

and it will probably in time supersede the garter on the fourpence. Here we must note, *en passant*, that a few of the sixpences have been issued unperforated.

To this review of the *adhesives* it may not be thought out of place if I venture to tack the following observations from *The Stamp-Collector's Magazine* (vol. v., p. 67), respecting the way in which they are printed:—

“It may interest some of our readers to know, that whenever a plate is made up for printing any of the English stamps, as soon as it is finally set up in the frame, a few proofs in black, on common paper, are struck off. This is done chiefly for the purpose of correcting and checking the lettering in the angles, which are filled into their spaces after the rest of the stamp is completed. A series of the stamps is made in soft steel from an original mother die, and then hardened, the angles being left for the insertion of the letters afterwards. There is a very well-known proof in blue of the twopence, with the square spaces in the two lower angles blank, which was taken before the lettering was filled in.

“When the letters are filled in, and the plate completed, before any impressions are struck, the plate is tested by the proofs above referred to, which are most carefully read by a principal or manager. The government inspectors, who have charge of the plates, and in whose presence they are made up on the spot, are (and properly so) exceedingly careful and vigilant. They count the very number of the proofs thus taken for revision, and require them back again, after correction, when they are at once destroyed, so that no specimen of these has ever found its way into a collector's hands.”

It now only remains to notice the special purposes for which the higher-value stamps were issued. The threepence was originally intended to cover the postage to Belgium and Switzerland; in 1864, however, by a new regulation, it was settled that the weight of home letters should advance by half-ounces instead of by ounces, as previously, and the threepenny stamp is now called into use for the prepayment of letters weighing three half ounces; its employment has lately been still further extended, through

the reduction of the rate for letters to France from fourpence to threepence. The fourpence must, we think, have been intended, principally, for the now-reduced rate to France; the sixpence paid the half-ounce postage to the United States and other countries; the ninepence was primarily intended to pay the rate on Indian and Australian letters, but on the raising of the charge to tenpence, the well-known stamp of that value was issued in 1867. The use of the ninepence is now very restricted, and it is about the only English stamp of which obliterated copies are worth anything. The shilling pays the rates to South America, and to a number of out-of-the-way parts, whilst the two shilling and five shilling are intended for heavy foreign letters.

The British stamps are not merely used in the British Isles. There are a number of branch offices situate in foreign parts, notably in Constantinople, Alexandria, Buenos Ayres, and Callao; they are also in use in Gibraltar and Malta, and the stamps which come from these places are well worth preserving, as they bear special postmarks; thus Malta postmarks with an M, Constantinople with a C, and so on. Some years ago, when collecting was in its infancy, the Gibraltar marks were mistaken for postage stamps, but the philatelic world was soon undeceived.

ERRORS OF ENGRAVING AND PRINTING.—III.

BY W. DUDLEY ATLEE.

LIBERIA.—The only error existing among these stamps may be called a “fraudulent” one, as it was the covert work of a person engaged in the establishment of the printers. It appears that having surreptitiously obtained access to the “form” of the twelve cents, he procured some lilac ink, and struck off a few labels in that colour. These he sold to a tradesman in the city who “dabbled” in stamps, by whom they were sold to a small London dealer, whose honesty, unfortunately, was considerably below the profit he gained by the transaction.

The real character of these articles was not discovered for some time, and even then

not until all were disposed of. Very few copies are to be had now, and we think that not more than a couple of sheets were printed at the most. They are only interesting as mementos of a "played-out" swindle.

The *twenty-four* cents lilac, mentioned by the extinguished Pendragon, is altogether a myth, and the sight of it by that individual in Birchin-lane, during 1861, must be either a phantasy, or else the specimen was a "doctored" one.

LUBECK.—The "*zwei-und-ein-halber*" error is by this time almost as familiar to all of us as "household words," but as a description of it is needed to make our chronicle complete, we will give it. The stamp is a two schilling, inscribed with that value in the angles, but having its denomination given as "two-and-a-half" in the surrounding oval. Two are found upon the sheets of the ordinary brown 2 sch., side by side, in the lowest row.

LUXEMBURG.—There are several mistakes in the minute lettering representing the value in the stamps of the present series. It is scarcely worth while to give a complete list of these various contortions, as they mostly are so indistinct as to require a magnifying glass of "hextra power" to discover their whereabouts. Among them we find such eccentric spelling as CENHIMES, CEITIMES, CENTINES, *et hoc genus omne*.

LUCON.—By describing all the varieties of the Philippine labels we should be departing from the rule laid down in our initial paper, as the numerous differences are what may be termed "intentional," or varieties that the engraver had not the power to prevent. Those collectors who wish to be *au fait* in this subject, are advised to turn to Mr. Pemberton's list, which is to be found at page 143 of our third volume.

The only "collectable error" we can rightly so call, is that of the one real in the earliest set (this is the type that has the inscription *Correos 1854* and *55 below*.) The error consists in the omission of an E, thus making the word *CORROS*.

At one time, a variety was given of the 5 cuartos of 1864 with the Queen's lips thicker, and with the neck thinner, but this seems to be nothing better than a forgery.

MAURITIUS.—Most of our readers will recall to mind the "paper war" which occurred some two years since in this magazine, respecting (among other things) the first issue of the above colony. Pendragon rose and "played" at being censor, egotistically setting himself up to teach those whose knowledge of philately was far superior to his own. He, however, after various acrobatic distortions of his own remarks, sank into oblivion—never to rise again.

His *grand coup* of ignorance was made when he tried to prove that upon *one* die only had the engraver placed the words *POST-OFFICE*, instead of *POST PAID*. This of course was soon proved to be a falsity, as not only the twopenny, but the penny also is found so inscribed. The colour of the former is a bright rust-red, and of the latter, a deep blue.

It is now generally acknowledged that these rarities are the original designs which were prepared for the government, but from some unexplained cause, the engraver was required to alter the inscription from *OFFICE* to *PAID*. From their close likeness to the emitted type, some few were passed by the postal clerks without detection.

Of the usual type Moens catalogues two of the higher value, inscribed *PENOE* and *PENCT*, respectively. We have ourselves seen a copy of the former, which was so clear that it admitted of no doubt; but the latter is a stranger to us, although it probably does exist.

MEXICO.—We now come to a stamp which in our estimation ranks as the prince of errors. It is the one real of the 1861 type, head of Hidalgo, printed in black on the lilac paper of the two reals. This is of the greatest rarity, only five copies have been emitted.

In the surcharged letterings upon several of the labels, there are various mistakes, but as we believe Mr. Pemberton is compiling an exhaustive paper on the stamps of this country, we will leave them for that gentleman to mention.

MODENA.—The amount of trash we are asked by continental dealers to accept as Modenese errors is something astonishing. In fact these so-called varieties, and the large