

THE little attempt made here, to **Leeward Islands.** celebrate Her Majesty's Jubilee by squirting ink over her Majesty's face, is hardly worth alluding to. Nobody seems inclined to take any serious notice of the stamps which have been spoiled in this way, and we trust, for the sake of the good name of this group of Islands, that the matter will soon be forgotten. They were so unfortunate as to spill some ink over their stamps, and it is unnecessary for us to spill more ink over such a dirty little job.

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THESE two Colonies seem anxious to pose as the Montenegro and San **New South Wales and Victoria.** Marino of the Antipodes, without, we trust, an antipodean Mr. Bickle to urge them upon their philatelic career. The honest example of the Prince of Wales' Hospital Fund Stamps was not good enough for their Australian imitators, who wanted something that would appeal more directly to the cupidity of the philatelic speculator. Hence the queer labels, with a Penny Postal and Shilling Speculative value, in designs resembling those employed for advertising exhibitions on the Continent, which we hope and believe will not find a place in the leading Catalogues and Albums. Ever since the tragedy of the Vanishing Van Dyck and the Laureated *Remainders*, and the break-up of the Philatelic Society in Sydney, just too soon for the plot of that tragedy to be tracked to its source, philatelists in Australia seem to have been like sheep without a shepherd, at the mercy of any Postmaster or speculator who desired to fleece them. Mr. Cooke seems to have learnt nothing by the failure of his neatly postmarked reprints, and the Victorian scandal of some twelve months ago appears to have been soon forgotten; for the Postal Departments of both Colonies at once fell into the hospital trap, which we fancy will nip some fingers pretty severely—though we have no doubt that local charities may have been benefited, to some small extent, by this degradation of one of the Government Departments to the level of a Fancy Bazaar.

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MR. BACON tells us that a fresh **The British Museum.** portion of the Tapling Collection is now on view, consisting of the later issues of the Transvaal and those of the Cape of Good Hope, Griqualand, and British Bechuanaland.

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My attention has been called **Expert Committee of the L.P.S.** to the fact that a statement has appeared, in one of the Continental philatelic magazines, to the effect that a certain strip of three Tuscany 3 lire stamps, which was sent by Signor Pio Fabri, of Rome, to be shown at the Philatelic Exhibition in London, and was afterwards withdrawn as not being genuine, had been passed as good by the Expert Committee of the London Philatelic Society, and by the most prominent English Collectors; and that our authorities were only undeceived when Dr. E. Diena informed us of the doubtful nature of the stamps in question. Whilst fully acknowledging the fact that it was Dr. Diena's letter which first drew special attention to this strip of stamps, it is only right to state that the rest of the above history is absolutely without foundation. As a member of the Expert Committee, I am able to say that these stamps were never submitted to that Committee at all; and, as Signor Fabri's exhibit was sent direct to me, to be handed over to the Exhibition Committee, I am able to add that his stamps were never closely examined by any prominent English Collectors, until after Dr. Diena's letter had been received, and after I had received a letter from Signor Fabri upon the same subject. It seems hardly necessary to state that neither the Expert Committee nor the Exhibition Committee attempted to expertise every stamp that was sent in, as anyone, who has had experience of any Exhibition of any size, will know that it would be impossible to do so.

We are requested to state that stamps for examination by the Expert Committee of the London Philatelic Society should be addressed in future to "The Expert Committee, London Philatelic Society, Effingham House, Arundel Street, Strand, London, W.C.," instead of to Major Evans, as hitherto. The fee—2s. 6d. for a single stamp, or 2s. each for two or more sent together—should in all cases accompany the stamps.

NEW ISSUES AND VARIETIES.

NOTE.—We shall be greatly obliged if our readers will send, for description herein, any new issues or new varieties they may become acquainted with, addressing them to MAJOR EVANS, *Glenarm, Longton Avenue, Sydenham, S.E.*, or to THE EDITOR OF THE MONTHLY JOURNAL, care of MESSRS. STANLEY GIBBONS, LIMITED, 391, Strand, London, W.C.

PART I.

Great Britain.—A correspondent, who has had opportunities of examining entire sheets of the *Army Official* stamps, tells us that the error "OFFICIAL" has been corrected by adding a foot to the defective "L" at the end of the word, and that this repaired letter can be recognised by its having a kind of "club-foot," thicker

at the toe than at the heel; in fact, the wound is badly healed and worse toed! Our correspondent sends us a copy of the 1d., and assures us that this variety always occurs, both in this value and the ½d., in the same position on the sheet as that previously occupied by the error.

Mr. Gordon Smith tells us that a copy of the 1d., red, Plate 162, has been found used and on part of the original document, *imperfurate* and with sufficient margins to satisfy the most sceptical.

British Central Africa.—By an unfortunate slip of the pen (or was it the printer?—let us say that it was the printer, and hope that it may be true!) we listed the lower values as wmk. Crown & CC and the higher as wmk. Crown & CA, in our July number. The contrary is, of course, the case; it is only the large-sized stamps that now appear with the old watermark.

Messrs. Whitfield King & Co. tell us that the now obsolete stamps on watermarked paper were issued on November 1st, 1896, when all the unwatermarked remainders were destroyed; and that the new issue appeared on August 1st, when the stock of obsolete watermarked stamps was burnt. All this building of annual bonfires has a very virtuous ring about it. We presume fuel is scarce in the offices of the Protectorate; there seems to be no other reason for not putting the stamps to their legitimate use—unless fresh funds to be furnished by philatelists were urgently needed.

British Honduras.—A description of a variety of the surcharge "2 CENTS" on 6d. (issue of 1888), differing from the ordinary in having a curly-tailed figure "2," has been going the round of the magazines—not all the magazines, as one of our *confrères* has stated—and we have been waiting to hear a little more about it, before humbly venturing to express any doubts. It now appears that a similar variety was announced a couple of years ago, and denounced by *Le T.-P.* as a forgery, in which we doubt not that our friend "had reason."

British South Africa.—We find that we omitted the 4d. from the list of values found upon a slightly thicker, unwatermarked paper, which we described in August.

Adhesive. 4d., chestnut and black; *thicker paper; perf.* 14.

Canada.—Mr. D. A. King sends us the following cutting, referring to a new issue for *Postal* purposes. The Colony will have to stick to business for a good many years to come, if it wishes to recover its reputation for honesty.

"OTTAWA, September 28.—The design for a new postage stamp has been approved by the Postmaster-General. There is a portrait of Her Majesty as she appeared at the coronation, except that a coronet is substituted for a crown. The portrait has been engraved from a photo procured during the Jubilee ceremonies, and upon which was the Queen's own autograph, so that it is authentic. The corners of the stamp will be decorated with maple leaves, which were pulled from maple trees on Parliament Hill and engraved directly from them. Everything indeed is correct and up to date, and the new issue will reflect credit on Mr. Mulock's good taste. The engravers will take care to make this permanent and ordinary issue a tribute to their skill. The present stock of stamps it will take some months to exhaust, and not till they are done will the new stamps be issued. It may be about November of this year."

Cape of Good Hope.—We give an illustration showing the surcharge recently described upon the 1½d. card, and we understand that there is a second variety, with the new value overprinted in thinner type and two lines only cancelling the original.

Post Card.

1d. on 1½d., grey on buff; and Type.



India.—*Cashmere.*—A correspondent has shown us specimens of two varieties, one of which is certainly unchronicled, while the other is rather puzzling; both are used, apparently in 1877 and 1878. The first is an impression of the ½ a. red, rectangular, of the type dated "1923," one of the "block of four," in oil colour, upon wove paper, apparently European. The other is a ½ a. of the 1878 type, on ordinary laid paper, and with the rough perforation,

but apparently in black. The question with regard to this is whether it is really one of the black stamps perforated, or a very dark impression of the *slate*, No. 138 in the Catalogue.

Adhesives. ½ a., red, type 5; on European wove paper.
½ a., black (?), type 12; on laid paper, perf.

Duttia.—We fear that this State is as philatelically inclined as some of the others. Like the Letajoski, of Ballyrotsk, the authorities have invented several new ways of spelling the name, and with a little encouragement they will doubtless go on and prosper. There is a whole series of adhesives, according to *Le T.-P.*, of the accompanying type with the name spelt "DATIA," varied by the last letter of the word being sometimes broken and sometimes whole. The Post Card, which had previously been only seen with the name "DATIA," has since been found with the spelling "DUTTIA" and "DUTIA"—and it is rumoured that the next variation is likely to be "DIRTIER"!

It may be noted that in the following illustration, the stamp upon the card has the word for *anna* given in full, not the first two letters only as shown last month. Permutations and combinations of the setting of the stamp and the heading may confidently be expected, to the great joy of Post Card collectors!

DUTTIA STATE POST CARD

एत तसक सिर्फ पानिवाके का पता डिखना चाडिडे

रा.दा.निवा

पानिवा

Adhesives. ½ a., black on green: *Dattia.*

1 a. " white "

2 a. " yellow "

4 a. " red "

Post Cards. ½ a., black: *Duttia.*

½ a. " *Duttia.*

All have the blue seal, except when the latter is accidentally omitted.

Labuan.—Messrs. Whitfield King & Co. send us illustrations of the new 18 c. and 24 c. labels of North Borneo, surcharged for the supposed requirements of this territory. For further description see *North Borneo*.

New South Wales.—*Le T.-P.* quotes a description of a forgery of the 2d. of 1888, made to defraud the Post Office. Fortunately the watermark has not been imitated, so collectors can easily recognise this fraud, which also shows some small defects in copying the letters of the inscriptions. How soon will the Australian authorities learn that good engraving is cheapest in the long run?

New Zealand.—We have received some official stationery from this Colony, including two sizes of envelope No. 102 in the Catalogue, 140×80 mm. and 220×90 mm. respectively; also an envelope of the larger size, with a stamp of similar design, but inscribed "AUDIT"—"FREE," in straight lines.

Official Envelope. Black on white laid; 220×90 mm.; *Audit.*

Niger Coast Protectorate.—Through an unfortunate mistake in making up the pages in our last number, a 5/- stamp, which was duly described under *New South Wales*, was listed under *Niger Coast*. Our readers will please note that the "5s., purple (*old type*); perf. 11," belongs to the former Colony, not the latter.

For this Protectorate we have now to chronicle two more values on the Crown and CA paper, upon the authority of *The Ph. R.*, which adds that the ½d. is perf. 14½×15, the 1d. perf. 15, and the 2d. perf. 14½.

Adhesives. ½d., green; wmk. Crown CA.
2d., lake "

North Borneo.—Messrs. Whitfield King & Co. send us illustrations of the corrected edition of the 18 c. and 24 c. of current designs. The words "POSTAGE &" have been substituted for "POSTAL" at the left side of the lower value, and "POSTAGE & REVENUE" have been inserted in the lower part of the central device on the higher, where they may well pass for a translation of the motto of the Company! The colours remain as before, for the present.

Queensland.—We have at last seen the 1d. adhesive in the new type, with value in each corner: it is printed in *vermilion*, wmkd. Crown and Q, and perf. 13. A correspondent tells us that he has the 2d. of 1894, on the large Crown and Q paper, with the "T" of "TWO" converted into something resembling a letter "F" by a white projection half way down the vertical stroke. He states that he has seen a sheet of these stamps which contained one copy only of this variety, which is, therefore, not one of a group of four, distinctive of a certain plate, but what may be termed an accidental.

Straits Settlements.—*Negri Sembilan.*—The *D. B. Z.* announces Post Cards with stamp of the Tiger type of 1892, and the formula of the ½d. Colonial cards.

Post Cards. 1 c., green on cream.
1 + 1 c. " "

Tonga.—A correspondent "out there" tells us that he possesses a variety of No. 36 (we think he means No. 47) in the Catalogue, with periods after "Half" and "Penny," instead of hyphens; also that he has the 1½d. stamp with this same surcharge (Type 13?) impressed upon it. That several varieties of the 1d. stamps were divided and used for ½d. stamps we can easily believe.

Our publishers have shown us a copy of the ½d. on 7½d., with the surcharge "Half-Penny" upside down, at the top of the stamp.

Uganda.—Mr. Miller tells us that the following values should be added to our lists of these stamps, and that the first issue came out in 1895:—

1895. *Letters "U. G." and numerals.*
25 (cowries), black.
35 " " "
5 " violet.
15 " "
25 " "
1896. *With "V 96 R" and name.*
30 (cowries), violet.
40 " "
60 " "

Let us hope that these complete the series.

Victoria.—We are told of the discovery of a copy of the 4d., *vermilion*, emblems, watermark Star, clipped rather close, but probably imperforate, with a clear impression on both sides. One side has been used; it is probably too late now to use the other.

Another variety of this type has been found in the "Ellison" collection, being a 2d., *pale lilac*, perf. 12, watermark with a single-lined figure "6," like that which was used for the 6d. stamps. It is a used copy, with the perforations partly clipped, unfortunately, but the watermark is, we understand, sufficiently clear to be unmistakable.

Adhesive. 2d., pale lilac (Type 6); wmk. "6"; perf. 12.

Western Australia.—Cycle Express Companies appear to be the latest fashion in this Colony, and stamps are, we presume, necessary for the carrying out of their business. *Le T.-P.* tells us that three values of the annexed type were issued by the Coolgardie Company last year, but why a *Cycle Express* should expect its patrons to swallow a camel we do not understand.

Adhesives. 6d., green, buff, and chocolate
2s., yellow " "
5s., mauve " "



PART II.

Argentine Republic.—Our publishers have found in their stock a copy of the current ½ c. wrapper, the heading upon which has no accent over the letter "u" of "REPUBLICA." This variety has been noted upon some of the earlier wrappers, for which perhaps the same setting was employed.

The A. J. of Ph. chronicles with "due reserve" a 25 c. stamp, in *carmine*, of a design which closely resembles that of the 12 c. (not the 5 c. as there stated) of 1890. This issue did not include a 25 c. value, and it is possible that the stamp in question may have been prepared but never issued, as that value is apparently no longer required.

We are indebted to Mr. R. Soto for specimens of the current 3 c. and 4 c. Post Cards, and the 4 c. Letter Card, with very pretty views printed upon them, in *black*, on the lower left on the Post Cards, and on the back fold of the Letter Card. We understand that these were officially issued on September 24th, but whether for any commemorative purpose or not we cannot say; in any case, the addition of these pictures appears to be of no philatelic importance.

Austria.—We learn from *Le T.-P.* that the *I. B. J.* reports the current card, 2 kr. we suppose, with inscriptions in German, Polish, and Ruthenian, and we gather "(Poln. Ruth.)" in the right lower corner, as upon the Letter Cards.

Post Card. 2 kr., brown; (Poln. Ruth.).

Hungary.—Mr. F. Vidéki, of Budapest, kindly sends us a set of the most complicated post cards we ever saw, which we gather are employed by the inhabitants of Hungary, and by persons visiting that country, for the purpose of notifying to the police of Budapest their arrival, departure, and other movements. Each card is folded in three, and contains six pages of printed forms and instructions, all in Hungarian, including a reply portion on which, we presume, is given the permission (or otherwise) of the police for residence, departure, &c. The cards measure 305 × 72 mm. when open, and are described to us as follows:—

- 2+2 kr., blue on buff; "Notification for settled inhabitants & their servants."
- 2+2 kr., blue on blue; "Notice of Departure for the above."
- 2+2 kr., brown on buff; "For use of non-residents, journeying through the town, and staying only a short time in Hotels, &c."
- 2+2 kr., brown on blue; "Notice of Departure for use of non-residents, &c."

Belgium.—*Le T.-P.* describes a copy of the 10 c. of 1849, with the figures in the upper corners double printed and an extra line of frame at the top, produced, perhaps, by slipping of the paper or the plate in printing.

Bolivia.—The annexed illustration shows the design of the 2 bolivianos stamp, which, we are told, is printed in *black*, upon a tricoloured ground, *red* at the top, *yellow* at the sides, and *green* below. It must be almost as pretty as some of the Russian Locals.



Adhesive.
2 b., black, red, yellow, and green;
perf. 11½.

Brazil.—*Le T.-P.* chronicles the 60 reis wrapper with the stamp impressed in *deep brown*, and the paper not surfaced.

Wrapper. 60 r., deep brown on buff.

Chili.—*The Ph. J. of G. B.* states that the highest value of the current Unpaid Letter series is now inscribed "100 CENTAVOS," instead of 1 peso.

Unpaid Letter Stamp. 100 c., red on yellow.

Colombia.—We have seen the new edition of the 20 c., which appears to us to be rather upon pale *blue* than on pale *green*; it is also perf. 11½ × 13½, whilst No. 184 in the Catalogue is perf. 10½, and on very *deep azure*, almost *violet* paper.

Egypt.—The plagues have not yet ceased; the *Soudan* affliction has, we hear, broken out upon most of the articles of stationery, as well as upon the adhesives.

- Envelopes.* 5 mil., red on *azure*; black surcharge.
1 pias., blue " " "
- Envelope Letters.* 5 mil., red on *salmon* " " "
1 pias., blue on *azure* " " "
- Post Cards.* 3 mil., puce on buff " " "
5 " carmine " " "
5+5 " " " " "

France.—We give illustrations showing the stamps with surcharges, and the surcharges without stamps, which we described last month as having been manufactured by the worthy officials of Zanzibar. We understand that the margins of the sheets were impressed with the same values

as the stamps of which the sheets were composed, we thus have:—

| | |
|-------------|---------------------------|
| 2½ a.—25 c. | black on green and white. |
| 2½ a.—25 c. | “ lilac “ |
| 2½ a.—25 c. | “ blue (or quadrillé?) |
| 5 a.—50 c. | “ buff and white. |
| 5 a.—50 c. | “ straw “ |



The Star shown in the illustration is part of the postmark, not a portion of the design of the stamps.

There are varieties in the figures, of course, “2” with straight tail, and “2” with curly tail, thick and thin type, &c. It seems that famine is, as usual, closely followed by pestilence!

Le Coll. de T.-P. tells us that the 10 c. double card has appeared with the heading “RÉPUBLIQUE FRANCAISE.”

Post Card. 10+10 c., black on blue; new formula.

French Colonies.—*Grand Comoro.*—We have received the usual series of adhesives, &c., for this island or group of islands, which we should have supposed might be included in the Dependencies of Madagascar. The Sultanate of Anjouan is also, we believe, situated in these islands, which would appear to be already abundantly provided for; but we suppose funds are required for the development of the philatelic resources of the country, hence the appearance of a series inscribed “GRANDE COMORE.”

Italy.—*Eritrea.*—*La R. Ph. Belge* states that the new 1 c. and 2 c. adhesives of Italy have been surcharged for use in this Colony.

Adhesives. 1 c., brown; black surcharge.
2 c., red “ “

Montenegro.—We have received the 3 novitch wrapper in green on yellow laid paper, instead of black as previously chronicled. These wrappers measure 335 × 53 mm., and are printed in sheets, perforated 110½ longitudinally.

Wrapper. 3 nov., green on yellow laid.

Orange Free State.—The 1s. stamp has reached us in brown, its former colour having been adopted for the ½d. Also the 1d. in what we are told is a new shade.

Adhesives. 1d., mauve.
1s., brown.

Peru.—Messrs. Williams & Co. kindly send us the 5c. stamp of current type, printed in green (issued August 25th), in order, we presume, that it may not be too easily mistaken for either of the two lower values. Also a new variety of the 2 c. on 5 c. card, with the overprint in different type from that previously employed. The large “2” in the left upper corner is a plain figure, and has only two ornaments below it, instead of seven; the device in the centre is redrawn, and the word “DOS” reset; the inscription in the right upper corner is still in three lines, but in different type, and the lines wider apart; while the frame measures 30½ × 15½ mm., instead of 28 × 16½ mm.

Adhesive. 5c., green.

Post Card. 2c., in blue, on 5c., black; fresh type.

Portugal.—*Azores.*—Our publishers have shown us a curious vertical pair of the 5 reis, of the issue of 1871, one stamp of which has the black surcharge, and the other the vermilion! This would seem to show that both of these varieties, which are of considerable rarity, were experimental.

Timor.—We have received a set of the surcharged issue of 1895, and find that it includes a value, 2 avos on 10 reis, green, which has not hitherto been chronicled either for this Colony or Macao. The surcharge is in the same type as that of 6 avos.

Adhesive. 2 avos, in black, on 10 r., green.

Roumania.—*The A. J. of Ph.* reports the discovery of a specimen of the 15 bani, red, of the 1869 issue, on laid paper.

Russia—Finland.—Mr. Jacoby has shown us the 5, 8, 10 (2) and 40 penni stamps of 1867-70, all used together on the same envelope, and post-marked “Stockholm,” in October, 1872. We must presume that the letter passed through Stockholm, and that the stamps had not been cancelled previously, but a more interesting peculiarity still was the fact that the two 10 penni stamps were on the vertically ribbed paper, which does not appear to have been previously chronicled with this value. The perforation was the medium serpentine, with 1½ mm. teeth.

Adhesive. 10 pen., black on buff; vertically ribbed paper.

Russian Locals.

Kadnikov.—We have received a 1 kopeck stamp of the current design, Type 7; it has the value, in the corners and at foot, in blue, the inscriptions and scalloped border and ground of the upper part of the shield in red, and the rest of the design in green.

Adhesive. 1 kop., red, green and blue; perf. 11½.

Oustsyzolsk.—The 2 kopeks stamp, of the type of 1895, has appeared with the clouds and the ground of the outer portion in green, instead of blue.

Adhesive. 2 kop., brown, red and green; perf. 11½.

Tolma.—The impression of the 3 kopeks stamp of the current type has undergone some modification; the yellow colour no longer appears, and the inscriptions at top and bottom are in white on a red ground.

Adhesive. 3 kop., black, red, gold and blue; perf. 11½.

Tscherepovets.—We have received the stamp of 1884 perf. 11½, instead of 13.

Adhesive. 3 kop., emerald-green; perf. 11½.

Valki.—The 1 kopeck stamp has appeared in a new colour, and we have with it a 2 kopeks of the same type. Both are on thin paper, and perf. 11½.

Adhesives. 1 kop., rose.
2 “ blue.

Zadonsk.—The two stamps which we chronicled recently *imperforate* have now reached us *perforated*.

Adhesives. 1 kop., vermilion (Type 5); perf. 11½.
5 “ blue-green (“ 10) “

Salvador.—The whole of the current series is announced with the “FRANQUERO OFICIAL” surcharge, possibly on the strength of the one value which we chronicled a short time back. But we do not doubt that the entire set exists, or will exist, with this disfigurement.

Samoa.—The British Consul here writes to assure us that there is only one genuine type of the surcharge “FIVE PENCE” on 4d., of 1893, the larger type of the two varieties usually chronicled. We believe, however, that both types were obtained direct, at about the same time, and we were shown an entire pane of each by Messrs. Whitfield King & Co. The 2½d. in black, or grey-black, was, we are told, an error of colour, of which one supply only was printed.

South African Republic.—We are informed that the 5d., olive and green, No. 262 in the Catalogue, has not yet been issued.

Spain.—A correspondent kindly sends us the following translation of an extract from the *Diario de Cadiz*, of October 11, 1897, which appears to promise a new issue of stamps and cards for January next:—

“We have already announced that a Decree had been signed, giving the new general tariff of the Posts and Telegraphs for Puerto Rico and the Philippines, and the corresponding stamps.

“To suit these new tariffs there will be 20 varieties of stamps and 8 post cards.

“The stamps will be of the following values: 1, 2, 3, 4, and 5 milésimas of a peso; 1, 2, 3, 4, 6, 8, 10, 15, 20, 40, 60, and 80 centavos of a peso; 1 and 2 pesos.

“The post cards will cost 5 milésimas; 1, 2, and 3 centavos, and double the price each for reply-paid cards.

“The stamps will bear a special design.

“The new tariff will come into force from the 1st January, 1898.”

Philippine Islands.—Our illustration shows one of the overprinted stamps chronicled last month, and we learn from *Le T.-P.* that some of the surcharges are struck in colours, as well as in *black*. We have to add to our list 5 c., in *red* and in *blue*, upon 5 c., *green*; 15 c., in *blue*, on 15 c., *red-brown*; and 20 c., in *blue*, on 20 c., *yellow-brown*. All this should facilitate the *écoulement*!



Sweden.—The *L. P.* states that the 30 öre stamp is reported in a new colour.

Adhesive. 30 öre, yellow.



A handsome card of the annexed design has been issued to commemorate the completion of the 25th year of the reign of King Oscar II. After what we have been treated to elsewhere, in the way of lengthy and expensive Jubilee Issues, a simple 5 öre card seems quite innocent, and almost commendable!

Jubilee Card. 5 öre, yellow-green on buff.

United States.—Our publishers have shown us a very fine apparently imperforate specimen of the 30 cents stamp of 1857, with a postmark dated October 2, 1860. The stamp has very large side margins, and we think there can be no doubt that it was cut from a sheet that had escaped perforation.

Mekeel's Weekly reports some curious paper varieties of the current 2 cents. One is described as upon *double* paper, composed of two thin layers, one watermarked and the other unwatermarked. What the object of printing stamps upon such paper as this could be we cannot imagine, and it would surely be very expensive. The other is said to be upon a species of what is termed "safety" paper, like that used for our first 4d. stamps, but without watermark. The stamp-cleaner, who is supposed still to do a profitable business in the United States, appears to be the person for whose benefit these experiments are made. In Great Britain the use of a suitable obliterating ink was found to be the best remedy, while the postage stamps could only be used for postal purposes.

THE TAPLING COLLECTION.

By GORDON SMITH.

(Continued from page 49.)

TRANSVAAL.

(SOUTH AFRICAN REPUBLIC.)

(Concluded.)

IMPERIAL ADMINISTRATION.—Continued.

Orange paper. Surcharged in *black*.

1st printing. Roman "V.R."

2nd " " and italic "V.R."

1d., red (imperf.); II. (pair showing both types).

(a) Roman Capitals.

1d., red (imperf.); VI. (three pairs); X.

1d. " " (no stop after "V"); I.

1d. " " I. + (no stop after "R"); I. (the two form a vertical pair).

1d., red (roul. 15½, 16); X.

1d. " " (but imperf. between); II. (a pair).

1d. " (roul. 6½); 5.

Variety. "V" and "R" closer together.

1d., red (imperf.) (no stop after "V"); I.

1d. " " (no stops after "V" and "R"); I.

1d. " (roul. 15½, 16) (no stop after "V"); I.

(b) "V.R." in Italic Capitals.

1d., red (imperf.); VII.

1d. " (roul. 15½, 16); I.

1d. " (" 6½); I.

20 MARCH, 1878.

Blue paper. Surcharged in *black*.

1st printing. Roman "V.R."

2nd " " and italic "V.R."

(a) Roman Capitals.

6d., blue (imperf.); IV. (two pairs), III., 3.

6d. " " (no stop after "R"); I.

6d. " " ("R" missing); I.

6d. " " (large stop after "V."); I. (of a pair).

6d. " " (no stop after "V"); I. + (no stop after "R"); I. (the two form a vertical pair).

6d. " " (surcharge inverted); I.

6d. " " (without surcharge); I.

6d. " (roul. 15½, 16); I., 4.

6d. " " (no stop after "R"); I.

6d. " (roul. 6½); 3.

6d. " " (surcharge inverted); I.

6d. " " (without surcharge); I.

Divided stamp used for half the value.

Half of 6d., blue (imperf.) = 3d.; I (on part original).

(b) Italic Capitals.

6d., blue (imperf.); II. (pair), III., 3.

6d. " " (surcharge inverted); I.

6d. " (roul. 15½, 16); 3.

6d. " (roul. 6½); 3.

6d. " " (surcharge inverted); I.

1878.

Engraved and printed by Messrs. Bradbury, Wilkinson, & Co., of London; white wove, unwatermarked paper. Perf. 14½.

1d., brown (26 Aug.); II. (pair), IV.

3d., claret (25 Nov.); II. (pair), III.

4d., sage-green (26 Aug.); II. (pair),

IV.

6d., black (25 Nov.); IV.

1s., green ("); III.

2s., blue ("); IV.



Varieties, imperf.

3d., claret; I.

6d., black; I.

Bisected Stamps.

Half of 3d. + half of 6d. = 4½d., used on part original.

4d. + half of 4d. = 6d., used on part original.

18 APRIL, 1879.

Green paper. Surcharged in *black*.

"V.R." in Roman or Italic Capitals

3d., lilac (imperf.); IV. (two vertical pairs showing both types).