year 3,000,000 foreign postage stamps. Three years ago a son of the Duchess de Gallina possessed a collection of stamps for which he had paid £70,000, and his library consisted of nearly 300 volumes. M. de Rothschild's collection is valued at £10,000, and it is shown only to special friends. At the Paris Mint a large collection of postage stamps is kept. M. Phillip Farran owns 1,500,000 stamps and he employs two librarians to keep them in order. The best collection of English postage stamps belongs to Mr. Philbrick, Q. C. The Duke of Edinburgh is a notable collector of stamps.

The first postage stamp of which there is any record was issued by the British Government in 1840; Switzerland and Brazil came next in 1843, and the first postage stamp appeared in the United States in 1847. In 1842, however, the Postmaster in this city issued a few blue colored oval stamps, bearing the inscription, "U. S. City Despatch," and a picture of Washington, for his own convenience. Also, in 1845, a local stamp was issued at the New York Post Office with a face value of five cents. This latter stamp can be bought now for \$2.50. Those of the issue of 1842 are worth \$75.

The first stamped envelopes issued by Santinia in 1818, if used in good condition, bring \$30 each. Among the

rarest and most expensive French stamps is the vermilion one-franc of 1849, worth \$50. Old red Brazilian stamps are worth to the collector from \$25 to \$30. Hawaii, 1832, are valued at \$82, and rare Canadian and Newfoundland stamps fetch \$50 and \$55. An Island of Mauritius stamp issued in 1847 readily yields its holder \$80. But they are scarcer than hen's teeth.

Stamps have recently been issued by the Congo Free State of the denominations of 5, 10, 25, and 50 centimes. They are printed in a bright tint, and bear the expressive features of King Leopold II. In connection with these a very neat postal card has also been issued.

Among American stamps those issued by the postmaster at Brattleboro, Vt., in 1846, are very rare, and readily bring \$190 in this city. If attached to the original envelope the fortunate possessor can get \$250 for one of them. There are less than a score of them in existence. A Baltimore stamp of 1846 recently turned up in this city and was sent to Europe, where it was sold for \$400. The most valuable stamps are usually sent to Europe because better prices are got there. There are not more than three of the famous Alexandria, Va., five-cent black stamps (on a buff envelope) in existence, and these three are valued at \$230 apiece. There is a Goliad, Texas, stamp worth \$95; a Baton Rouge worth \$50; St. Louis, \$55; and several others valued at \$50 each. At a recent auction sale the collection of the Rev. Mr. Hoenecke, of Milwaukee, brought upward of \$1500.

Eleven stamps, in denominations of from two to twenty cents, were issued by the Confederate States of America during the years 1861-'63, inclusive. Of these the most valuable is the ten-cent blue, 1863; an unused one is worth \$2; used, \$2. An unauthenticated story is told to the effect that previous to this issue by the Confederates, a local postmaster made a stamp for his own use from a stamp used to impress the trade mark on the soles of shoes.

From the nature of the mania for the collection of these little bits of paper, it is hard to estimate how many are engaged in it in this city, but Mr. Le Gary, an amateur collector who lives in Leonard street, and whom this passion has completely absorbed, said that, speaking from an experience of twenty years, he thought there were at least 20,000 people in this city engaged in chasing the philatelic butterfly. There were some twenty dealers, employing from two to twenty people, and almost innumerable collectors who went around buying up old paper and sorting it over for rare stamps. Stamps issued by telegraph companies, he said, had a commercial value, and old stamps on medicine bottles brought good prices. Some of the latter were affixed to bottles worth only 25 cents, while the stamps were valued by philatelists at \$2.—*New York Sun.*

PHILATELIC NOTES.

ONE of the best of our exchanges is the *Stamp*, Denver, Colo.

WE have received Dr. M. Vedel's catalogue (Copenhagen), latest edition. 136 pages. Price 13 cents.

The *Cumberland Collector* has ceased publication. Its lists will be filled by the *Stamp*, Denver, Colo.

Common-Sense is a well printed paper from Mexico, New York. Contains articles of general interest and a philatelic department.

STANTON'S American Philatelic Directory has reached us. It is very badly edited and printed, but a useful list for all interested in philately.

Was the *Stamp World* "Wise or Otherwise" in changing its name and object? Right, title and good will have been transferred to the *Western Philatelist*, Chicago.

The catalogue issued by Mr. W. F. Greany, San Francisco, should be in the hands of every collector. It contains a large number of rare bargains, and a long list of everything required by the collector.

Mr. Alecu G. Panu has kindly sent us a specimen of the new 3-bani stamp for Roumania. It is of the same design as the present stamp, the change being in the color, which is now purple.

Mr. Geo. H. Richmond, 5 Beekman St., New York, has issued "The Philatelic Press Directory," promised some time since. It is very neatly printed, and, although not very well edited, is a good effort in the right direction, and should be appreciated as such. Price 25 cents. May be had from this office.

It is strange how few of the large stamp dealers issue a paper; and, those who do generally publish it for the sole purpose of advertising their business, and it therefore amounts to but a poor specimen of the philatelic press.

Le Timbre Levantin will be found advertised in our adv. columns. It is one of the best of the foreign papers, and we advise all to send for a sample. Mons. Apik Yaremджи, the publisher and editor, is a well known philatelic author.

The *Halifax Philatelist* for April was the best number of that journal yet issued, and will compare favorably with any of the American stamp papers. The issue for May is not near so good, but the Jubilee number will, no doubt, make up for that.

A NEW paper, which will contain a stamp department, is to make its appearance shortly, from Neif's Harbor, Cape Breton. The title is to be *Young Canada*, and the editor and publisher, Mr. W. S. McLean, a well known young man in that section, who deserves success. He would like to hear from those interested, both collectors and advertisers.

Quite a nice little pamphlet is the *Philatelic Annual*, compiled by Mr. E. R. Aldrich, Benson, Minn. Price 10 cents. Mr. Aldrich is also publisher of the *Philatelic Fortnightly*, the only philatelic paper that is issued oftener than once a month. It is a small sheet, but its contents are good.

We have received the *Philatelic Herald* for February. The publishers say that, through sickness, they have been delayed in the publication of their journal, but that it will soon appear regular and on time. The "P. H." is neatly printed, and contains much information that is valuable to collectors; a far better paper than we expected to see, so many adverse opinions have appeared in most of the other stamp papers. We hope the other delayed numbers will soon appear.

EVERY reader of this paper, who desires to see it a big success, will have to assist the publisher as much as possible. In the first place, send along your fifteen cents for a year's subscription; this is but a trifling sum for such a large paper. Then show it, every month, to your friends and induce them to subscribe also. If you wish samples to assist you in securing subscribers, send us ten cents for a package. This ten cents may be deducted from any future order. We allow a cash commission on each sub. you secure. Write for particulars.

AMONG our exchanges this month we notice: American Philatelist, Texas Stamp, Halifax Philatelist, Stamp, Philatelic Review, The Gossip, Philatelic Tribune, Common Sense, Western Philatelist, Mowhawk Standard, Tag and Stamp World, Collector's Aid, Agassiz Companion, International Philatelic Advertiser, Le Timbre Levantin, Philatelic Herald, Southern Collector, Keystone Curiosity Kalender, Old Curiosity Shop, Keystone State Philatelist, Germantown Philatelist, Cumberland Collector, Bay State Collector, Philatelic Fortnightly, Quaker City Philatelist, Youth's Ledger, Trade and Traffic, Stanley, Gibbons & Co.'s Wholesale List, Whitfield, King & Co.'s Wholesale List, G. B. Calman's Wholesale List, Our Monthly Visitor, and others that we have not the space to credit.

EXCHANGE NOTICES.

Notices under this heading will be inserted free for subscribers only, limit 30 words. Over 30 words one cent per word.

10.—I wish to exchange with advanced collectors who have rare stamps, for which I will give good foreign and other stamps. Send sheet priced by Durbin's latest catalogue. Also, send list of philatelic papers. I will give good exchange in stamps, or other philatelic papers for those not in my collection.

FRANK C. KAYE, Halifax, N. S.

Reference: Editors of USEFUL INSTRUCTOR or *Halifax Philatelist*.

11.—WANTED, large copper United States cents of 1794 to 1798, 1800 to 1809, 1810 to 1842, 1844 to 1846, 1849, 1850, 1855, 1857. Also, all dates of U. S. half cents. Will give good exchange in foreign or Canadian coins. I have good duplicates in all kinds of foreign copper coins, to exchange for others.

DONALD A. KING, Halifax, N. S.

Reference: Ed. USEFUL INSTRUCTOR.

12.—WANTED to exchange 3 volumes of *Youth's Companion*, and large collection of stamps, for type, printers material, cards or scraps and rare stamps. United States stamps for Nova Scotia or foreign.

R. N. EDWARDS, Brooks, Maine.

14.—GOOD exchange given for stamps, post cards and envelopes of Newfoundland, Nova Scotia, Canada 1851-1868, and good United States. I send German and Denmark local stamps, 200 different; or old Baden, Bayern, Wurtemberg and Thurn and Taxis. Please use stamped envelopes when you reply.

HERM AUG. MULLER, Giessen, Germany.

15.—WANTED, samples of all Phils. coin and curiosity papers and dealers price lists. Papers to exchange. Send lists.

M. A. MacDONALD, Eldon, P.E.I.

16.—WANTED, coins of Canada and other countries, not in my collection, for which good exchange will be given.

J. M. WOOD, Halifax, N. S.

17.—WANTED, back numbers, volumes, or sets of stamp and coin papers. Also, books and pamphlets on philately, numismatics and natural history. Best exchange in books or stamps.

J. R. FENLAY,
Halifax, N. S.
Box 185.

18.—I WANT correspondents in Siam, Fiji and Sandwich Islands.

HARRISON L. HART,
Halifax, N. S.
71 Gottingen St.

19.—Demandes correspondants dans tous les pays du monde qui veulent moi fournir monnaie de cuivre en course et nouveaux parus, aussi que de plus anciennes émissions de leur pays, pour une bon échange dans monnaie de cuivre de Nouvelle Ecosse, Nouvelle Brunswick, Ile du Prince Edward, Terre Neuve et Canada, par le retour de poste.

Veuillez envoyer offertes les enveloppes de timbre.

DONALD A. KING, Halifax, Nova Scotia.

PUBLISHER'S NOTICES.

THE *Boy's Own Poultry Paper* (Binghamton, N. Y.), is an interesting sheet for, as the editor says, children between the ages of ten and seventy-five.

ON the next page will be found Mr. Geo. Irwin's seed advertisement. Every reader, in need of seeds, should send for a selection. Mr. Irwin is perfectly reliable, and will fill your order promptly.

THE article on page 24, "Poultry," is written by one of our city breeders, who knows just what he is talking about, and his suggestions will be found of value to all fanciers. Other articles, on the same subject, will appear each month.

TALKING about poultry reminds us that Mr. W. H. H. Jackson, whose adv. appears opposite, recently showed us an order for a dozen eggs to be sent to the North-West Territory. This is about the longest trip we ever heard of, in connection with eggs for hatching, and we hope it will prove successful.

WE have been favored with a file of volume two of the *Hoosier Naturalist*, which will be found advertised in our adv. cols. It is a very interesting paper and should be in the hands of all who are interested in natural history. The publishers will please accept our thanks for vol. 2 (but it is a great pity that they did not send vol. 1 along with it).

ABOUT BADGERS.—Badgers have never been familiar to people in the Eastern States, but are common in the North West. Their habits of life are suited to an open country, with a dry soil, such as lies along the eastern slope of the Rocky Mountains. In the "Hunting Trips of a Ranchman," there is given a good and entertaining account of these creatures.

Badgers are more commonly found round prairie-dog towns than anywhere else, and they get their chief food by digging up the prairie-dogs and gophers with their strong forearms and long, stout claws. They are not often found wandering away from their homes in the daytime, but if so caught, are easily run down and killed.

A badger is a most desperate fighter, and an overmatch for a coyote, his hide being very thick, and his form so squat and strong that it is hard to break his back and legs, while his sharp teeth grip like a steel trap.

A very few seconds allow him to dig a hole in the ground, into which he can back all except his head; and when thus placed, with his rear and flanks protected, he can beat off a dog many times his own size.

A young badger one night came up round the ranch-house, and began gnawing at some bones that had been left near the door. Hearing the noise, one of my men took a lantern and went outside.

The glare of the light seemed to make the badger stupid, for after looking at the lantern a few moments, it coolly turned and went on eating the scraps of flesh on the bones, and was knocked on the head without attempting to escape.

"DECOLLOTY."—Low-necked dresses are conducive both to pneumonia and to immodesty. An old man—the merchant in his native village—who had visited Washington for the first time, went home both sadder and wiser. As he had large influence in the county in which he lived, the wife of the Representative in Congress from his district sent the old country merchant's daughter an invitation to spend several weeks with her in Washington. The old man read the letter and handed it to his wife. After sitting a few moments in thought, he turned to her and said:

"Do you know w'at a decolloty dress is?"
"I'm not sure that I do, Isaac; but I reckon it's a material somethin' like silk."

"No, yer off there. 'Decolloty' means no waist to speak of."

"What?" A dress without a waist?"

"Yes; and there's plenty of 'em in Washington. You see women there standing half-clad in cold, draughty parlors, shaking hands with a passel of unprincipled dandys that go off and make fun of 'em! No hospitality, no dress-waists, no sense, no nothin'; but there they stand, grinnin'—grinnin'—and shaking somebody or other's hand. They go and go to these receptions till they drop dead of pneumonie! and then some other ridiculous people take their place and shake hands and grin and go half-clad."

"Do you want our Lucy to do that way?" I'm sure yer don't any more than I do, and no more would Tom Bowles t'et she means ter marry. I tell ye, Sary, them peccoloty dresses is the cause of much domestic trouble and frequent lung diffikilty!"—*Youth's Companion*.

The advantage of a knowledge of a foreign language was illustrated in a Connecticut town, to which two Germans from New York city went to buy tobacco. The farmer asked a price which they said was too great, and then they talked with each other in German, agreeing to take it at the price asked if they found that the farmer would not sell for less. His son, a good German scholar, heard all this, and quietly let his father know; and the old man thereupon calmly held out for half an hour, until the buyers gave his price.

A remarkable feat was performed by a cow belonging to W. G. Browning, of East Greenwich, R. I. He missed the cow from her stall one morning, and, as the barn-door was locked, her escape seemed unaccountable. After some hours' search about the grounds, he found her in the hay-loft. She had broken loose in the night and climbed fourteen steps to the loft. It took a carpenter and an inclined plane to get her down.

There is one branch of education to which the boys in a certain school in Asbury, N. J., have taken a great liking. Their teacher instructs them in "the mysteries of poker," and has a full class, the sessions of which take place after regular school hours. One of the questions asked the other day, "What is the chief end of poker?" elicited this response: "To rake in the pot."

A trial of bloodhounds took place at the convict camp at Friar's Point, Miss. A darkey, who was serving a ten year's sentence, was released and told that he could have his liberty if he escaped the dogs. The convict had three hours' start, but the dogs ran the poor fellow down before he had gone twenty miles.

A preacher who used to hold forth in Sangerville, Me., was wont to be rather wandering in his remarks. One day he asked a lady what his hearers thought of his sermons. "Well, if you must know," said she, "they say that if the text had the smallpox the sermon was in no danger of catching it."

A Massachusetts church sent to a well known theological seminary for a student, and declared, "We don't want any young man; we want an old man, or a married man. The young men cause trouble to the fond mothers, flirt with the girls, and give us veal instead of beef."

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- The Complete Angler..... Lord Byron.
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Those who wish to purchase any of the books can do so at 10c. per volume, or the entire list of 45 for \$4.50, postpaid. Address

THE USEFUL INSTRUCTOR,
Box 185. Halifax, N. S.

Old Goldenlink is opposed to labour organization. Bill Hardy, on the other hand, is an earnest advocate thereof. They were heatedly discussing the right of labour to organize, agitate, strike, and boycott, when the former exclaimed: "Why the very foundations of society are threatened by their wild and unlawful agitations over alleged wrongs. I would not object if they were not apt to be carried away by—" "Oh!" interrupted Bill, "of course they get angry sometimes; but you should remember the labourer is worthy of his ire." The next day Bill attempted to borrow five dollars from Goldenlink and didn't get it.

He had stoped at a cozy-looking cottage and rung the door-bell, and asked the servant who answered for something to eat. She stated that she would summon her mistress. The latter soon appeared, and found the tramp grazing on the narrow border of grass which lined the flower-beds of the front garden. "Why, what are you doing?" she asked. "I'm hungry, mum, for I ain't had nothing to eat for three days." "But do you eat grass?" "Yes'm, when I ain't got nothin' else." "Poor fellow! you must be hungry. Can I help you?" "Yes'm, you could, if you'd give me something to eat. The grass is mighty short down there." "I will help him," remarked the sympathetic little wife to the servant, as she wiped a tear from her eyes, and, continuing said: "Jane, take the poor fellow into the back garden—the grass is so much taller there."

"You must tell people that we are very busy, James, whether we are or not. They like to buy of a firm that they think does a large trade," said the grocer to the new boy. An old lady came in, and after a few words with the boy, she went out. "Didn't old Mrs. Benson want anything, James?" asked the grocer. "Yes, sir, she wanted ten pound o' brown sugar, an' I told her we was so busy we didn't know which way to turn, an' so she said she was in a hurry, an' she'd get it round the corner."

A CITIZEN, whose very industrious habits had advanced him to a country house, walking one day in his garden, caught the gardener asleep under a tree. He scolded him roundly for his laziness, and ended by telling him that such a sluggard was not worthy to enjoy the light of the sun. "It was for that reason," replied the gardener, "that I crept into the shade."

"There is one and truth in an actor's career. It's so sad I admit it with sorrow. The public that greets you with flowers to-day May greet you with torshabas to-morrow."

REV. MR. WHANGLE:—"My boy, I'm sorry to see you flying your kite on the Sabbath day." The boy: "Why, it's made out of the *Christian Weekly*, an' got a tail of tracts."—Puck.

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Yours truly,
JOHN R. FINDLAY,
Books and News.

PHILADELPHIA, PA., DEC. 7, 1886.
The GOLDEN ARGOSY is the best paper I have ever read. I read the sample copy and liked it so well that I continued taking it. My cousin and I can hardly wait till it comes.
P. A. WILEY.

NEW ALBANY, IND., JAN. 19, 1887.
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ERNEST B. GUERREY.

COLUMBUS, OHIO, JAN. 25, 1887.
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L. C. COLLINS,
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BATH, ME., FEB. 1, 1887.
No matter how hard it storms, I am always on hand at the coming of the ARGOSY. I would rather read it than any other paper, and it is a great favorite here in Bath.
H. C. WEBSTER.

NEW YORK CITY, JAN. 18, 1887.
There isn't a paper I like so much as yours, as every word is worth reading.
H. E. N. HUBBERT.

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