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# THE Canada Stamp and Coin Journal.

VOL. I.

HALIFAX, N. S., JULY, 1888.

No. I.

## In a Mail Bag.

BY H. S. KELLER.



“SEE here, will you be so kind as to move away? Don't hug up so close to me, you—you black-bordered envelope.”

“Excuse me. I feel so badly that I hardly know what I am doing. I know you do not like my company; nobody does. I don't blame them. I am sorry. You look happy, you dainty pink envelope, sealed with blue wax. Blue wax is the symbol of love, is it not?”

“Yes, true love. Love true and pure as the skies, and as enduring. I am a love letter.”

And the pink envelope fairly glowed with the bliss of its sealed kisses. It bore the smell of for-get-me-nots, and its pretty direction was as fine and perfect as copperplate. Truly it had a right to glow and throb—for it was love that kindled its warmth and sent a thrill through its very fiber.

“Alas! I carry a sad message to a far-off home——”

“What is it? Tell me. Love, you know, is very curious, and—and—my pretty lady never sent such a letter as I am before in all her life. Tell me your secret and I will tell you mine——”

“Stop that nonsense, you two there in the corner of the bag, can't you?”

“Who are you?” asked the love letter quickly. It was such a happy, giddy thing that it could afford to brave and face even a business-like envelope with the picture of a mighty structure in one corner.

“Well, I'm a full-grown business letter, and I'm on my way to tell a man that our firm cannot give him any more credit. I'm tired of hearing you two in the corner gabbling, and I wish you would quit it at once.”

“Love and death, my staid friend, are so closely allied that even the commonest of us ought to consider and have patience.”

“Well, well, who spoke in *that* dear tone?”

“I come from a great poet. He is a leader of mankind. He helped to free the slaves; and he has done much good in this great world. He is now an old, white haired man; and he sits in the golden sunset of life, respected, beloved and esteemed by the whole world. He has written his name upon the page of time, and all the ages to come will never erase that name. He is known as Whittier.”

And for a brief period the mail bag was silent. It was great company they—those wonderful, mysterious, different, queer and curious missives were in. The dainty pink love letter nestled against

the black-bordered one. The one carrying a sad, sad message to someone far away. The stern business-like letter with never a word or line of rhythm in it lay side by side with a commonplace envelope bearing a poem fresh from the hands and brain and heart and soul of one of the purest singers God ever gave the divine gift of poetry to. And then another voice broke the stillness and the rest shuddered as they heard its rough, brutal tones.

"And if ye air keeful, pard, ye kin kill the ole cuss wi' one blow o' yer club. He hain't no longer strong; jess a little tap—presto; he's dead an' the swag is yourn."

"Who dare speak of such a theme as murder. Do you know that I came from the hand of one of the highest judges in the land? Reveal yourself, villain, and let the strong hand of the law throttle your murderous design before it goes further," came from a long, legal missive with a red seal. But the criminal letter said not a word; it only slipped down out of sight and was covered finally by a letter from a farmer. In this latter letter was a check for one hundred dollars; and the letter was worded as follows: "Send me the one thousand in 'green goods' soon as possible. I think I can use them without much trouble."

Then all was quiet again for a period.

"Oh, dear boy, I hear bad news from you. Don't do it any more. It has killed your mother and is killing me, your poor old father. *Don't drink! Don't drink! Don't drink!*

"Aye! aye! so say we all," cried out four or five from a little pile.

"And when we cracked the last bottle, Jack, a sigh went round our little circle. We had piled in the stuff pretty freely

and were feeling good. *The last bottle!* That almost broke our hearts. Our motto is—'a merry life and a short one'—"

"Gracious, I smell something like a drunken man's breath. I don't want nothing more to do with you," broke in a long, lean, spidery envelope as it slipped down among a lot of jolly letters from some school girls. The spinster's letter lay there, drinking in with keen delight the merry prattle of the girls letters. It felt young again and—it made a stern determination to enter the lists once more and battle bravely for some man's heart. Helter skelter, rough and tumble—all in a mixed pile upon the table the letters were thrown by the hands of the mail clerk. Flutter, flitter, flash and flurry—here, there, everywhere, but all property distributed at last.

And when the recipients of each letter received his or her mail all were at last safely housed.

The tears that fell upon the black-bordered missive, the kisses rained upon the pink love letter, the pale look that confronted the business letter, and all cries of joy, the sobs of sorrow, the chuckles of exultation and the other thousand and one expressive terms and acts—all went out in air; and the mail bag never told the story of its romance.

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### A Half-penny Letter Post.

BY T. MARTIN WEARS.

WHEN on the 6th of May 1840, the inhabitants of these islands were granted the privilege of sending a letter, provided it did not exceed half an ounce in weight, to any part of Great Britain for the low charge of one penny, it was thought that this rate was so cheap, as to

admit of no reduction whatever. Compared with the charges which prevailed prior to 1840, the uniform penny rate was no doubt, a great advance in the way of postal reform, but it was found that the Post Office was in a position to reduce the rate still further, without any serious loss resulting to them, while they would confer a real boon on the public. Accordingly on 5th October, 1871, a reduced postal tariff was established, by which letters not exceeding one ounce in weight were carried for one penny—the rate still in force.

But who would have ever dreamt of a half-penny rate for the carriage of one ounce letters? who would have believed that a penny postage stamp, envelope, and sheet of note paper could be supplied for a half-penny? and yet from the prospectus of a Limited Liability Company just issued, it seems that this is not only feasible, but, if carefully carried out, will prove a good dividend paying concern. This Company, which is styled "The Half-penny Letter Post Company, Limited," is enabled to offer so satisfactory a return for our half-pence by working a patent known as "The Hertz Patent." This consists of an improved envelope, and note or letter paper in one sheet, which cannot be very well explained without a sample. Three pages of the paper are reserved for the communications, while the fourth page and a few inches of paper joining the letter with the envelope, are filled with advertisements. It is from the revenue reaped from this novel method of advertising that the Company is enabled to offer the stamp and paper for one half-penny, thereby allowing the public to enjoy the advantage of a half-penny letter post without loss to the revenue. The stamp

is intended to be embossed on the back of the letter, and when folded shows through a hole cut in the envelope. The letter and envelope—on the latter no advertisements appear—being composed of one sheet of paper, cannot be used separately; while the stamp being an embossed one, will be rendered useless, if taken off and used for another letter. It will thus be seen that the stamp does not appear on the envelope at all, so that it is possible the Post Office Authorities may raise some objection on this score, if they have not already countenanced the plan.

By no class will this novelty be welcomed more warmly than by philatelists; to dealers especially it will be a God-send. The many small transactions they have with stamp collectors, make a reduction in the postal rates, of which they will not be slow to avail themselves, a matter of much moment to them. One London firm alone spends £12 weekly in postages, so that it will readily be seen that a half-penny rate will go far to reduce these heavy items of expenditure. Dealers will be enabled to print their price lists on the note or envelope sheet, and I should not be surprised were some energetic philatelist to come forward and issue a stamp magazine printed on the sheets. Those who use them in this manner will effect a considerable saving. They will also be available for sending stamps.

The estimates given in the prospectus, which perhaps should be taken with a grain of salt, show that a profit of 17s. 6d. per thousand or £875 per million is anticipated. This would yield a dividend of 22½ per cent, supposing a sale of one million weekly were effected, so that the shareholders as well the public are to benefit by the scheme, along with the advertisers who will have opened to them a more direct system of advertising than hitherto available.

Seeing the Company will benefit the whole letter-writing community, it is to be hoped that it will be successfully floated, that it will be carefully managed, and that it has a long and useful career before it.—*The Philatelic Advertiser.*

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JOHN B. FINDLAY, Editor and Proprietor.

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IN adding another to the already long list of papers devoted to philately and numismatics, I have but little to say, except that I ask your hearty encouragement and assistance. Your encouragement could consist of that little subscription or advertisement; your assistance may be comprised in items of interest and select articles for publication in our next issue. But I would like you to combine both these little virtues, as, by so doing you will make an assured success of what is, at the moment but an experiment. Money refunded in all cases if contracts are not fulfilled.

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Fraternally yours,

THE PUBLISHER.

## Comments on Current Customs.



MORE careful proof reading would have made the latest *Halifax Philatelist* faultless.

A CATALOGUE of the 7th auction sale of R. R. Bogert & Co., has reached this office. It contains quite a list of good stamps.

MR. J. B. SMITH is conducting a very interesting philatelic department in the *Springfield Republican*.

THE scarcity of original articles in this number is due to the fact that it was gotten up in a hurry, and is more of a prospectus than a regular issue.

IF the *Eastern Philatelist* continues to improve at the rate it has done during the five months of its existence, it will ere long be one of the leading stamp papers in the United States.

THE *Toronto Philatelic Journal* has dropped its numismatic department. The C. P. A. in electing this paper as its official organ has chosen one of the worst edited papers on this continent.

ABOUT the most welcome visitor on our exchange list is the official organ of the A. P. A. Mr. Brock and his colleagues have placed the *American Philatelist* at the top of the ladder.

THE *Philatelic Advertiser*, of London, now intends to publish in each issue many original and interesting articles. It was at first only issued as an advertising medium.

MR. CH. DORMIN has certainly improved the philatelist department of *Plain Talk*, but he could put four times as much reading as he does in the space that paper allows for articles relating to stamp collecting.

If lots of advertising patronage tend to make a paper a success, the *Badger State Philatelist* publisher should be satisfied. About the usual thing for that paper is three pages of reading out of eight; balance advertisements.

ROBT. S. HATCHER, Esq., contributes many valuable tid-bits to both the *Philatelic Journal of America* and the *American Philatelist*, under the heading of "Notes for U. S. Philatelists."

In Mr. Casey's catalogue of the "Mauritius Collection," I notice the shilling stamp both of New Brunswick and Nova Scotia. There are also a large number of other rare stamps.

If the *Hawkeye State Collector* continues to change its form every two or three issues, it will soon need a catalogue in which to enumerate the various sizes it has appeared in.

MESSRS. SMITH AND KLOCK appear determined to advance the *Mohawk Standard* to the "top of the hill." Every number is an improvement on its predecessor.

AUTHORS who desire to have their efforts put up in neat pamphlet or book form, should address this office. We are ready to undertake the publication of any kind of books on favorable terms

The *Canadian Philatelist* contains a great deal of interesting reading, but it is printed so badly that one cannot take an interest in its perusal. A change of printers is advisable.

ALL stamp and coin papers are requested to forward two copies regular, in exchange for a like number of the *Canada Stamp and Coin Journal*. Papers received this month are: Western Philatelist, Badger State Philatelist, Toronto Philatelic Journal, Halifax Philatelist, Mohawk Standard, Agassiz Companion, Eastern Philatelist, Philatelic Journal of America, Plain Talk, Hawkeye State Collector, American Philatelist, Philatelic Advertiser and Canadian Philatelist.

## 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  $\frac{1}{2}$  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-pennys. 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 pennys. 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 these 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 pennys. 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. Those 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 £ s. d. into \$ c., and the old pennys and half-pennys 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-cents 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 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 encircled by a wreath of maple leaves, the emblem of Canada. Those coins hardly belong to Nova Scotia, but as they are 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–'3.

*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 George III. to right within circle.

*R.*—Payable by Hosterman and 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 Caritt & Alport, Halifax, ship under sail to right.  
 O.—Broke, Halifax, Nova Scotia, bust of Broke to left in naval uniform.  
 R.—Brittannia, 1814, Brittannia seated to left with olive branch in hand.

(To be continued.)

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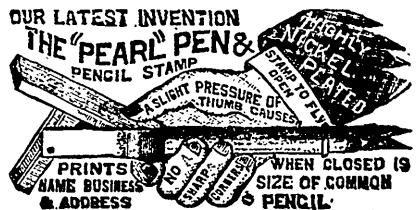
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