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DIED:— At its place of business in St Catharines, Ont., the Canadian Philatelic Journal aged 7 months.

The deceased journal was in its short career, one of the most miserable and horribly printed journals of the host of philatelic papers, publis' ed.

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The cause of its sudden collapso is doubtful, but it is supposed that Mr. French seeing the job his printer done, sold it to C. B. Reece of St. Catharines, in order to free himself of having the thing dieing on his hands. Mr. R. has failed to connect and the subscription list and advertising contracts will be filled by us.

THE MAIL SYSTEM.

The earliest record that we have of anything resembling our modern mail system is the manner in which the ancient Persian and Assyrian kings transmitted their decrees of state—by means of a regular line of messengers, stationed at a distance of a days journey from each other, mounted on swift horses, and prepared for the utmost expedition. Rome thundered her edicts

through the almost numberless Provinces that had acknowledged sway, in a somewhat similar manner. But private messages Lenerally sent by slaves, and as only the higher order could afford that luxury, it is plain that all communication with their absent friends was ontirely cut off from the lower classes. This circumstance affords a striking contrast between the mail system of ancient times and the mail system of the present day, by which a letter of any length can be transmitted to any point in the known world for a mere trifle. The rude civilization of the middle ages hardly improve upon the system of Assyria, Persia and Rome and it was not till the reign of James I. that it began to be more fully developed in England. In 1644, a member of, the House of Commons was appointed master of the Post, (an office corresponding to that of Postmaster General,) and he established a communication by mail with every part of England. Since the invention of the locomotive and the introduction of railroads, the facilities for correspondence, and in consequence, correspondence itself, have very greatly increased, until at the present day the postage revenue forms one of the chief revenues of nations. Of late years, too, the efforts of pioneer philatelists have given a deserved popularity to the work of collecting the different stamps i sued by nations, as a convenient means of prepaying to the government the means of transmitting messages.

The uninitiated are still in ined to snear at it as a useless folly, but it surely is an absorbing and instructive pursuit to the young, and an interesting and scientific study to those of more mature years; and if the history of the powerful countries of to-day shall ever bear the same relation to coming generations that the history of ancient Rome and Greece bears to the present generation, the extensive collections of modern Philatelists will be the key with which the future historian shall unlock to his readers the mine of the history which otherwise would be lost.

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