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THE  
STAMP COLLECTOR'S



MONTHLY GAZETTE.

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GEORGE STEWART, Jr., Editor & Proprietor.

VOL. I.

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SAINT JOHN, N. B.:

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## MONTHLY



## GAZETTE.

VOL. 1. NO. 1.]

ST. JOHN, NEW BRUNSWICK, JUNE 1, 1865.

[PRICE 5 CTS.]

## To our Readers.

WE do not think that it is necessary to offer any apology to the stamp collecting community of these provinces, for bringing our little journal before them, and yet perhaps it is but meet that we should set forth our reasons for so doing. They are very easily stated, and we will endeavour to do so in as few words as possible.

We have long felt that a periodical of some kind, representing the interests of the *timbro phile* world in this quarter of the globe, was much needed; so we came. And here we are kind reader before you, hoping to win your approval, dreading lest we receive your censure; and if haply we gain your approbation and patronage, we will strive not to misuse your confidence; if not we shall at least have the proud satisfaction of having done our best to serve you. If you will but stand by us we will endeavour to do the same by you to the best of our ability and power.

We believe that many persons are under the impression that stamp collecting is slowly but surely dying out, and therefore a journal of this kind is superfluous. This is a wrong idea, it is true, we admit that with many it is not quite so popular as it once was. There is a certain class in every community, who, as soon as anything new or novel is originated, seize hold of it with great avidity, and even with much seeming earnestness; they talk "large," and make a great deal of noise, and then, as soon as the excitement has worn away, they drop it as the child does the *once* delightful toy.

So it is in this case: this said class when stamp collecting commenced, both in Europe and America, went at it with somewhat more than usual eagerness, and, just as might be expected their voice was more than usually loud. The idea was so simple, and seemed so *nice and interesting*, that they wondered they had not thought of it before.

But now that they had got hold of it, they determined that it should be known; accordingly their conversation was all of "obsoletes," "old and present issues," "the last new stamp," &c. &c.; until their unwilling hearers became thoroughly disgusted—directly with them and indirectly with their subject; and thus arose an unwarranted prejudice against the postage stamp movement.

Now when the voice of these noisy ones

ceased to be heard, many who only judged of the popularity of the thing, by the amount of talking done by these self-appointed *expounders* of the movement, erroneously inferred from this circumstance that the *timbro-mania* was getting pretty well "played out."

This was decidedly a mistake: it had passed only into other and better hands; and it is these latter that have made it what it is. Stamp collecting has been completely remodelled and systematized in all its details, and is now quite an institution in almost all civilized countries. If any proof were wanting to establish this truth, we need but point to the numerous stamp publications in existence, which are devoted entirely to this subject. In England alone there are at least a score of weekly and monthly papers and magazines of this kind, and it is also well represented on the continent of Europe and in the United States. We need not mention the regular stamp dealers and agents, they are to be found in every place of any importance, in abundance. In these provinces and more especially in New Brunswick and Prince Edward Island, we think the trade is in the hands of too few, there is not enough of opposition—which is generally said to be the life of trade. We therefore propose to put new life into it by getting up a little more opposition. This will, we believe, work beneficially for both buyer and seller, for stamps will be sold at a lower rate, and at these more moderate prices a larger number will be disposed of. Thus, trade will be extended, and the interests of all parties will be advanced, directly or indirectly.

To those persons who have not the opportunity of seeing British or Foreign "stamp collector's" periodicals, our journal will be particularly valuable, for we intend to give a general synopsis of their contents, each month, in our columns. All new stamps will be noticed as they appear; forgeries, of which there are very many in circulation, will be duly announced and observed as correctly as possible; and in our advertizing columns will be found the names and addresses of the most enterprising and trustworthy dealers and agents.

And now, kind readers, in conclusion we respectfully solicit your continued patronage and favours, as we are determined, if possible, to make our paper one of the best of its kind; and should we receive sufficient encouragement in the way

of subscription &c., no pains shall be spared to make *The Stamp Collector's Monthly Gazette* in point of usefulness and reliability second to no publication of a similar character in existence.

IN our next number we shall have a correspondent's column; and in making this intimation, we would say that we shall answer all questions that may be asked, as far as lies in our power. Correspondence solicited.

MR. A. J. McIntosh, of Montreal, has sent us his new Price Catalogue. It contains 16 pages, and is exceedingly well got up. It gives the color and value of the stamp, as well as the price for which it may be obtained from him. Collectors will do well to secure a copy of it. The price is small when compared to that of other price lists. [See advertisement.]

### Newly Issued Stamps.

PRUSSIA.—We present our readers this month with an engraving of the new Prussian 3 pfennige adhesive stamp. The design is exactly the same as the 4 pfennige green, and 6 pfennige red, which can easily be seen by comparing the three: the color being a rich mauve lilac. It is certainly a very pretty stamp.



DENMARK.—The 2 s. envelope of this country has just appeared. The color is blue.

TURKEY.—A new set of Turkish stamps have lately made their appearance. They are eleven in number; and in design and tint are very beautiful. They are all perforated, which adds greatly to their convenience; and in this respect differ much from the previous issue. Their values are, 10 paras, (green,) 20 paras, (yellow,) 1 piastre, (lilac,) 2 piastres, (blue,) 5 piastres, (pink,) 25 piastres, (red). The above are for common use throughout the Ottoman Empire. The remaining five are used in Constantinople only; 20 paras, 1 piastre, 2, 5, and 25 piastres, (brown).

VICTORIA.—The two shilling stamp has been changed. It was formerly *light green*, on a white ground; but is now *dark blue*, on a yellowish green ground.

NEW GRENADA.—A new set of stamps for New Grenada has lately been issued. There are four of them: 5 centimes, (yellow,) 10 centimes, (violet,) 20 centimes, (blue,) and 50 centimes, (green).

PROVIDENCE, R. I., FIVE CENTS.—This stamp, although not a new issue, is new to a great many of our readers. We do not think that there are more than six in the city, and it is for this reason that we put it under the

heading of "Newly-issued Stamps." It was issued by the Postmaster of Providence, R. I., in 1846. It is oblong, and printed in black, on white paper, with the words: Post Office, Prov., R. I., five cents. We learn that there is a 10 cent stamp, but not having seen it, we cannot say anything about it at present.

✓ CANADA.—*Bancroft's City Express*, a new local for Montreal, has just made its *debut*. It is neatly engraved, and presents a fine appearance. The color is blue, value 5 cents, head in an oval to the right. On the left side are the words, 43 *Gt. St. James St.*, with *Montreal* on the right; value in words at top and bottom; figure five in four corners; *Bancroft's City Express* on oval border. This stamp is perforated. We have yet another local to describe before leaving this province. It is the envelope stamp of an extinct Express Company; black impression on buff paper, with the words, "Portland Express, Winslow & Co., No. 3, Place d'armes, Montreal." When we first saw this stamp we thought it was a sort of an advertisement for the Express, something like that which merchants have printed on their envelopes, with their address, &c. We then wrote on to Montreal, and ascertained, from a very reliable source, that the stamp in question was truly *genuine*. This is all we can say at present concerning this stamp. Any of our readers who may know anything further about it, will confer a favor by communicating with us.

The so-called College Stamp, B. S. & Co., blue, rect, is fictitious. It was issued by an enterprising dealer in Montreal and made to *sell* only.

NOVA SCOTIA.—The five cents blue is now printed in a duller blue than formerly, we do not think that it looks as well as the first issue.

### The "Connell" Stamp.

WE do not think it has ever before fallen to our lot to peruse such a piece of arrant humbug, as is the following article which we transcribe from the columns of *The Stamp Collector's Record*, a stamp monthly published in Albany, N. Y. At first we intended only to make extracts from the most absurd portions of it; but thinking it a pity to spoil such a fine specimen of hyperbole, we finally decided to copy it entire, for the amusement of our readers who may not have had the chance of seeing it before, it runs as follows:—

#### "CONNELL."

"New Brunswick has the honor of having produced the rarest stamp in the World, viz.: the "Connell," as it is universally called. Now this stamp is not an essay in any sense of that much abused word, the circumstances are simply as follows: In the year 1861, the Hon. Charles Connell, a gentleman renowned alike for his integrity, genius and benevolence, was the Post Master General of the obscure Province of New Brunswick. Soon after entering on his official duties, Mr. Connell rightly discovered that the postage stamps of the Province were susceptible of improvement, and to that end employed the famous American Bank Note Company to execute a set of stamps in lieu of the unsightly labels hitherto used. Mr. Connell furnished the designs, the idea of

which were certainly original, and which speaks for the excellent taste of that gentleman to the present day, for the stamps of New Brunswick are unsurpassed, in point of elegance and neatness, by any stamps in Christendom. Mr. Connell's idea was the sensible one of putting a different design on each stamp, and to that end, a steam engine on the 1c., a head of her Majesty of England, on the 10c., a steamboat (indicating European postage) on the 12c., a portrait of the possible future monarch of England on the 17c., and his own portrait on the 5cent.

The stamps arrived, and were issued to the public, but, alas! unfortunate Mr. Connell had, in the eyes of her majesty's lieges of New Brunswick, committed a fearful crime; that he, a mortal created man, a descendant of Adam and Eve, should dare to engrave his honest countenance on a similar piece of paper to that on which the majesty of that broad domain, on which the sun never sets, was depicted; it was monstrous, it was outrageous, it was frightful, it was treasonable. A mass meeting, *presided over by a political opponent* of Mr. Connell, was instantly called to express their horror at the dreadful deed, and it was resolved to request Mr. Connell to resign; but, long ere the fumes of the whiskey destroyed on the eventful night of that mass meeting had subsided, Mr. Connell had dashed the reins of the P. O. Department back in the face of the Governor, and retired at once and forever from the political arena.

The stamp was, therefore, used for one day, and a number having passed through the P. O., it therefore could not be an essay."

Comment on the above will be altogether unnecessary to any of our readers who are at all acquainted with the real facts of the case; it is quite enough merely to place it before them, and they will at once perceive the vein of misrepresentation and untruth which prevades—and we might safely say—comprises the whole.

Few would deem it possible that so much error, and unfounded, or (speaking more plainly) false assertions, could be crowded into so small a space. From the first line to the last there can hardly be found a single sentence boasting one particle of truth.

For the benefit of those who may not be very well posted in the true circumstances of the affair, a few remarks may not be amiss.

Well, in the first place, the writer of the strange medley of humbug and bosh, states that in 1861 Mr. Chas. Connell "a gentleman renowned alike for his integrity, genius and benevolence," was Post Master General of New Brunswick, and, as a remarkable proof of his said "genius," he actually discovered that the stamps of the province were "susceptible of improvement." Now it will be remembered that, it was about this time that the decimal currency was introduced into New Brunswick, and the old system of reckoning by £. s. d., done away with. A large quantity of specie was ordered from England, consisting of one, five, ten, and twenty cent pieces, for the purpose of making change. Our "unsightly labels" were three in number, viz., a threepenny, sixpenny, and a one shilling stamp. One would think that it would not require a very large stock of "genius" to discover that a set of stamps, representing cents instead of pence, would now be needed. Even the remarkably stupid writer in the *Record* would have done the same under similar circumstances. The gifted writer then goes on to show how Mr. C.'s ingenuity was set forth in "putting a different design on each

stamp," for example, a locomotive on one, a portrait of Queen Victoria on another, &c., &c. But as a mark of his own appreciation of the great services rendered to his country, he conceived the wondrously brilliant idea of having engraved on the five cent stamp a delineation of his "own honest countenance."

Our talented friend then proceeds to inform his readers how it was that these stamps were not allowed to be used, and imparts to us a little piece of information which has, at least, the merit of being entirely original. His account of the "mass meeting," which he says was held for the purpose of expressing the popular indignation of the public with the Post Master General in his high-handed act, has not one word of truth in it; there was no such event ever took place, and therefore his silly prating about *political opponents*, and the *request to resign*, is altogether unfounded. As for the "fumes of whiskey," they exist only in the muddled brain of the author of the story.

The facts of the matter are simply these: when this celebrated stamp was issued, the attention of the government was at once called to it, and they very properly ordered Mr. Connell to stop the issuing of them. The worthy Post Master General then declared that if the command was enforced he would resign; it was, and he did. And there is the truth of the matter.

The wisdom of the N. B. government in their course is too apparent to need any comment. Were such an unusual precedent as that of Mr. C.'s once suffered to be established, it is hard to say where it might end. In a short time his term of office would have expired, and then, most likely, some other individual would have taken his place, and it is hardly to be supposed that his successor would possess such a high opinion of his career of usefulness as to allow "his honest countenance" any longer to grace the stamp, if he could help it. It is not at all unlikely that Mr. Connell's successor would try to have it removed, and his own substituted in its place.

We are next informed that Mr. C. got so terribly disgusted with the people, and the government, and everybody else, that he "retired at once and forever from the political arena." Again the writer has blundered most surprisingly. In 1861, the very year that he resigned his office, he again offered himself as a candidate at the general election; *he was defeated*, however, and returned to private life, although not "once and forever," for when the election again took place, he again came forward, was returned, and now represents Carleton County in the House of Assembly. So much for the reliability of this account.

The writer of this elegant and accurate production, speaks of New Brunswick as the *obscure* province. We assure him that it is not nearly so obscure as are his ideas; were it so the stuff which he has written would never

have reached this remote and isolated region; and he never would have been called to account for the absurd statements which he has made.

He finally winds up by coolly assuring his readers that this stamp "having passed through the P. O., it therefore could not be an essay." We think that this is plainly another error, for in one sense of the word, at least, it may very appropriately be called an essay; and it is an essay which, we believe, no Postmaster General or "any other man" in this *obscure* province, will again attempt for some time to come.

We wonder if the "obscure" genius of the *Record* sees the point.

### Postal Chat-Chat.

*Motto for a Postage Stamp.*—"A penny for your thoughts."

*High Treason at the Post Office.*—Punching the Queen's head.—*Fun.*

WHY are gentlemen's love letters so liable to go astray? Because they are always mis(s) directed.

WHY is a postage stamp like a school-master? Because one sticks with a lick, and the other licks with a stick.

ON DIT.—That the United States is going to have a new set of stamps.

Those of our readers who have not complete sets of the above country's stamps, will do well to get them as soon as possible, for soon the present issue will become rare, especially the higher values of the U. S. adhesives and envelopes. They are withdrawing their stamps very fast. The 12 and 40 cent envelopes have been called in.

We have just received the ninth annual report of the Post Office Department for the fiscal year ending 1864. Want of space prevents us giving a more extended notice of its contents. It says, the amount of postage stamps sold during the year was \$22,216.83, an increase of \$7,663,97½ upon that of the previous year. The number of letters posted was 794,125, and the number received for delivery, 850,423. The number of newspapers received for delivery was 1,766,544, and the number posted, 2,059,627.

THERE are Stamps now selling purporting to be the new issue Egyptian, they are printed green ink on yellow paper, the center contains a view of the Pyramids, in each corner is a triangle containing the figur 3; inscription at top "Porteio" at bottom "Aspers"—*The Stamp Collectors Journal.*

No less than 75 varieties of Postage Stamps have emanated from Spain, or, including the Spanish Colonies, 96 different Stamps.—*Id.*

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G. STEWART, JR.,  
St. John, N. B.

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