MASON'S MONTHLY COIN AND STAMP COLLECTORS'

MAGAZINE.

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THE MINT AT PHILADELPHIA.

(*Continued.*)

Just turn around and we shall see the next process the strips undergo, after being washed free from grease or wax in warm water. Round pieces, called *planchets*, a little larger than the coins they are to make, are being cut from them. Four cutting presses of one kind are in a row; but more being required, Mr. Peale constructed two on about the same principle, but much more compact and handsome. They are not, however, quite so conveniently adjusted as the old ones; and as these show the mode of operating more plainly, we will examine them.

The press consists of a vertical steel punch, which works in a round hole or matrix cut in a solid steel plate. The action of the punch is obtained by an eccentric wheel. For instance, in an ordinary carriage wheel the axis is in the centre, and the wheel revolves evenly around it. But if the axis is placed, say four inches from the centre, then it would revolve with a kind of hobble. From this peculiar motion is its name derived. Suppose the tire of the wheel is arranged, not to revolve with, but to slip easily around the wheel, and a rod is fastened to one side of the tire which prevents its turning. Now as the wheel revolves and brings the *long side nearest the rod* it will push forward the rod, and when the long side of the wheel is *away from the rod* it draws the rod with it.

The upper shaft on which are placed the three large wheels has also fastened to it, over each press, an eccentric wheel. In the first press there are three upright rods running from near the table to the top. The middle one is connected with a tire around the eccentric wheel, and rises and falls with each revolution. The eccentric power is very popular among machinists, as it gives great rapidity of motion with but little jerking.

The operator places one end of the strip under the punch and cuts out a couple of planchets, which are a fraction larger than the coin to be struck. As the strips are of uniform thickness, if these two are of the right weight, all cut from the strip will be. They are therefore weighed accurately. If right, or a little too heavy, they are allowed to pass, as the extra weight can be filed off. If too light, the whole

strip has to be remelted. The strips that are correct are quickly cut up, the press striking two hundred and twenty double eagle planchets, or two hundred and fifty smaller pieces, in a minute. A man has cut over a million dollars in double eagles in a single day. As fast as cut the planchets fall into a box below, and the perforated strips are folded into convenient lengths to be remelted. From a strip valued at about eleven hundred dollars, eight hundred dollars of planchets will be cut. They are still in a very rough, ragged state, and look but little like coin. The second press, rather smaller than the rest, is the first introduced, and has been in constant use for about forty years; has never been broken, nor had fifty cents' worth of repairs done to it.

(*To be continued.*)

GREAT MICKLEY SALE IN NEW YORK.

NOVEMBER, 1867.

(*Concluded.*)

Annapolis, or Chalmers' Shilling, 1783; obverse, J. CHALMERS, ANNAPOLIS; fine. $50.

Chalmers' Shilling, 1783; in perfect uncirculated condition. $11.

Chalmers' Shilling, 1783. $6.

Chalmers' Sixpence, 1783; very fine. $12.

A set of Chalmers' money, Shilling, Sixpence and Threepence; fine. $41.

Baltimore Town Piece; obverse, bust; reverse, "Standish Barry Threepence, struck July 4, 1790;" very fine; extremely rare. $21.

Kentucky Piece, "British Settlement of Kentucky, 1796;" splendid bronze proof; rare. $37.

Kentucky Piece; obverse like the last; reverse, "Half Penny, Copper Company of Upper Canada;" splendid bronze proof; rare. $40.

Kentucky Token, "Our cause is just;" lettered edge; uncirculated; scarce. $2 50.

Kentucky Token; plain edge; proof; scarce. $1 75.

Confederatio; obverse, TYRANIS IN PERPETUUM ABEIT TERRA; reverse, CONFEDERATIO AMERICANA JUVENUS; fine. $75.

Philadelphia Shilling; obverse, arms of the city; reverse, "Corporation of Philadelphia, One Shilling Token;" very fine; rare. $30.

Continental *Currency*, 1776. $3 25.

Continental *Curency*, 1776; error in spelling; tin; fine proof; $3 25.

Continental Currency, E. G. FECIT; tin; fine proof; rarest variety. $5 50.

Georgius Triumpho, 1783; uncirculated; rare. $3 25.

North American Token, 1781; uncirculated; rare. 35 cents.

Pure Copper preferable to Paper. 25 cents.

A ship; a shield, surrounded by thirteen stars; called by Dickeson the North Carolina Copper. $2 12.

Ships, Colonies and Commerce; American flag; fine. 20 cents.

Pitt Token; "The restorer of commerce, 1766;" fine; scarce. $3 25.

Franklin Press Half Penny, 1794; fine; proof; scarce. $1 75.

An oval Token in tin, "Philad. 1799;" reverse, "Associate Church;" very rare. $5.

Cut Quarter of a Dollar; without date; obverse, an eagle, "Nouvelle Orleans; reverse, "P. B.;" rare; fiine. $7.

Slave kneeling; "Am I not a Man and a Brother?" large planchet; copper; proof; scarce. $1 75.

Same as the last, but on a small planchet; uncirculated, but not quite proof; scarce. $1.

"Am I not a Woman and a Sister?" copper; fine. 25 cents.

Liberia Cent, 1833; fine. 15 cents.

Silver Coin of Ferdinand and Isabella; pierced, otherwise good; scarce. $2 75.

Massachusetts Button; Indian standing; very fine. 45 cents.

ENGLISH SILVER COINS, FROM THE NORMAN CONQUEST.

ARRANGED BY E. M. JR.

[Selected from Ackerman's Numismatic Manual, now out of print.]

RICHARD I., A. D. 1189.

There are no English coins of this king in any collection. The pennies engraved by Snelling were forged by a celebrated collector of the name of White. The only pennies yet known of Richard I were coined in Poictou and Aquitaine.

Obverse.—A plain cross; legend, the name and style, RICARDVS REX.

Reverse.—PICTAVIENSIS in the field of the coin.

The Aquitaine pennies resemble those of Poictou, excepting, of course, the name Aquitaine. There are, however, other types of this money, all of which are very rare.

JOHN, A. D. 1199.

Although there were many mints of this king in England, none of his English coins have been discovered. There is a half penny of John:

Obverse.—His face, represented like a full moon, with the legend, JOHANES DOM. But most of his coins have his head within a triangle.

Reverse.—A cross voided between four annulets or rings, with the moneyer's name, NORMAN ON DIW.

Obverse.—The obverse of the Irish penny has the head of John within a triangle, and a rose on the left side, the right hand holding a sceptre, with the legend JOHANNES REX. The half penny has a star on each side of the head, which is also in a triangle, and the legend JOHAN REX. The farthing has the same obverse as the half-penny, but the moneyer's name WILLEM ON. instead of the king's.

Reverse.—The reverse of the half penny has a triangle, within

which is a crescent, and a cross above it. On each side of the crescent is a small star: the legend WILLEM ON WA, William of Waterford. On the farthing is a star within a triangle, and the name of the king, JOHANES, and the addition of DW., which belongs to the legend on the obverse, and is meant for Dublin. The penny has a crescent and a star above it, both within a triangle, with the moneyer's name, WILEM ON LIME. There is a star at each point of the triangle, and one on each side of it, near the edge of the coin.

Rarity.—The pennies and half pennies of John are rare, and the farthings still more rare.

(*To be continued.*)

AN HISTORICAL SKETCH OF CONTINENTAL PAPER MONEY.

BY SAMUEL BRECK, ESQ.

(*Continued.*)

This encouraging language was held on the 13th of September, 1779. Subsequently, they recur to the same subject thus: "Paper money is the only kind which will not make unto itself wings and fly away. It will remain with us; it will not forsake us." They then repeat their conviction of the abiliiy of the country to redeem it, and having pleged for the support of independence their lives, their fortunes and their sacred honor, the same pledge is given to the public for the payment of all their paper emissions. A contrary sentiment is rejected with scorn and proceeding in their address. With the earnestness of honest men they speak of a bankrupt, faithless republic as a novelty in the political world. "It would appear," say they, "like a common prostitute among respectable matrons. The pride of America revolts from the idea. Her citizens know for what purposes these emissions were made, and they must be redeemed. He must entertain a high opinion of American credulity who supposes the people capable of believing that all America will act against the faith, the honor and the interest of all America. Knowing, as we all do, the value of national character, and impressed with a due sense of the immutable laws of justice and honor, it is impossible that America should think, without horror, of such an execrable deed."

Thus spoke the band of able statesmen who governed in those days. No thought of repudiation was for a moment tolerated. They had created the paper currency, they suggested a feasible scheme of its redemption, and they held the honest purpose of executing that scheme. But they had no power. The jealousy of the States counteracted their good intentions. What they could not redeem themselves was assumed by a generous constituency. The people who bore the blunt of an eight years' war, and victoriously established independence, sustained, without a murmur, the whole tax, and voluntarily reduced to nothingness the greatest item in the cost of the Revolution, and thus waived all claim upon posterity for its payment.

This was undoubtedly a severe tax; yet, when examined with care, it will be found less heavy than it appears at first sight. Let us take the largest sum by which the people could have been affected, say three hundred millions at twenty for one, which is only half the rate fixed by Congress. Twenty for one on three hundred millions will give fifteen millions of sound money. These fifteen millions, having been used as currency for six years, give an annual average of two millions and a half. That sum, among a population of three millions, would not be a poll tax of one dollar; or, if the three millions of inhabitants be divided into families of six persons each, making five hundred thousand families, the annual loss per family would be only five dollars! In all probability the real loss was less to many than this proportion, because the bills passed with great activity from hand to hand to their last days, even when five hundred for one, never remaining locked up nor long withdrawn from circulation. They were divided, too, into small sums, from one dollar to eighty, and always convertible, at the current exchange, into every kind of real and personal property, and, in their hourly, rapid passage, leaving with each temporary possessor the trifling loss only of their daily depreciation.

(*To be continued.*)

NUMISMATIC NOMENCLATURE; OR, THE COIN COLLECTORS' LEXICON.

BY E. MASON, JR.

(*Continued.*)

Gilder or Gulder.—A Dutch coin, worth about 42 cents.

Guinea.—An English coin, worth about $5.

Gilt.—See *Plated.*

Heated.—A coin having a purple appearance produced by a red hot iron, or flame of a light.

Highest Rarity.—A term used in describing coins; by some collectors called "nearly unique."

Hacked.— See *Battered.*

Hair Line.—A very fine line produced by the die in coining.

Hog Piece.—A term sometimes used to designate the Somer Islands' coin.

Horse Head.—Refering to the New Jersey coinage.

Horse Head Left.—A rare variety of the Colonial coins.

Hunched Up.—A piece altered by forcing the designs into different shapes with mechanical implements.

Indian Head.—On obverse of 1858 to Pattern Nickel Cents, and regular coinage of Nickel Cents 1859 to 1870.

Imperial.—A Russian gold coin, worth about $7 84.

Iridescent.—Colored with rainbow tints by contact with velvet.

Itzebu.—Japanese coins, such as gold and silver Itzebus the former worth about $1, the latter worth about 35 cents.

(*To be continued.*)

LIFE SCENES IN THE EXPERIENCE OF A COIN DEALER.

BY E. M., JR.

No. 1.

Many interesting and amusing scenes are witnessed in the store of a coin dealer. Human nature, in its varied phases, exhibits itself here as elsewhere; but, the novelty and mysteries of the coin business, to the uninitiated, produces, at times, some queer scenes, which are highly appreciated by the knowing few who have made numismatics a study.

We shall endeavor to give the reader an insight into the trade, and almost daily experience of a dealer in coins, curiosities, etc., by means of a few sketches illustrating incidents occurring between the dealer, his customers and visitors.

Scene First represents the interior of a coin store, the furniture of which consists of a counter, show case, coin cabinets, a few arm chairs, desk, pigeon holes for letters, and a glass partition separating a small portion of store which is used for private bargains, such as buying and exchanging coins, conversation room, etc. The coin dealer is behind the counter waiting upon customers, while in one corner sits the active *smart* coin collector, eagerly watching the visitors in hopes of snapping up a coin at a bargain, ere the usual patrons flock in, and by competition, run a good piece beyond its fictitious value.

(Enter a lady, very handsomely dressed, who presents a small slip cut from a city paper, which reads in large capitals, "$25 paid for a 1799 cent.")

Lady.—"Is this your advertisement, sir?"

Dealer.—(Blandly). "It is, madam."

Lady.—"Do you really pay twenty-five dollars for a 1799 cent?"

Dealer.—"We pay that price for a perfect cent of that date."

Here the "smart collector" in the corner leans eagerly forward and becomes anxiously interested.

Lady.—(Smiling hopefully, dives her hand down deep into the recesses of her morocco satchel and produces a small paper parcel, which she carefully unwraps.) "I have it, sir—a copper cent of 1799—as perfect as the day it was made. My father was born that year, and always kept it carefully wrapped up. At his death we found it among some old papers, and on account of its brightness and beauty we laid it aside until we read your advertisement, when we concluded to sell it."

At this point of the lady's remarks the dealer's eyes widened; his face brightened up, the picture of hope so long deferred now to be, for the first time, realized. The "smart collector" was up from his chair in an instant, and stood near the interesting couple, who were negociating for the long looked for perfect cent of 1799. The cent is finally exposed in all its brightness and beauty, and, there sure enough, is the date, 1799, sharply prominent; but, alas! that it must be said, it was an English half-penny of George III! Down fell the dealer's hopes, and down in the comfortable arm chair plumped the "smart

collector," while the lady gazed from dealer to collector in utter amazement.

Dealer.—"Madam, this is a pretty and perfect coin of 1799, but, unfortunately for us both, it is not an American cent, but an English half penny, worth about 25 cents."

Lady.—(Indignantly) "Why did you not say American cent in your advertisement?"

Dealer.—(Sarcastically.) "Because, madam, the word cent is understood to be an American coin; while the English use the word penny. We did not advertise for an English half penny of 1799.

Lady retires, muttering something about the obtuseness of advertisers and the humbuggery of the coin trade, while the smart collector and dealer indulge in a little good natured dialogue, not unmixed with merriment and patiently await the next visitor.

NUMISMATIC CRITICS AND PUNSTERS.

Witty sayings, puns and criticisms are constantly emitted in congregations of numismatists, which, if published, would rank well by the side of the writings of Tom Hood, and make a respectable appearance in the froth of *London Punch*, or be highly honored if associated with the emanations of our own *Punchinello*. The stores of coin dealers, and the rooms of auctioneers, when coin sales are in progress, are the chosen grounds for these scholastic utterances and scintillating sayings. The critics generally collect upon the appearance of a fresh coin sale catalogue, and then woe to the compiler of said catalogue if error of syntax, orthography, etymology, misquotation of inscriptions or blunders of a linguistic nature are allowed to appear.

Another occasion for this amusing and sometimes interesting display of the literary abilities of the critics, is the appearance of the monthly numismatic magazines. Our own journal is, of course, no exception, and frankly, we admit, furnishes frequent opportunities for the critic's dissecting knife. It matters not what the hurry or confusion may be in going to press, our kind friends suffer no apologies but look for perfection in these matters, and cry out in grievous alarm lest numismatics retrograde in the scale of the sciences.

The punning portion of the numismatic fraternity we have more patience with, for they serve a rich condiment to season the dry dishes of our diurnal aliment. Criticisms in a coin store often terminate with more or less badinage, and the inevitable puns creep wittily in between, like gleams of sunshine, to enliven, refresh, and make enjoyable all these numismatic discussions.

Upon the appearance of the last issue of this journal (All Fools' day!), our office was well filled with patrons, and the magazine was eagerly examined with a view of commencing the regular debate. One subscriber opens his battery upon the editor by asserting that the very first word in the book is an error. "The word "*Dahlongena*" is spelled wrong."

"Typographical," replies the editor. (Oh, what a capital *gate* that word *typographical* is to get an editor out of a difficulty at the expense of the printer.) Another subscriber adds to the confusion of the publishers by asserting that "the Latin word *denarius* is in the *singular* number, and you have used it in the plural."

"No 'typographical' there," puts in subscriber No. 1. At this point of the *one-sided argument*, the funny subscriber suggests that our "plate of the photographs of collectors could be improved by using a little powder on the faces." Now comes the editor's chance for the offensive in the reply, that "our journal is not a *powder* magazine." "I thought it was," says the funny subscriber, "as it is always *blowing up* somebody." The editor has the worst of the argument, and while all are enjoying a hearty laugh at his expense, a sarcastic subscriber turns the tables by pointing to the grey hairs of the funny subscriber, and saying, "Such a remark might be a decent pun in a young man, but I think it *bad-in-age*."

(*To be continued.*)

THE PRECIOUS STONES, THEIR HISTORY AND VALUE.

Including the Diamond, Sapphire, Ruby, Topaz, Emerald, Amethyst, Carnelian, Garnet, Onyx, Sardonyx, Heliotrope, Chrysolite, Hyacinth, Cat's Eye, Opal, Pearl and Turquoise.

BY H. R.

The last census of the United States informs us that there are twenty-eight lapidaries in its territories—sixteen of whom are in New York, nine in Rhode Island, two in Massachusetts, and one in New Jersey. But throughout the whole world the only diamond cutter of eminence at the present day (we mean to whom the cutting of a stone of extraordinary size would be entrusted) is M. Coster, of Amsterdam, if we except one of growing reputation in Paris, whose name we cannot recall. Within late years the steam engine has been employed at Amsterdam to do a great portion of the cutting.

The shape, as yet discovered, which renders the diamond the most effective in its lustre, is called the *Brilliant*, and was first adopted about a century and a half ago. This shape, in the absence of engravings, we will attempt to describe for the benefit of those readers who have not met with stones of sufficient size to have been the subjects of careful cutting. The *Brilliant* is of the shape of two pyramids, whose bases are hexadecagons, or sixteen sided, placed base to base, the upper half (in altitude) of one of which pyramid has been first cut off; the other pyramid is left complete, or at most is deprived of its vertex or mere tip. The truncated pyramid is the one which is presented to the view when the diamond is set in any piece of jewelry, the perfect pyramid being behind or under. The truncated and the perfect pyramids are called respectively the *table* and the *collet*, and their line of unison, or, what is the same thing, the perimeter of either's base is called the *girdle*. The largest *facet* on the *Brilliant* is the plane of dissection of the upper half of that pyramid of

which the *table* is formed, which *facet* we have already said in effect is that prominently exposed to view. This *facet* is a regular octagon —so is the minute one produced by the abscission of the vertex of the other pyramid—the other *facets* upon the remaining surface of the two pyramids, or rather what is left of the same, are all quadrangular and triangular.

(*To be continued.*)

GREEK AND ROMAN COINS.

A series of an emperor's coins is his life digested into annals." *Addison.*

COMPILED BY E. M., JR.

GREEK CIVIC COINS.

Coins of Ægina—Various Denominations of Greek Silver Coins—Copper Coins, with their Divisions—Gold Coins of Sicily of an Early Date—Small Gold Coins of Cyrene—Gold Coins of various Cities in Greece—List of Coins of Cities using Greek Characters.

EUROPE.

BRUTIUM.

Laureated head of Jupiter to the left.

Reverse.—BPETTION, a naked warrior in an offensive posture, armed with a helmet, lance and buckler; at his feet an owl.—Æ.

RHEGIUM.

Head of Diana to the right, a quiver on her shoulder.

Reverse.—PHINΓON, a lyre.—AR.

CAMARINA.

A lizard.

Reverse.—An indented square with four compartments.—Æ.

CANTANA.

Head of Apollo to the left.

Reverse.—KATANAION, a female in a long robe holding a flower. There are some on which the figure carries a bird.—Æ.

CENTURIPÆ.

Bust of Ceres, behind the head an ear of corn.

Reverse.—CENTYPINON, a plow, and a bird perched upon the share.—Æ.

LEONTINI.

Laureated head of Apollo to the right.

Reverse.—AEONTINON, a female with two ears of corn in her right hand, in her left a spear.—Æ.

MAMERTINI.

Laureated head of Jupiter to the right.

Reverse.—MAMEPTINON, a naked warrior to the right, armed with a lance and a buckler.—Æ.

PANORMUS.

Head of Ceres, with a wheaten crown, to the left.

Reverse.—A horse.—AI.

Many of the coins of Panormus have Phœnician characters. The horse frequently occurs on the reverses.

(*To be continued.*)

RESULT OF PHILADELPHIA COIN SALE, APRIL 12.

The result of the public sale of coins and pattern pieces, was very satisfactory, if we except certain pattern coins, which exhibited a falling off in value, due, no doubt, to the dullness of the times.

The 336 lots realized about $700.

No. 28. 1851; proof silver Dollar. $30.
No. 29. 1851; uncirculated proof silver Dollar. $21.
No. 52. 1815; uncirculated Half Dollar. $3 50.
No. 59. 1822; proof Half Dollar. $2 25.
No. 60. 1823; uncirculated Half Dollar. $2 63.
No. 98. 1815; uncirculated Quarter Dollar. $4 50.
No. 101. 1820; proof Half Dollar. $2 75.
No. 124. 1807; Dime; very fine. $2.
No. 137. 1796; Dime; very fine. $4.
No. 154. 1855; proof silver Three Cent Piece. $2 25.
No. 179. 1795; Half Dime; copper. $8.
No. 190. Gold Ring Dollar. $6 50.
No. 208. 1861; pattern silver Half Dollar. $8 50.
No. 209. 1861; pattern silver Half Dollar. $7.
No. 214. 1863; copper Three Cent Piece; pattern. $5 50.
No. 219. 1864; Half Dollar; aluminum. $8 50.
No. 226. silver Cent; 1865; pattern. $10.
No. 240. 1867; pattern Five Cent Piece. $13.
No. 241. 1868; pattern Five Cent Piece. $12 50.
No. 246. 1858; set Five Cent, Three Cent and One Cent; copper. $13 50.
No. 261. 1869; set nine pieces; patterns. $17.
No. 289. Field Medal; aluminum. $13.
No. 308. block of ivory; unique. $10 50.

COGAN'S NEW YORK COIN SALE, APRIL 22.

The result of this sale, we are happy to say, more than realized the expectations of Mr. Cogan: gross amount upwards of four hundred dollars for the 556 lots. The coins, with few exceptions, were very ordinary; and, in many instances, could be purchased at the coin stores for less, by fifty per cent. than prices realised at auction.

NEW YORK COIN SALE.

A small sale of coins, foreign and American, came off at Messrs. Bangs, Merwin & Co.'s, Broadway, New York, April 22. As there was nothing remarkable to attract buyers, we have only to say the coins realised more than their full value.

UNITED STATES PATTERN PIECES FOR 1870.

The set of nine silver pieces, precisely in designs the same as the set of 1869, is now ready for collectors. Apply at the United States Mint, in this city.

NEW YORK COIN SALE, APRIL 28, 1869.

The collection of coins, medals and autographs (property of Mr. Maguire, formerly of Washington, D. C.) was brought under Messrs. Leavitt & Strebeigh's hammer on Thursday and Friday evenings. The most interesting coin in the American series was the 1800 Cent (a beautiful uncirculated piece), which was bid off by Mason & Co. at $35. Many of the silver and some of the gold coins were slaughtered, selling below intrinsic value. Had we received the proper number of catalogues for distribution amongst our patrons, a much larger profit would have accrued to owner than under the *limited plan* of sending catalogues to a few and omitting dealers altogether in the matter of catalogues. When will owners of coin collections learn wisdom in the disposal, by auction, of their property, and the proper distribution of catalogues.

NEW EDITION OF DR. MARIS' BOOK.

Dr. E. Maris, of this city, has issued a second edition of his little pamphlet in reference to the variety of the United States copper coinage of 1794. This improved edition includes a description of forty-three varieties of the cents and seven varieties of the half cents. It will be remembered by our readers that the first edition contained but thirty-nine varieties of the cents and six of the half cents. Only one hundred copies of the second edition printed. Price 25 cents. For sale at this office.

NEW UNITED STATES FIFTY CENT NOTE.

The new issue of fifty cent fractional currency has appeared and is rather an attractive note. The prominent features of the late and lamented Secretary Stanton gives a decidedly handsome appearance to the new issue.

NEW YORK COIN SALE.

L. Montgomery Bond's collection of coins, autographs, book cases and curiosities will be sold on May 7. No cards.

Philatelic Department.

E. MASON, JR., EDITOR.

EDITOR'S NOTICE.

In assuming the management of the Postage Stamp Department, we ask the kind indulgence of philatelic critics and readers until we get fitted to the harness. It shall be our aim and ambition to make this department of the magazine attractive and gain for it that popularity which the coin department is noted for. We solicit communications from stamp collectors, and suggestions in any manner connected with philately.

PHILATELY.

The query, a poser to the non-initiated in "Philately," is now readily responded to by the postage-stamp amateur, who triumphantly produces his postage stamp album. Therein, as we have hinted, lie geography, history, dates, peculiarities of produce and commerce, emblems, and, though not actually portrayed, wars and revolutions, their undoubted consequences accurately and permanently chronicled in due chronological order.

Writing as we are primarily for the benefit of the major or juvenile portion of our readers, we may take occasion to explain a word employed which may possibly be a novelty to some of them, and which they would vainly turn over the pages of any dictionary hitherto published to discover. We trust, however, this existing blank in our dictionaries and cyclopedias will ere long be filled up. We mean the word "Philately."

In the early days of postage stamp collecting, its amateurs, principally juveniles, were content to bear the unpretending legitimate English appellation. But when the *furore* was approaching its present respectable proportions, and became patronized by maturer age and more scientific minds, its acknowedged dignity demanded a proportionably suitable name. The French adopted at first the name of *Timbromanie*, Anglice, *Timbromania*. The *double entendre* implied in the word gave rise naturally to sarcastic remark from those who had not discrimination enough to discover the real utility of the novel pursuit: and a well-known Parisian collector, now, alas! seceded from our fraternity, proposed the word *philatelie*, with its corresponding derivatives.

The Greek words, *philos*, a friend, and *telso*, a tax, representing that they are free from further expense. This seems the best word obtainable from a classical source, the total impossibility of finding a Greek or Latin equivalent for what the Greeks or Romans never dreamed of—a postage stamp—precluding a less far-fetched synonym.

The propriety of application to the dead languages for the name of so very recent a fancy is questionable; but the heretofore used French word affording a handle for would-be wits to joke about what they had not sense to understand, and English not being well calculated for compound appellations, what was to be done? For our own part we should have been inclined to call into service the German tongue; more especially as the Germans were among the earlier, if not the earliest, postage stamp collectors. We question, however, whether such long-winded, crackjaw words as *Poststampelsammler* or *Postmarkenliebhaber* would have ever fallen into general vogue.—*Boy's Journal.*

NEW ISSUES.

The United States leads the world in the beauty of its new issue of a set of ten postage stamps; although there will be many severe

criticisms on the likenesses of the distinguished men whose heads are used to ornament the same. The most noted stamp for the critics to harp on will be the three cent (green) head of Washington, from Houdon's bust. This stamp, from its general use, will be analyzed and criticised at home and abroad. To our mind, a true conception of Washington's countenance could not be had by the study of Houdon's bust. All history of that great and good man's appearance, as well as all life portraits, give us, and no doubt the general public, a different idea of Washington's profile, from that which the new three cent stamp furnishes. However, the stamps are well executed, and will without doubt give general satisfaction.

UNITED STATES.—The new stamps for this country are larger than their predecessors and the same size as the issue of 1861. The designs and colors, fully corrected, are as follows:

One cent, head of Franklin, blue.
Two do do Jackson, brown.
Three cent do Washington, green.
Six do do Lincoln, red.
Ten do do Jefferson, light brown.
Twelve cent, head of Clay, dark purple.
Fifteen do do Webster, orange.
Twenty-four cent, head of Scott, purple.
Thirty do do Hamilton, black.
Ninety do do Perry, carmine.

HOLLAND.—It is reported that two unpaid letter stamps are to be issued. bearing for a design a large figure in the centre indicating the value. The impression is to be in black on colored paper, and the denominations will be 5 cent, blue; 10 cent, orange.

HONDURAS.—Another correspondent sends us a pink 2 reales, which he received on a letter direct from Amapala. After this, the most skeptical can hardly retain their objections to the genuineness of the Honduras stamps.

TURKEY.—Two more envelopes have been issued—

3 piastres, orange. 6 piastres, violet.

The rumored 1½ piastre, brown, is also in existence.

NICARAGUA.—The normal hue of 25 c. is said to be *bright green*. In this case, the sun and air combined, must have had a wonderful effect on the color of all those that have been sent over to this country.

DUTCH INDIES.—We are informed that the 10 c. of the new type will not be issued until the exhaustion of the stock of the old type.

CEYLON.—We have just received specimens of the shilling, printed a rich deep mauve on the cc., and crown water-marked paper.

CUBA.—The following are the colors of three of the new stamps—5 c., blue; 10 c, green; 20 c., brown.

EGYPT.—The 10 paras is now printed in a very bright mauve, contrasting strongly with its previous hue.—*Stamp Collectors' Magazine.*

THE NEW UNITED STATES POSTAGE STAMPS.

Cavil as we may at the profile views of the eminent men whose busts ornament our new stamps, there are points which will, we doubt not, be universally conceded in favor of the new comers, and among these, *beauty* and *uniformity*. It is, doubtless, a work of nice discrimination in the preparation of ten stamps of different values to avoid proximity of colors, and in the case of the new issues there is one noticeable instance in the comparison of the ten cent with the two cent stamp; the former is a light brown, and the latter a dark brown, and already instances have occurred—so nearly the two stamps approximate in color and design—of the ten cent stamp being affixed to newspapers and pamphlets requiring but two cents postage. This difficulty, we learn, is to be obviated by a change of the color of the stamps in question. The twelve and twenty-four cent issues are open to a like objection; it being difficult, in the hurry of the moment, to distinguish between the colors, especially at night. A change in the color of the latter stamps, however, is not so important, the lower values being more in general use, and the line of distinction in color is sufficiently drawn in the one, two, three and six cent stamps. Familiarity with the stamps will, in a measure, correct the evils we allude to; but a change is imperatively demanded in the color of the ten cent issue, without which it will be frequently confounded with the two cent issue, causing considerable loss and perplexity to correspondents.

We present, with pride, our new series for the critical examination of the philatelists and engravers of the old world; and ask, in all candor, for the production of an equal number combining such beauty and uniformity as these attractive postage stamps possess. The return, in proportion, from the little square bits of paper to the size of the earlier issues, is a reform greatly needed, and will win universal praise for the Government.

OUR CONTEMPORARIES.

The Stamp Collectors' Magazine, Bath, for April, is not filled with its usual variety of fresh reading matter; but there is a plentiful supply of personalities, refreshingly cool and original—some of which strike heavily on this side of the water.

Alfred Smith & Co., the publishers, seem determined to doubt every fact put forth in an American philatelic journal. In our March number, under the head of "New Issues," appeared the following paragraph:

"UNITED STATES.—There is now being printed a new three cent stamp for this Government. It has the profile of Washington in the centre, in an oval, and is the prettiest and best stamp this Government has ever issued."

Our kind and distant neighbor misquoted the above paragraph, but appropriated the news it conveyed in a very uncivil manner; stating, with extreme caution, that "except a *rumour* of certain forthcoming

emissions, which we quote elsewhere, there is really nothing in the magazine calling for notice."

What right have you, Messieurs Editors, to make and publish as a *rumour* an asserted fact?

The article you quoted (wrongly) did not give the new issue as a *rumour* (the italics are all our own), but spoke of it as a big, round, *solid fact*, without equivocation or affording opportunity for misconstruction.

You were certainly welcome to the news the article conveyed, but, while quoting an important fact from an exchange, you should not have descended to the uncivil treatment of the loafer, who, after obtaining the loan of a five dollar piece, pronounced the coin counterfeit, and then gave his patron a *complimentary* kick for loaning the money!

The Stamp Collectors' Magazine for April has two pages devoted to "Our Contemporaries," in which the editor gives his views of *The Philatelist, Le Timbrophile, Le Timbre-Posts, American Journal of Philately, American Stamp Mercury,* and *Mason's Coin and Stamp Collectors' Magazine.*

There is an exhaustive paper entitled "Our West Indian Stamps," by that clever and indefatigable Edward L. Pemberton, than whom, in our estimation, none stand higher in the rank of learned philatelists.

"The Franking Privilege in France" and the "Half Penny Postage Question" is next given from other publications, and we would say, *en passant*, that these articles are not exactly matter appropriate for stamp collectors.

"Papers For Beginners," by Overy Taylor, is very good in its way, but exceptions could be well taken to some of the points advanced by Mr. Taylor, had we the space to particularize. "Newly Issued Stamps," by the editor, contains considerable information and we do the publication in question the honor of quoting some of the same in our present number.

"Reviews of Postal Publications," "Postal Chit-Chat," "Correspondence," and "Answers to Correspondents," make the balance of the reading matter. There are twelve pages of advertisements and an equal number of pages are given to the articles enumerated above —equally divided and equally interesting.

The Philatelist, for April, Stafford, Smith & Co., Brighton, is also on our table. This number exceeds in interest its neighbor and rival. It is filled with entertaining and instructive stamp matter. Our space this month is too limited for a proper review of its contents.

The American Journal of Philately, April 20, is received, and is a fine specimen of the printers' skill, barring a few unimportant typographical errors, which, strive as we may, will creep into the best regulated journal. Messrs. J. W. Scott & Co., printers, deserve great credit for the style of their printing; we speak *by the card*, having had a large order for *cards* and catalogues satisfactorily exe-

cuted by that firm. The present number of the *Journal of Philately* is handsomely illustrated with colored views of new issues of Switzerland, and a very correct copy, in the true color of the new U. S. three cent postage stamp.

Here we take occasion to open the question of priority of claim as to the subject of first presenting a description of the new green three cent U. S. postage stamp to the philatelic public. We hardly think the matter open to qnestion, as our journal first published a general description of the new stamp in the March number, which was in press February 25, several days before the appearance of the *American Journal of Philately's* extra sheet, containing a full description of the new series. If the editors claim to be the first to publish a description of the three cent issue, we answer *negatively;* if they claim the first publication to the *whole issue* or complete set, we reply in the affirmative. Draw the line, Messrs. Editors, and award the proper credit.

CORRECTION.

The name of the Post Master of St. Louis, in the affidavit of James M. Kershaw, in the April number of this journal, was incorrectly given; it should have been John M. Wimer.

PRICED CATALOGUE OF POSTAGE STAMPS.

We have issued a new catalogue, improved and corrected to date, fully illustrated, with illuminated title page. It contains 32 pages, printed on heavy white paper. This priced stamp catalogue will be mailed for 25 cents, or 15 cents when a packet of stamps is ordered. Our packet list will be found on the last page.

TO STAMP PATRONS.

In our store, 139 North Ninth street, will be found a large supply of foreign and American postage stamps and a great variety of albums; also a nicely furnished and fitted retiring room, where the collector can assort or arrange stamps and read all the philatelic publications of the day at leisure.

MASON & CO.'S CHAMPION STAR PACKETS.

We have prepared a series of packets, termed as above, at prices varying from 25 cents to $5. Desirable stamps will be found in the lower priced packets (such as we sell from 25 to 50 cents each), and rare stamps in those from 75 cents to $5 each. We can supply dealers with stamps in any quantity desired, and at very low prices.

JUST OUT.

Our large handsome (priced) postage stamp catalogue (illuminated covers), illustrated, corrected and improved to May 1, 1870, is now ready for collectors. Price 25 cents.