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THE

POSTMAN'S KNOCK.

Vol. 2.

ST. JOHN, N. B., OCTOBER, 1869.

No. 19.

The Postman's Knock.

THE ORGAN OF THE AMERICAN POSTAGE STAMP COLLECTOR.

Is Published every Month, at St. John, New Brunswick, by

THE EXCELSIOR STAMP ASSOCIATION,
34 PRINCESS STREET,

Terms.—GRATIS to any part of America. To Europe,
3s. per Annum, in advance.

GREETING.

In the month of November, 1867, we issued to a sorrowing philatelic public what we then considered to be the farewell number of the "Postman's Knock." Extreme illness compelled us to do so, and when we did so we never expected to meet our friends again in an editorial capacity—never to wield the timbrophilic pen any more. But Providence overrules the intentions and expectations of poor feeble man, and Providence has permitted us to come back from the "Valley and the Shadow of Death" to greet you all again once more. Then rally round us as of old and give us your hearty countenance and support.

As of old there will be no charge for our humble sheet, and we trust that in a short time it will become as formerly a welcome and expected guest in hundreds of stamp-collecting homes, from the boisterous Atlantic to the tranquil Pacific, and from the forests of Canada to the bayous of Florida.

We have no intention of taking any part in the quarrels now going on in philatelic circles touching the honesty or upright method of dealing of certain persons inter-

ested therein. According to our ideas the whole affair has come to be a mere personal dispute, and of no postal interest whatever. We think we have great cause to congratulate our friends on the spread of Stamp collecting since we last addressed them; and not only on the increase in numbers of the persons engaged in timbrophilic pursuits, but also as we might term it on the "March of Intellect" in our direction. No longer is the Ideal American Collector a small-sized schoolboy with a most apparent antipathy to cleanliness in any shape, such antipathy being most particularly exhibited in that work of art which he styles his "collection." No longer does the American Collector haunt the entrance to the Post Office and besiege persons coming out with the demand for "them stamps, sir." Now these are all things of the past. The American Collector of to-day is a person who looks over his gathering, sees what he needs, and forthwith orders it from the dealer with whom he does business. The American Collector of to-day is capable of writing a legible and grammatical letter, and of expressing his wants in a few words and a business-like manner. He is willing to give a fair price for his purchases, and does not labor under the delusion that dealers can procure stamps for nothing, and consequently that all they get is profit pure and simple. He does not consider it a remarkably virtuous and clever action to get stamps sent on approval to him under an assumed name and then omit to pay for them, altogether on the ground that "I

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don't live here now." Oh no; he is above all these peculiar methods of enlarging his collection indulged in by his postal ancestors, and we are extremely happy to say has a moderate amount of belief in that good but seemingly obsolete maxim, "Honesty is the best policy."

To sum up, we put forward the Model American Timbrophilist as the Model Timbrophilist of the world. He takes all the stamp papers — he is thoroughly posted on every phase of the subject, and what he is ignorant of is not worth knowing. It is true he pays little heed to the many complications of perforation and denticulation: it may be that he is a little contemptuous on the utility of whole envelopes, but still in this consists his glory. The introduction of luxury was the ruin of Rome and Greece, and according to our humble ideas the collecting of varieties of perforation, whole envelopes, and the other vagaries of the so-called French School, will be the downfall of Philately in Europe.

HONDURAS.

When a person is tried before our Courts for any offence, if his sagacious counsel can by any method of legal engineering raise a doubt in the minds of the jury, how touchingly he will implore them to give the prisoner the "benefit of the doubt." This method of procedure is very good in a Palace of Justice, but it works very badly in the stamp business. Yet it seems to be the way mostly in vogue among our contemporaries. Does any benevolent individual notice the great need there is for postals to be used solely for local purposes among the savages of Terra-del-Fuego? and does he without in anywise consulting the natives of that salubrious clime beneficently provide them with a set of essays in twelve

or fifteen colors, or perhaps extend his gratuitous kindness to the extent of a whole series of six different values? does he, we say, do these things, what is the consequence? Has anybody any idea of waiting till something can be found out from Terra-del-Fuego? does anybody ever suggest such a precaution? We trow not. No, indeed; if the benevolent gentleman has only wit enough to put the inscription in the correct language, and to value them in the money used in the country, why his amateur Postmaster Generalship will be a success, and he will probably succeed in disposing of a large quantity of his productions to that most enlightened fraternity—the Stamp Collecting World. Of course if he brilliantly inscribes his specimens with Greek, or Norwegian, or some other language not spoken in the Territory whose mail facilities he has taken charge of, on the principle of the gent who tried a French inscription for Guatemala, he will not "do for Galway" at all; but let him use ordinary common sense and he will be "thar," as our American friends say. The above thoughts were forced upon us by a few reflections we happened to be indulging in touching the stamps of Honduras. It is now some years since these specimens first made their appearance. Not a tittle of proof has ever been elicited concerning their claims upon us as genuine postals; yet they seem to be recognized in all the "highest circles," if we may use such a hackneyed phrase in connection with Timbrophily. Why does not somebody write to Honduras and find out? Are there no inhabitants there to write to, or are they in such a benighted state that there is not one solitary person there who could read such a letter if written? Perhaps there is no mail connection with it, or perhaps Mr.

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Gladstone's Government have carried their doctrine of Retrenchment to such an extent that they cannot afford to pay anybody to act as British Consul in that benighted clime; or perchance the yellow fever is so prevalent that they cannot find any one simpleton enough to go and die of it at the rate of remuneration they can feel safe in offering. Any of the above very remote probabilities may be the case, but we must say we doubt it; and doubting it we cannot see how it is that the market is well stocked with the so-called stamps of Honduras, and nobody seems to know or care where they came from or how they originated. However, we have "said our say," and if any person on our subscription list is insane enough to purchase them till something satisfactory is known touching their authenticity, then "on his head be it," say we.

NEW STAMPS.

ANGOLA.—This Portuguese Colony has a new issue of stamps, unlike Madeira and the Azores, for which the altered postals of the mother country are used. The design is a crown in rectangle on a ground of waved lines, Grecian ornaments at each side, figure of value in each angle, name of Colony on upper margin, value in full on lower—*unperforated*.

SERVIA.—A complete new emission greets us here. The values and colors are 1 para, yellow, 10 p. light-brown, 15 p. orange, 20 p. blue, 25 p. carmine, 35 p. pale green, 40 p. mauve, 50 p. dark green. Each stamp bears the head of the young Prince Michael Obrenovich IV., and has the value in figures on each corner. It is printed in color on white paper and perforated. Prince Michael, as depicted on his stamps, is a very ordinary looking person, and to our mind has an extremely

plebeian cast of features; however, if his heart is in the right place, he is none the worse of that.

UNITED STATES.—From the neighboring republic comes rumors of change. It appears that the recent new set has not given satisfaction to the public; and we presume the engravers, designers, and stamp printers, are not at all averse to a job. There is some talk of retaining the 1c., 6c., 15c., and 90c., but the others are said to be doomed. We give the rumor as we hear it, but are very dubious about its truthfulness.

SARAWAK.—Over a year ago a postal was announced for this distant Asiatic colony. Authenticated specimens not coming to hand it was by many deemed to be an imposition. We rejoice to be able to inform our friends that it is now proved genuine beyond a doubt by the arrival of a postmarked specimen on a letter from its native home.

RUSSIA.—Local stamps for various towns and districts in Russia are becoming plentiful; in fact, so suddenly numerous have they grown to be, that we cannot, in the discharge of our duty as an honest stamp editor, say that we believe them to be genuine. We trust that we may be mistaken in our impressions, but we certainly cannot recommend them for adoption by American timbrophilists till something more is known of them than that they are on sale.

MISCELLANEOUS.—*Bergedorf* has a set of essays, for what purpose it would be hard to determine. *Canada.*—Our own 1 cent stamp is now printed in two or three colors, viz., orange, yellow, &c. *Guatemala* also has the credit of a lot of essays, but we fear they are only the work of some philanthropist who feels that our Central Ameri-

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can friends need stamps, and is kindly endeavoring to supply their lack. *Baden*.—The 6kr. envelope is obsolete since July 1st. *France*.—The 5-franc stamp is, we presume, before this in active use; also the 1 centime laureated. *Liberia* now drops the external line of the second edition. *Denmark*.—The 2 sk. envelope now omits the letter "S" after the numeral of value. *Heligoland*.—The $\frac{1}{2}$ sch. is now printed of a much brighter shade and perforated. *Ecuador*.—The 1 real stamps are now said to be printed bright gold and deep olive yellow.

WEBSTER'S GHOST.

Last night while visiting the non-postal country known as the "Land of Nod," we met the above named gent. He informed us that the authorities of that region were about to issue stamps bearing for a design the "Arms of Morpheus," on a shady ground. He went on to tell us that he noticed with pleasure the formation of a work so much needed as a Stamp Dictionary, and begged us to suggest to the Lexicographer the following additions:

TIMBROFILE.—noun, (from *timbre* a stamp, and *file*, an implement used for sharpening buck-saws;) a person who makes rare varieties of perforated stamps by means of a sharp instrument.

TIMBROFOOL,—noun, (from *timbre* a stamp, and *fool*, a person devoid of common sense,) a person who is rather cracked on the stamp question; example, Mr. Smith is a Timbrofool or Timbrofoolist, as well as a Timbrofile or Timbrofilist.

At this point, unfortunately, our bump of appreciativeness caused us to wink at Mr. Webster, in what we considered a very knowing manner—a liberty which he resented by bidding us an abrupt adieu.

CALIFORNIA LOCALS.

In the September number of the *Stamp Collector's Magazine* is to be found a very readable article on the Local Stamps used on the Pacific Coast. It strikes us, however, as being very incomplete in this respect, that it omits altogether to mention what was probably among the first, perhaps the *very first* ever in actual service in California. We refer to that issued by the Adams & Co. Express, and described in a letter from Mr. J. Henry Applegate, Jr., of San Francisco, to the Editor of this paper, bearing date June 29, 1866, as follows:

"The stamp in question is rectangular, having for its centre the head of Haskell, the manager of the concern. Over the head are the words "Adams & Co." and in each of the four corners, as well as on either side of the head, is the value 25 cts. This stamp was used to pre-pay letters between this city and New York, and has long since been out of use.

I know of but *three* being in existence, and are all in the hands of collectors here."

Mr. Applegate is still living in San Francisco, and we daresay would give the names of the collectors holding the specimens spoken of, so that a copy could be taken for the purpose of having an engraving made for publication of what is probably one of the most rare locals extant.

ATTENTION.

Our publishers are very desirous that special attention should be drawn to the advertisement of Messrs. D. Cameron & Co. on another page. They assure us they know the firm to be most prompt, reliable, and gentlemanly in all their dealings, and above all suspicions of selling counterfeit stamps of any kind. American collectors will therefore easily see the great advantage there will be in investing their spare cash with our Quebec friends.

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DARK SAYINGS

BY THE TIMBROPHILIC MINSTRELS.

Mr. Johnson.—Good evening, white folks. Bones, how are you this evening?

Bones.—I ain't well this evening. I'm agoin' to give up the perfession and try to make a livin' at somefin else. I intend to rise, I do.

Mr. Johnson.—Ah, indeed; in what particular direction does your ambition extend. Intending to be a Brigadier General, I presume?

Bones.—No, Siree; I'se engaged to edit a stamp paper, I is.

All.—Ha, ha, ha.

Mr. Johnson.—And pray, what are your qualifications for that post. You are not a person of education?

Bones.—No, sir, I ain't a pusson of edication, it ain't required; for now-a-days stamp papers have nuffin in 'em but descriptions of forgeries, and I am well qualified as a native of SEE ERROR ALONE (Sierra Leone).

Pompey.—Far-fetched, Bones. Now, *Deu-mark* me, Massa Johnson, Bones says his *Natal* day took place in Sierra Leone, not in *Bud'en* as we previously supposed. Now, *deu*, where was his father when he was born? Gib him up? Why in the Papa-l States to be sure. Ha, ha.

Mr. Johnson.—Chorus by the company, "Read me a letter from home and give me the stamp off it."

POSTAGE.

Our publishers desire us to remind Collectors residing in the United States that the postage from thence to the Province of New Brunswick is SIX CENTS. They wish us to say that a remembrance of the fact will oblige them, as on letters not *fully prepaid* they are fined TEN CENTS each.

SPECIAL NEW PACKET.—Ready October 1st, 1869.—The New Excelsior Packet No. 44 contains 50 varieties of VERY RARE Stamps, including Confederate 1c. yellow; Spain (1860) 19cs.; Virgin Islands 1s., obsolete; Brazil 600 black; Newfoundland 1d, 2d, 3d, 4d, 6d, and 6½d, all unused; Cape of Good Hope on blue paper; Nova Scotia 1d, brown, and 3d *unused*; Nevis 6d, and 1s. *unused*; New Brunswick 3d. also 12½ and 17c. *unused*; Zurich 6 rappen; United States Post Office 10c. black; West Australia 1s. obsolete; Schleswig Holstein, first issue, together with many others, ALL VERY RARE, including stamps of Baden, Canada, Denmark, Hamburg, Meck. Schwerin, Mexico, Oldenburg, Prussia, St. Thomas, Salvador, Moldavia, Nicaragua, Madeira, Ceylon, Bolivia, Finland, Russia, (Env.) Wenden and Uruguay. We can confidently assure our customers that this lot of stamps is the cheapest packet ever yet offered. It amounts at list prices to the sum of \$20.53, yet we only ask for the whole packet of 50 *very rare stamps* the comparatively trifling sum of \$10.00 U. S. Cy. Every stamp *warranted genuine*, and in good condition, the greater number being *unused* specimens. An invoice of contents sent with each packet showing price of each stamp, so that it can be easily seen to be worth the sum named. Send for it!! Send at once!! *Post free* only \$10.00. THE EXCELSIOR STAMP ASSOCIATION, 34 Princess Street, St. John, N. B.

PRICE LIST.—We take great pleasure in announcing to the Timbrophilic public that we have now ready for mailing our splendid new Price Catalogue of American, Foreign, and Colonial Postage Stamps, containing a description of the form, color, date of issue, and market value of every stamp issued by every country from 1840 to the present date. This Catalogue contains 34 pages, beautifully printed on a fine quality of paper, and is generally acknowledged to be the best ever issued in America. It contains also a full list of our "Celebrated Excelsior Packets," our "Cheap Sets of Stamps," and our "Crest Packets." Mailed to any address on receipt of FIFTEEN CENTS. All Stamps warranted genuine. All prices in United States Currency. THE EXCELSIOR STAMP ASSOCIATION, 34 Princess St., Saint John, N. B.

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LOTS FOR DEALERS.

All in United States Currency.

Mixed Wurtemberg,	per 100,	\$0.40
" Bavaria,	"	0.40
" France,	"	0.45
" Belgium,	"	0.50
" Italy,	"	0.70
" Moldavia,	"	1.00
" German Confederation,	"	0.30
" Prussian Head,	"	1.00
" Saxony Head,	"	1.00
" Switzerland,	"	0.65
" Cape of Good Hope,	"	2.00
" Oldenburg,	"	2.00
" Luxemburg,	"	2.00
" British Colonial,	"	0.40
" do. (bet'r quality)	"	0.60
" do. do.	"	0.75
" do. do.	"	1.00

All others in stock. One trial will ensure further orders. All stamps genuine. THE EXCELSIOR STAMP ASSOCIATION, 34 Princess Street, Saint John, N. B.

STAMP SHEETS.—For the benefit of Booksellers and Dealers who desire to have their Stamps ready placed in a form easily exhibited, we are now making up a lot of Stamp Sheets. Each Sheet is of large size, and has a beautifully printed heading, got up in the best styles of the typographic art, and will contain about 100 Stamps, neatly arranged, with prices according to our Catalogue over each Stamp. Our \$5.00 Sheet will contain \$10.00 worth of stamps at retail list prices, and cannot fail to give entire satisfaction, every stamp being in good condition and warranted genuine, and no two stamps being alike. Booksellers, especially, will find these sheets "the right thing in the right place." THE EXCELSIOR STAMP ASSOCIATION, 34 Princess Street, St. John, N. B.

PRUSSIA.—Set of SIX, issue of 1861, all unused and warranted genuine, including the 3, 4 and 6 pf., 1, 2 and 3 sgr., all for \$0.20 U. S. Cy. Set of FIVE, issue of 1867, all unused and warranted genuine, including the 1, 2, 3, 6 and 9 kr., all for \$0.25 U. S. Cy. THE EXCELSIOR STAMP ASSOCIATION, 34 Princess Street, Saint John, N. B.

CHEAP SETS OF STAMPS.

These marked with an asterick (*) are unused.

Mexico, 1869,	5 va.	\$0.90
*Lubeck (official),	2 va.	0.50
Salvaador,	4 va.	0.80
South Australia,	4 va.	0.20
Canada,	10 va.	0.20
New Brunswick,	6 va.	0.30
*Prussia, 1861,	6 va.	0.20
* " 1867,	5 va.	0.25
*Hamburg,	10 va.	1.00
* " envelopes,	7 va.	0.75
*Newfoundland (pence),	9 va.	4.00
* " (cents),	8 va.	3.00
*Schleswig Holstein,	14 va.	1.00

For prices of all others see our splendid new 34-page Catalogue, the best ever issued in America. Sent to any address on receipt of FIFTEEN CENTS. Containing all our list of the "Celebrated Excelsior Packets," which are well known to be perfection. THE EXCELSIOR STAMP ASSOCIATION, No. 34 Princess Street, Saint John, New Brunswick.

STAMP PUBLICATIONS.—We have on sale sets of sixteen back numbers of the "POSTMAN'S KNOCK," complete, (except Nos. 6 and 7 out of print) which we will mail for \$0.50 U. S. Cy. Also, *The S. C. M. Gazette*, vol. 1, Nos. 1 to 12 inclusive, price \$1.00 U. S. Cy., and Vol. 2 complete, 13 to 24 inclusive, \$1.00 U. S. Cy. Single numbers of Vol. 1 we sell at 15c., and of Vol. 2 at 10c. each. An early application is necessary. THE EXCELSIOR STAMP ASSOCIATION, 34 Princess St., St. John, N. B.

NEWFOUNDLAND STAMPS.—The complete set of pence values, viz., 1d, 2d, 3d, 4d, 5d, 6d, 6½d, 8d, and 1s. all unused and warranted genuine, for \$4.00 U. S. Currency. The complete set (decimal currency), viz., 1c, 2c, 5c, brown, 5c, black, 10c, 12c, 13c, and 24c, all unused and warranted genuine, for \$3.00 U. S. Currency. THE EXCELSIOR STAMP ASSOCIATION, 34 Princess Street, Saint John, N. B.

LUBECK OFFICIALS.—Set of TWO of the very rare Lubeck Official Stamps, (large size,) both unused and warranted genuine for 50 cents U. S. Cy.—THE EXCELSIOR STAMP ASSOCIATION, No. 34 Princess Street, St. John, N. B.

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D. CAMERON & Co. QUEBEC, CANADA,

Have constantly on hand a large Stock of Stamps
which they sell at very low prices, as
follows :

		PRICES IN U. S. Cx.	
		Unused.	Used.
Antigua 1d	.....	5	3
" 6d	.....	.....	5
Argentine Republic, 1867, 5c	.....	.....	8
Azores 5r 3c 10r	.....	5	.....
Bahamas 1d	.....	5	.....
Belgium 1c 1c; 2c 2c; 5c	.....	4	.....
Bergedorf, set of 5	.....	25	.....
Bermuda 1d	.....	5	.....
Bremen, set of 6	.....	35	.....
British Honduras 1d	.....	5	.....
Brunswick, set of 6	.....	8	.....
Cape of Good Hope 4d	.....	5	3
" " " 4d provisiona!	.....	.....	10
Cashmere, black, 12c; blue	.....	20	.....
Ceylon 1d 4c 1d	.....	5	.....
" 4d 2s	.....	.....	10
Egypt 5 paras, slate 4c; 5p yellow	.....	3	.....
Finland, 1860, 5kop used, 6c; 10k	.....	8	.....
" 1866, 10, 20, 40k	.....	6	.....
Greece 1, 2l	.....	2	.....
" set of 7	.....	.....	10
Grenada 1d	.....	5	4
" 6d	.....	.....	7
Hamburg, 1sch, adh. and env.	.....	4	.....
" set of 10	.....	.....	25
Heligoland 1sch	.....	4	.....
Jamaica, set of 6	.....	.....	25
Java 10c	.....	15	10
Lubeck, complete set of 18	.....	100	.....
Luxemburg 1c 1c; 2c	.....	2	.....
Madeira 5r 3c; 10r	.....	5	.....
Malta 1/2	.....	3	.....
Mauritius 1d	.....	5	.....
New Grenada 1c 4c; 2 1/2c	.....	10	.....
Nevis 1d	.....	5	.....
Newfoundland 1c, 3c; 2c, 4c; 5c	.....	10	.....
Oldenburg, 1862, set of 5	.....	25	12
Prussia 1kr 2c 2kr	.....	3	.....
Roman States 2c 2c; 3c 3c; 5c	.....	5	.....
Roumania 5 bani. 4c; 10b	.....	8	.....
" set of 5, 1869	.....	.....	75
St. Helena 1d	.....	5	.....
St. Lucia 1d, black,	.....	5	.....
St. Vincent 1d	.....	5	4
" 6d	.....	.....	8
Saxony, 1863, set of 6	.....	8	.....
Servia, head, 1866, 1p 3c; 2p	.....	4	.....
" " 1869, 1p	.....	3	.....

PRICES IN U. S. Cx

Unused Used

Spain, 1854, 1, 2, 5r, not used, cancelled,....	.....	.....	10
" 1867, 5m 3c; 10m	.....	.....	4
Trinidad 6d 1s	.....	.....	5
Turks Islands 1d	.....	.....	5
Virgin Islands 1d	.....	.....	5
" 1s, old	.....	.....	85
" set of 5, 1d 4d 6d 1s 1s	.....	.....	1.85
West Australia 1d	.....	.....	5
" 6d used, 8c 1s	.....	.....	15
Wurtemberg 1kr	.....	.....	3
" envelopes, set of 4 on buff....	.....	.....	75

PRICE LIST, 26 pages, will be sent *gratis* and *post-free* to any address.

“ SPECIAL ” PACKETS,

Containing no Canadian nor U. S. Stamps.

No. 1 contains 10 varieties, unused, price	18c U.S. Cx
" 2 " 30 " used	" 18c. "
" 3 " 15 " obsolete	" 18c. "
" 4 " 12 " u'd & un'd"	" 18c. "
" 5 " 20 " unused	" 35c. "
" 6 " 50 " used	" 35c. "
" 7 " 25 " obsolete	" 35c. "
" 8 " 20 " u'd & un'd"	" 35c. "
" 9 " 30 " unused	" 90c. "
" 10 " 100 " u'd & un'd"	" 90c. "
" 11 " 50 " unused	" \$1.80 "
" 12 " 150 " u'd & un'd"	" 1.80 "
" 13 " 50 " rare ob.	" 1.80 "
" 14 " 100 " unused	" 3.50 "
" 15 " 200 " u'd & un'd"	" 2.50 "
" 16 " 100 " rare ob.	" 3.50 "

The above Packets are highly recommended, and are certain to give satisfaction; a single trial solicited. All stamps sold by us are **WARRANTED GENUINE**.

PRICE LIST, 26 pages, will be sent *gratis* and *post-free* to any address.

All letters and orders must contain stamps for return postage. Parties ordering stamps would do well to enclose an extra list of wants, in case we are out of any, or, if desired, we will send stamps of our own selection to any amount remitted, on the understanding that, those not required may be exchanged. 10 per cent. discount allowed on all orders amounting to one dollar or more, except for sets and packets.

PRICE LIST, 26 pages, will be sent *gratis* and *post-free* to any address.

Collectors may be certain, that in buying from us they will get at least fifty per cent. more for their money than from any other dealer in America.

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EXCELSIOR PACKETS.

THE EXCELSIOR STAMP ASSOCIATION begs leave to call the attention of American Stamp Collectors to the subjoined partial list of their "Excelsior Packets," well known to be the best used in America.

Excelsior Packet No. 1 contains 25 varieties, *used*, including French Republic, Swedish, Norwegian, &c. Post free, 30 cents.

TRY THE EXCELSIOR PACKETS.

Excelsior Packet No. 2 contain 40 varieties, *used*, including Bavaria, Wurtemberg, Belgium, Italy, &c. Post free, 30 cents.

TRY THE EXCELSIOR PACKETS.

Excelsior Packet No. 3 contains 12 varieties, *British Colonies*, including unused Newfoundland, Malta, &c. Post free, 30 cents.

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Excelsior Packet No. 4 contains 18 varieties, *British Colonies*, including Victoria, Queensland, &c. Post free, 30 cents.

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Excelsior Packet No. 5 contains 15 varieties, *Envelopes*, including Wurtemberg, Oidenburg, &c. Post free, 30 cents.

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Excelsior Packet No. 6 contains 12 varieties, *obsolete*, including English 1d., black, Belgium, &c. Post free, 30 cents.

TRY THE EXCELSIOR PACKETS.

Excelsior Packet No. 7 contains 12 varieties, *unused*, including Servia, Ceylon, Brazil, &c. Post free, 30 cents.

TRY THE EXCELSIOR PACKETS.

Excelsior Packet No. 8 contains 100 mixed Continental Stamps, including Austria, Germany, &c. Post free, 30 cents.

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Excelsior Packet No. 9 contains 40 Hamburg Boten Locals, including Hamers, &c. Post free, 30 cents.

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