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DECEMBER, 1893.

VOL. I.

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NO. 2.

THE

Canadian

Philatelic

Magazine.

PUBLISHED MONTHLY.

A. M. MUIRHEAD, EDITOR.

228 Hollis Street, - - Halifax, N. S.



The Canadian Philatelic Magazine.

PUBLISHED MONTHLY.

Vol. I.

DECEMBER, 1893.

No. 2

CURRENT PHILATELICS.

THE portrait of Alvah Davison in Mekeels "Stamp Collectors Souvenir" looks as though he were hiding behind a screen whilst the photograph from which the cut was made was being taken.

THE *Weekly Philatelist* has completed its first year of continuous publication. It has never missed a number and its regularity has been exceptional.

WHAT has become of the P. S. of C. is one of the many things we don't know. Perhaps the cold weather has killed it, or if it wasn't killed it must have died.

THE *Philatelic Era*, supposedly devoted to stamps, gives particulars of the trial of John R. Hooper, of Ottawa, for murder. Turn it over as we may, we cannot see how the space thus employed was devoted to philately.

WE notice that the "Stamp Collector's Souvenir" states that the A. P. A. is the largest stamp society in America. This is clearly wrong, as the S. of P. enjoys that honour, and if the A. P. A. wants to be in it, it will have to wake up. We were surprised to see no mention made of the S. of P. in the Souvenir. Perhaps Bro. Miller you had better send Mekeels a sample copy of the "Collector" and let him see the lists of new members and applications.

WE are evidently going to have a choice in the catalogue line this year, as Scott, Mekeel and a syndicate will publish catalogues. The two former will be issued in two sizes. We would prefer the syndicate catalogue as it would be more nearer the mark as to relative value of stamps, but Scott's is likely to be the favourite as it has been established so long.

WE have received a periodical called *El Monitor Philatelica*, which, no doubt, is an excellent paper. How excellent we cannot tell, being totally ignorant of Spanish.

WE are desirous of putting your name on our subscription books, because we think we are worth the price asked and because you will materially help us by subscribing. Remember we advance our price on the first of January next.

A recent number of *Current Literature* states that in New York City alone there are 500,000 collectors. Some dealer has gone into the wholesale leg-pulling business. We will venture the assertion that there is not 100,000 stamp collectors on the continent, Halifax included.

THIS paper is not of mammoth size we acknowledge, but we hope we will be excused for our lack of immensity. The contents we shall endeavor to make as fresh as possible. We do not believe in articles on the stamps of Timbuctoo or any other country as interesting.

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EDITORIAL.

MR. A. B. MERRILL, of Everett, Mass., has favored us with a copy of his list of advertised philatelic frauds. It is a valuable work of 24 pages, containing names of 600 frauds and spaces for 400 more. The price is 25 cents. Thanks.

WE have received from the Mekeel Co., the second edition of their *Stamp Collectors Souvenir*, which consists of 64 pages, illustrated profusely with cuts of rarities and prominent collectors. It is a very neat affair, and includes a list of the publishers albums, packets and publications.

LEWIS BISHOP, of Denver, Colo., is 6 ft., 1 in. in height. Now the pen is said to be mightier than the sword, but

in dealing with our festive friend the latter seems infinitely preferable.

THE *International Philatelist* is now published by H. A. Fowler, of Toronto Ont., who has consolidated Lord only knows how many other papers with it.

WE would call your attention if financially inclined, to the advertisement of Mr. H. C. Friedman, of New York. He is known personally to us and we recommend him. If you are interested in financial matters, you should write him for a little book he gives containing information on the subject.

WE dare say that it is contrary to general expectations that number two of this paper appears. We desire to state that this is an erroneous impression. We have got the tin to run the paper and that's just what we propose to do. Collectors need have no fear in sending subscriptions if they think we are worth 10 cents per year.

C. W. GREVNING is now editor and publisher of *The Stamp*. We hope he will use his influence in the proper direction and bring the paper back to what it "used to was."

WE received, not long ago, a stamp paper, and we return thanks to its publisher only on condition that he don't send it any more.

THE *Long Island Philatelist* has suspended for the present, says the *Philatelic Era*. We remember that once its editor gave out the last number was never out.

MY ALBUM.

BY POETICUS.

Evenings shadows slowly creeping,
Chasing Sols bright beams away,
Found me sitting in my arm-chair
At the close of one long day.

Found me turning o'er the pages
Of my treasured album there,
Of all my friends, the truest
Of all earths goods most dear.

What joy with me can be compared?
As at the close of weary day
I sit, my album on my knees
And while the hours away.

[EDITOR'S NOTE.—There was about a yard and-a-half more of the blamed stuff, but in the interest of philately it was thought best to suppress it.]

CONCERNING OUR CONTEMPORARIES.

THE latest number of the "Canadian Philatelist" we have received is dated September, and begins volume three. Some improvements have been introduced.

THE Philatelic Era comes regularly to hand and is always good. It is a great improvement to see it every two weeks.

THE Hoosier Stamp is regular, but that prize contest occupies a heap of space.

TO SAY that the Eastern Philatelist was excellent, would but be echoing the words of every one who saw it.

SEVERAL papers evidently thought they were not worth renewing, or, were too modest to exchange with us, thinking, no doubt, that we would not desire. Not so, our friends, we will exchange with *all*.

SPECIAL NOTICE.

Whereas the publisher is of the opinion that ten cents is too low for this paper, we have decided that, on and after the 1st of January ult., the subscription price will be advanced to twenty cents, and those who send ten cents after that date will be credited for a six months subscription only. Please note.

VARIOUS MATTERS.

MR. Thomas A. Wilson of Belleville, Ont., is our authority for stating that the Columbian 2c. is being chemically changed to blue. He also informed us that T. S. Clark has disposed of a 12d. Canada—for a good figure although, somewhat heavily cancelled.

THE Editor of the "Washington Philatelist" undoubtedly is an adept at handling the "two-edged sword of criticism" and performs some very pretty feats with the weapon aforesaid. This magazine is a model of faultless make-up, and its regularity is unimpeachable. We can only echo the words of a contemporary and wish there was more of it.

THE "North West," now strictly philatelic, is a very bright paper. Its pages are embellished with the writing of one "Truthful James," whose writings are very spicy.

WE wonder what has become of the C. P. A.? The Canadian Journal of Philately was made official organ whereupon it straight-way expired. A re-organization is necessary we fear to put this society right.

THIS is the last month of the Columbian stamps and hundreds of collectors will be purchasing unused sets. The 8c. stands a good chance of becoming valuable in the course of time. The higher values will no doubt be scarcer in a used than an unused condition. The question is now as we said last month, what is the government going to do with the remainder? We see only one reasonable method of disposing of such, namely, destroying them. The credit of the U. S. would, in a philatelic point of view, go way below par should the remainder be sold to dealers, and it would be showing scant courtesy to ex-P. M. G. Wannaker should the series be continued, as he gave out in his report that they would be retired at the end of the year.

THE EVOLUTION OF PHILATELY.

BY "LYRAE."

The mutability of human affairs has been the theme of thought of many philosophers—the changeability of things pertaining to philately as evidenced by a comparison of the past and present, is the subject of this humble article.

The evolution of the album, alone, might well form the subject of a select essay. The first album, if album, it might be called, in use by the primitive philatelist was a plain blank book. Albums with blank spaces and albums with spaces so small as to necessitate clipping of the stamp to fit space, each formed steps in the gradation from the blank book to our present high class albums.

Hinges were at first unknown, and the stamps were, as some aspiring genius puts it, "nailed down with glue."

The early philatelist was not particular what he collected, revenues, locals and miscellaneous labels rested side by side with postage stamps.

Re-prints and counterfeits were among the first to disturb the equanimity of the stamp collector. Both now are pretty well done for although the former is collected by some.

Although Russian, German and Norwegian locals were eagerly sought for in former years they are now universally eschewed, with the possible exception of a few specialists. Of late years revenue collecting has gained many supporters, but this is probably due to "booming" of such stamps by interested parties—financially, of course.

The surcharge is the modern method of advertising the fact that the post master is short of a few thousand dollars, and did not trouble the early collector much.

Post-cards in former years were not considered collectable but now this branch of philately has a society and a paper devoted entirely to it

Having thus reviewed to some extent the past as compared with the present, it behoves us to look forward a little.

Of course, being optimistic, we can only look for improvements, especially in our literature, in which it must be acknowledged, there is a great room for innovation.

In our ranks there is a very poor show for the pessimist, and so overwhelmingly in the minority does he find himself that his voice is seldom heard.

There is plenty room for more papers, and deserving ones will surely find support; and some of our old established journals will have to brighten up or be left behind.

I'm done, let Shakespeare finish the article:

Time's glory is to calm contending kings,
To unmask falsehood and bring truth to light,
To seal the stamp of age in aged things;
To wake the morn and sentinel the night.
To wrong the wronger till he render right,
To rinate proud buildings with thy hours,
And smear with dust thy glittering golden towers.

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BACK NUMBERS.

Back numbers of this Magazine will be scarce, as very few are kept. The price of number one for a short time is 3 cents. Collectors subscribing before January will receive No. 1 if they so request. Remember we have very few left, and after January No. 1 will probably be unobtainable from us.