

INTERESTING TO PHILATELISTS.

WHAT is expected to be the finest lot of postage stamps ever issued is now being prepared by the American Bank Note Company for the United States Government.

The new issue will be a complete set of fifteen different values to commemorate the four hundredth anniversary of the discovery of America by Columbus. The designs used were nearly all taken from celebrated paintings. The two-dollar stamp is, however, after a painting by Lentze, an American artist, who has painted several pictures for the Capitol.

The following technical description of the new issue was given by United States Postage Stamp Agent Thomas A. H. Hay:

One-Cent.—'Columbus in Sight of Land,' after the painting by William H. Powell. On the left is an Indian woman with her child, and on the right an Indian man with headdress and feathers. The figures are in sitting posture. Colour, antwerp blue.

Two-cent.—'Landing of Columbus,' after the painting by Vanderlyn in the rotunda of the Capitol of Washington. Colour purple maroon.

Three-cent.—'Flagship of Columbus,' the Santa Maria in mid-ocean, from a Spanish engraving. Colour, medium shade of green.

Four-cent.—'Fleet of Columbus,' the three caravels—Santa Maria, Pinta and Nina—in mid ocean, from a Spanish engraving. Colour, ultramarine blue.

Five-cent.—'Soliciting Aid from Isabella,' after the painting by Brozik in the Metropolitan Museum of Art. Colour, chocolate brown.

Six-cent.—'Columbus Welcomed at Barcelona,' from one of the panels of the bronze doors in the Capitol at Washington, by Randolph Rogers. On each side is a niche, in one of which is a statue of Ferdinand and in the other a statue of Boabdilla. Colour, royal purple.

Ten-cent.—'Columbus Presenting Natives,' after the painting by Luigi Gregori at the University of Notre Dame, South Bend, Ind. Colour vandyke brown.

Fifteen-cent.—'Columbus Announcing His Discovery,' after the painting by R. Balasa, now in Madrid. Colour, dark green.

Thirty-cent.—'Columbus at La Rabida,' after the painting by R. Maso. Colour, sienna brown.

Fifty-cent.—'Recall of Columbus,' after the painting by A. G. Heaton, now in the Capitol at Washington. Colour, carbon blue.

One-Dollar.—'Isabella Pledging Her Jewels,' after the painting by Munoa Degrain, now in Madrid. Colour, rose salmon.

Two-Dollar.—'Columbus in Chains,' after the painting by Lentze, now Providence, R. I. Colour, toned mineral red.

Three-Dollar.—'Columbus Describing His Third Voyage,'

after the painting by Francisco Jover. Colour, light yellow-green.

Four-Dollar.—Portraits in circles of Isabella and Columbus, the portrait of Isabella after the well-known painting in Madrid, and that of Columbus after the Lotto painting. Colour, carmine.

Five-Dollar.—Profile of the head of Columbus after a cast provided by the Treasury Department for the souvenir fifty-cent. silver piece. The profile is in a circle, on the right of which is the figure of America represented by a female Indian with a crown of feathers, and on the left a figure of Liberty, both figures being in a sitting posture. Colour, black.

We also learn that M. S. Chapman, of the United States stamped envelope works in this city, has been in conference during the week with the Postmaster-General in regard to a complete exhibit of stamped envelopes at the World's Fair. The Government is anxious that an exhibit shall be made, and arrangements will be effected as soon as practicable to carry out this desire.

The Columbian stamp for the envelopes that will be issued in 1893 was also the subject of conference with the Post Office authorities, but the details of the dye have not been decided on. The change of dye will involve a large expense, but must be made by the contractors at the request or order of the Postmaster-General.

LOOKING BEFORE AND AFTER.

ALL is not lost, though much is changed and dimmed
Though tamed the eager torrent of desire,
And sobered, dashed, or dead the hopes that rimmed
The morning hills of time with magic fire.

The loyal love that wears not custom's rust,
The faith still firmest found when hardest tried,
The calm, the charity, the judgment just,
That fail not as the years that sadden glide;

The afterglow of youth's pure faded dream,
The holy hush of memory—these we keep;
Sunset benignly lingers, and life's stream
Is rosy as it wanders to the deep.

Sweet still earth's air to taste, heaven's light to see,
Still smiles o'er-tost, o'er tranquil main, the moon,
As glad it is in Spring to breathe, to be,
As kind the comfort of the river's tone.

Still gentle Robin sings a soft 'Good-night'
From a mimosa-branch above the lawn,
Untired the Blackbird shouts an anthem bright
Through his lone kingdom of the twilight dawn.

JOSEPH TRUMAN.

A BATTLE ROMANCE.

'I fell in love with the young lady I afterwards married while the battle of the Wilderness was raging,' said Major Dan Thomson, a member of the Reminiscence Club, that was in session at the Southern. 'During the first day's fighting the Confederates charged us across an old ditch and were driven back with terrible slaughter. We advanced and took up a position in the ditch and for a few moments the roar of battle died away, with the exception of a Confederate battery far to our left, which kept snaling viciously. Right in front of me lay a young Confederate who had been shot through the hips. He was a handsome boy, not more than seventeen, and was evidently suffering terrible agony. He was trying bravely to be a man, but the tears would rise to his eyes and in a few moments he was sobbing bitterly. I asked him what I could do for him, and he took from his pocket a portrait of his sister and asked me to give it to her when I reached Richmond. He evidently believed that because his regiment had been driven back the cause was hopelessly lost, and that nothing remained for the Federal troops to do but march into Richmond with colours flying. I had the youngster carried to the rear and cared for, and put the picture of his sister in my pocket, where it remained to the end of the war. Her brother recovered and was finally exchanged. A few days after the capitulation of Richmond I called on the young lady to deliver her picture according to promise, and—well, it was another case of "Held by the Enemy." The brother and I are in business together in Baltimore.'

HE HIT HARD.

LADY (to little boy): 'What are you crying for, my little man?'

Little Boy: 'My fa—father has bin bea—beatin' me!'

Lady: 'Well, don't cry. All fathers have to beat their little boys at times.'

Little Boy: 'But my fa—father ain't like other fa—fathers. He's in a brass ba—band, and bea—beats the big drum! Boo-hoo!'

PERFECTLY SAFE.

MISS MAUDIE (to instructor in languages): 'Professor, with our knowledge of French, do you think sister and I could safely venture upon a trip through France?'

Instructor: 'With perfect safety, my dear young lady. You and Miss Mabel could go anywhere in France and speak your minds in entire freedom, in French, without giving the slightest offence.'

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